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**Fourth Meeting of Rapporteurs of the North American, Central American, and Caribbean
(NACC/WG/RAP/04)
Online, 6-7 May 2026**

Agenda Item 3: Status of Task Force Action Plans with an analysis on pending activities, challenges, and next steps.

FOLLOW-UP ON THE ACTION PLAN ACTIVITIES OF THE METEOROLOGY TASK FORCE (MET/TF)

(Presented by the MET/TF Rapporteur)

| EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | |
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| This working paper presents the follow-up on the activities conducted by the Meteorology Task Force (MET/TF) of the North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group (NACC/WG) in order to ensure compliance with the action plan. | |
| Action: | As presented in Numeral 4 |
| Strategic Objectives: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safety• Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency |
| References: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annex 3 — Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation• Third Meeting of Rapporteurs of the North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group (NACC/WG/RAP/03), March 2025.• Tenth North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group Meeting (NACC/WG/10), September 2025.• Third Meteorology Implementation Task Force Meeting of the North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group (MET/TF/3), December 2025. |

1. Introduction

1.1 The Meteorology Task Force (MET/TF) of the North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group (NACC/WG) has continued to follow up on the actions presented at the Third Meeting of Rapporteurs of the NACC/WG (NACC/WG/RAP/03) in March 2025, the Tenth North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group Meeting (NACC/WG/10) in September 2025, and the Third Meteorology Implementation Task Force Meeting (MET/TF/3) in December 2025, including:

- a) Collaboration with the Communications Task Force (COMM/TF) for the regional adoption of the ICAO Meteorological Information Exchange Model (IWXXM).
- b) Collaboration with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and its Region IV Expert Team on Aviation (ET-AVI).
- c) Engagement with State counterparts to initiate collaboration for the harmonization of SIGMET for adjacent FIRs.
- d) Follow-up on the implementation of the Quality Management Systems (QMS) by States.
- e) Promotion by the Secretariat of workshops such as the “NAM/CAR/SAM Workshop on Severe Meteorological Phenomena and Aviation,” held in Lima, Peru, in June 2025, among others.
- f) Coordination with the Surveillance Task Force (SURV/TF) for the integration of aircraft-based meteorological data derived from surveillance systems.
- g) Collaboration with the Airspace Management and Capacity Balancing Task Force (AMCB/TF) to ensure interoperability between digital MET information and ATS operational concepts in the Caribbean.

1.2 In December 2025, the Third Meteorology Implementation Task Force Meeting (MET/TF/3) was held at the ICAO NACC Regional Office in Mexico City, attended by 22 delegates from 8 States/Territories. The Meeting generated the following Draft Conclusions and Decisions:

- I. Action plan for the implementation of the exchange of Operational Meteorology (OPMET) data in the ICAO Meteorological Information Exchange Model (IWXXM) in the NAM/CAR Regions.
- II. Strengthening interoperability through the ICAO Data Interchange Service (EDIS) and the METNO notification procedure.
- III. Leveraging enhancements in the World Area Forecast System (WAFS), including Significant Weather (SIGWX) forecasts and the graphical turbulence guidance tool.
- IV. Streamlining the implementation of the dissemination of Volcano Observatory Notices for Aviation (VONA) from State Volcano Observatories (OVS).
- V. Promotion of the implementation of the Quality Management System (QMS) in aeronautical meteorological services through the dissemination of best practices.
- VI. Strengthening and implementation of the Quality Management System (QMS) and preparation for the transition to the ISO 9001:2026 international standard.
- VII. Strengthening MET coordination and collaboration in the NAM/CAR Regions.

1.3 Likewise, the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the MET/TF were updated. During the same meeting, the 2026 MET/TF Work Programme was developed, agreeing on tasks and their scope; furthermore, volunteers were designated to work closely with the Rapporteur to complement the programme with specific activities, deliverables, and deadlines.

2. Analysis and Discussion

2.1 Progress has been made in fulfilling the actions established in the 2023-2025 Work Plan of the MET/TF, facilitated by close collaboration and engagement with States to implement actions for their benefit.

2.2 There are aeronautical meteorology topics of vital importance for NACC States, such as: information on the new Amendment 82 to Annex 3, compliance with the Basic Building Blocks (BBB), implementation of OPMET data exchange under the IWXXM format, implementation of Quality Management Systems (QMS MET), and the harmonized and collaborative generation of SIGMET for adjacent FIRs.

2.3 The MET/TF has joined efforts with the COMM/TF to advance the implementation of OPMET data exchange in IWXXM format, in accordance with Annex 3 and PANS-MET. Within this framework, technical meetings were held with the COMM/TF Rapporteur, and OPMET information transmission tests in XML format were conducted from Cuba to Washington; however, operational limitations associated with the stability of the electrical infrastructure have required adjustments to the expected deadlines. Nevertheless, initial progress is recorded in Caribbean States regarding capacity assessment and technical awareness. These actions are developed in coordination with the AMCB/TF to ensure consistency between digital MET data flows, ATS operational concepts, and flexible airspace management.

2.4 The MET/TF has maintained technical engagement with specialists from the WMO Region IV Expert Team on Aviation (ET-AVI) and experts in Aircraft-Based Observations (ABO) at WMO Headquarters, who presented alternatives for obtaining and transmitting aircraft-based meteorological information using data derived from existing surveillance systems. In this context, and with Secretariat support, technical coordination has begun with WMO in Mexico and COCESNA to analyze the regional feasibility of implementing ABO using information from secondary radar, Mode S, ADS-B version 3.0, and ADS-C, in accordance with Annex 3 and PANS-MET. These initiatives are developed in coordination with the SURV/TF to identify synergies between ATS surveillance systems and aeronautical meteorological observation requirements. These capabilities would contribute to improving MET analyses, diagnoses, and forecasts, including the performance of global and regional numerical weather prediction models.

2.5 Through the Secretariat, regional workshops have been promoted to ensure States are informed on critical topics such as ICAO Annex 3 Amendments, enabling them to provide aeronautical meteorological services in compliance with current regulations and make informed decisions regarding severe weather phenomena. In 2025, the following were held: “NAM/CAR/SAM Workshop on Severe Meteorological Phenomena and Aviation” (Lima, Peru, June 2025) and the “Workshop on Amendment 82 to Annex 3” (Lima, Peru, August 2025). In the latter, a relevant topic was the introduction of the new PANS-MET (Doc 10100), which contains the technical specifications for aeronautical meteorology previously found in the Annex 3 Appendices.

2.6 Similarly, the MET/TF has followed up on State progress in implementing and strengthening State Volcano Observatories (OVS) for the issuance and dissemination of Volcano Observatory Notices for Aviation (VONA), in accordance with Annex 3, Amendment 82, and PANS-MET, to improve the timeliness, consistency, and availability of volcanic information relevant to international air navigation.

2.7 Furthermore, at the NACC/WG/10 meeting (September 2025), Mexico, through Servicios a la Navegación en el Espacio Aéreo Mexicano (SENEAM), presented a Declaration of Intent for the establishment of regional MET cooperation agreements among NAM/CAR States. The objective is to combine efforts and collaborative work among experts from the Tulum Meteorological Watch Office (MWO/Tulum) to strengthen regional support, increasing operational safety and the harmonization of technical work between adjacent FIRs. Mexico continues to promote collaboration with States intending to conduct collaborative work from MWO/Tulum.

2.8 Following the approved Work Programme, organization began for the Fourth Meteorology Implementation Task Force Meeting (MET/TF/4), to be held from July 28 to 31, 2026, at the ICAO NACC Regional Office in Mexico City, in person. The Secretariat, in coordination with the MET/TF Rapporteur, issued the invitation to States, Territories, and international organizations, with a special call to meteorological authorities and ANS-MET inspectors from States not yet represented, to strengthen the regional implementation of Annex 3, PANS-MET, and technical agreements.

3. Conclusions

3.1 The MET/TF has consolidated as a fundamental technical forum for the NAM/CAR Regions, achieving a high level of commitment from States in the execution of actions that strengthen the safety and efficiency of international air operations.

3.2 Strategic collaborations have been achieved with the Communications (COMM/TF), Surveillance (SURV/TF), and Airspace Management (AMCB/TF) Task Forces, as well as with the WMO and ET-AVI RAIV, ensuring a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach to the modernization of services and the interoperability of digital meteorological information.

3.3 The successful execution of the 2023-2025 Action Plan demonstrates tangible progress in critical milestones such as the implementation of the Basic Building Blocks (BBB), the strengthening of Quality Management Systems (QMS MET), and the operational migration to the IWXXM format.

3.4 The 2026 Work Plan establishes a clear and ambitious roadmap, fully aligned with the requirements of Amendment 82 to Annex 3 and the new Procedures for Air Navigation Services — Meteorology (PANS-MET), effectively responding to the current needs of States.

4. Suggested Actions

4.1 Request the Meeting to take note of the progress in coordination with the SURV/TF and COMM/TF, and to support the continuity of these joint efforts to improve the availability of meteorological information in the region.

4.2 Urge States to ensure the participation of their specialists in the 2026 Work Plan, and especially in the MET/TF/4 meeting in July 2026, prioritizing the operational transition to the IWXXM format and the implementation of the new PANS-MET.

4.3 Invite States to formalize their collaboration with the Tulum Meteorological Watch Office (MWO/Tulum) to advance the harmonization of SIGMET notices between adjacent Flight Information Regions (FIRs).