



# ICAO

International Civil Aviation Organization  
North American, Central American and Caribbean Office

INFORMATION PAPER

NACC/WG/RAP/04 — IP/03  
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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 the different Task Force Action Plans, with discussion of outstanding activities, challenges, and next steps.**

**AERODROMES AND GROUND AIDS TASK FORCE (AGA/TF) ACTION PLANS, WITH DISCUSSION OF  
OUTSTANDING ACTIVITIES, CHALLENGES, AND NEXT STEPS**

(Presented by AGA/TF Rapporteur)

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Third NACC/WG Aerodromes and Ground Aids (AGA) Implementation Task Force Meeting (NACC/WG/AGA/TF/3) was held in Tulum, Mexico, with participation from 10 CAR States/Territories and one international organization, totalling 34 delegates. The meeting reviewed progress on AGA-related projects, assessed implementation challenges, and agreed on actions to advance safety, capacity and efficiency in the region.

<i>Strategic Goals:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Every Flight Is Safe and Secure</li><li>• Aviation Delivers Seamless, Accessible, and Reliable Mobility for All</li><li>• No Country Left Behind</li></ul>
<i>References:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Third North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group (NACC/WG) Aerodromes and Ground Aids (AGA) Implementation Task Force Meeting Summary of Discussions</li><li>• ICAO Strategic Plan 2026 – 2050</li><li>• Decision NACC/DCA/12/4, Improvements to the NACC Strategic Assistance Programme (SAP)</li><li>• GREPECAS23 Working Paper 8.11 “CAR/SAM implementation – AGA programme and projects”</li></ul>

## 1. Introduction

1.1 The Third NACC/WG Aerodromes and Ground Aids (AGA) Implementation Task Force Meeting (NACC/WG/AGA/TF/3) was held in Tulum, Mexico, with participation from 10 CAR States/Territories and one international organization, totalling 34 delegates. The meeting reviewed progress on AGA-related projects, assessed implementation challenges, and agreed on actions to advance safety, capacity and efficiency in the region.

1.2 During the discussion of Decision NACC/WG/AGA/TF/02/02, the Secretariat reported that the ICAO Strategic Plan 2026 - 2050 was approved by the Council. This plan defines the Vision, Mission, Three Essential Aspirations, Strategic Goals, and High Priority Enablers.

1.3 In this context, the Meeting discussed the need to update the AGA Programme to align with ICAO's new strategic direction and approved Decision 01 in which, considering the approval of the ICAO Strategic Plan 2026 2050 and the Business Plan for 2026–2028, the AGA/TF in coordination with the Secretariat shall update the AGA Work Programme by the AGA/TF/04. This work is in progress and will be discussed in the upcoming TF/04 meeting to be held at the premises of the ICAO NACC Regional Office in Mexico City on 19 to 21 August 2026, with a previous virtual phase starting around June 2026.

## 2. Technical discussions

2.1 During the meeting, updates were provided on **AGA Dashboards available through iSTARS 4.0**, covering the following topics:

- a. Aerodrome certification
- b. Runway Safety Teams (RST)
- c. Global Reporting Format (GRF)
- d. Master Plans
- e. A-SMGCS
- f. ACR/PCR implementation

2.2 To improve data accuracy, **Decision NACC/WG/AGA/TF/3/02** requires States to provide updated information on the status of international aerodromes for inclusion in the AGA Scorecard on a continuous basis. This process has been on-going with good results after a recent survey to States on the update of such indicators. An updated version of the AGA Dashboard is accessible through the following link: <https://istars.icao.int/Sites/PortalDashboard/NACC>

### ***Aerodrome certification progress***

2.3 As of 2025, 98 of 148 international aerodromes (66%) in the CAR Region are certified, showing steady improvement. Significant progress was reported in several States, notably Mexico (90.9% certified), while OECS States still account for 14 uncertified international aerodromes, representing a key gap to achieving the 85% regional target.

2.4 To support Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) States, the Secretariat reported on projects with allocated resources to provide technical assistance for the certification of international aerodromes within this group of States:

- a. Aerodrome regulation and guidance material for Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority (ECCAA).
- b. Aerodrome Certification iPack for ECCAA / Saint Lucia Airports; and
- c. Technical assessment of the Certification of Aerodromes in OECS States (in development).

#### ***Runway Safety Teams (RST)***

2.5 It was reported that regional RST implementation increased from 50% to 56%; however, the meeting noted that implementation alone does not guarantee effectiveness.

2.6 Mexico presented its updated regulatory framework for RSTs under WP/03, which is effective from 15th December 2023, through the establishment of RSTs. This initiative is regulated by the new Circular CO SA-5.01/23, which replaces the previous 2014 circular. The new regulation outlines the structure, responsibilities, and operational procedures for RSTs at aerodromes, aligning with ICAO standards and incorporating guidance from Annex 14, Doc 9870, Doc 9981, and national laws.

#### ***USOAP-CMA Preparation and Regional Support***

2.7 Costa Rica and Mexico presented USOAP-CMA preparation and post-audit actions, highlighting improvements in Effective Implementation (EI) and the use of Corrective Action Plans.

2.8 COCESNA/ACSA outlined its role as a Regional Safety Oversight Organisation (RSOO), supporting aerodrome certification, inspector training and harmonisation across Central America.

2.9 ACI-LAC highlighted challenges and initiatives related to runway safety, wildlife hazard management and aerodrome certification, including promotion of the APEX in Safety Programme.

#### ***Capacity, Efficiency and Infrastructure Initiatives***

2.10 The AGA/TF reviewed the reoriented GREPECAS F3 Project, shifting from A-CDM to a more regionally suitable focus on:

- a. Apron Management Services
- b. Surface Movement Guidance and Control Systems (SMGCS)

2.11 Phased implementation was agreed, covering assessment, guidelines development, pilot projects and regional deployment through 2028. Also, additional projects were presented to support aerodrome master planning and development of CAR/SAM ANP Volume III.

### ***Air Navigation Deficiencies***

2.12 The meeting reviewed 63 long-standing AGA deficiencies dating from 2000–2022 and recognised that many may no longer be valid. Draft Conclusion NACC/WG/AGA/TF/3/04 requests States to verify and update the status of deficiencies by 31 October 2025, with unratified deficiencies to be removed. This process is undergoing as some States are responding to the request by updating their corrective action plans dates.

## **3. Conclusions**

3.1 The Meeting concluded that continued progress in the AGA domain within the NAM/CAR Region requires a renewed focus on implementation effectiveness, improved data quality, and enhanced regional coordination.

3.2 While measurable advances were noted in aerodrome certification, RST establishment and the deployment of monitoring tools such as the AGA Dashboards, the discussions highlighted that sustained safety and capacity gains depend on the active and effective functioning of implemented measures, rather than formal compliance alone.

3.3 The Meeting therefore underscored the importance of systematic monitoring, timely and accurate reporting by States, and targeted technical assistance, as well as the alignment of regional AGA initiatives with the ICAO Strategic Plan 2026–2050, to ensure coherent, sustainable and results-oriented implementation across the region.