Agenda item 2: Coordination between SAT IMG and SAT SOG

b) Review of outcome from last SAT IMG meeting

Update from the SAT CNS Working Group

(Presented by Secretariat)

SUMMARY	
This paper provides an update on the establishment and operationalization of the SAT Communications, Navigation and Surveillance Working Group (SAT CNS WG), including the nomination of members, the development of the Terms of Reference (ToR), and the planned next steps towards the commencement of the Working Group's activities.	
Strategic Goals	A-Every Flight is safe and secure C- Aviation Delivers Seamless, Accessible, and Reliable Mobility for All

1. Introduction

1.1 The Third Meeting of the SAT Steering Group (SAT SG/03), held in December 2025, adopted Conclusion 3/11 endorsing the establishment of a Communications, Navigation and Surveillance Working Group (SAT CNS WG) under the SAT Implementation Management Group (SAT IMG).

1.2 Subsequently, the Seventh Meeting of the SAT Implementation Management Group (SAT IMG/7), held in Dakar, Senegal, from 6 to 10 April 2026, reviewed the initial actions undertaken for the establishment of the Working Group and encouraged SAT States and Organizations to nominate CNS experts to participate in its activities.

1.3 This paper provides an update on the progress achieved since SAT IMG/7 regarding the operationalization of the SAT CNS WG, including the nomination of members, the development of the Working Group Terms of Reference (ToR), and the planned next steps.

2. Discussion

2.1 Following SAT IMG/7, the Secretariat continued the coordination activities required for the establishment and operationalization of the SAT CNS WG. In order to facilitate broader participation from SAT States and Organizations, the deadline for the submission of nominations was extended on two occasions.

2.2 As a result of the additional coordination efforts undertaken by the Secretariat, nominations were received from SAT States and Organizations up to mid-September 2026. The consolidated membership list is provided in **Appendix A.** The Working Group comprises experts nominated by Argentina, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Namibia, Senegal, Uruguay and the ICAO Regional Offices ESAF, NACC, SAM and WACAF.

2.3 On 16 September 2026, the Secretariat formally launched the Working Group activities by circulating to all nominated members the consolidated membership list; and the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) of the SAT CNS WG.

2.4 Members were invited to review the draft ToR and submit comments and suggestions by 9 October 2026. The draft ToR is provided in **Appendix B**

2.5 The review process is currently underway. Comments received from Working Group members will be consolidated by the Secretariat and incorporated, as appropriate, into the final version of the ToR. Upon completion of the review process, the Secretariat will finalize the ToR and proceed with the convening of the first meeting of the SAT CNS WG.

2.6 The first meeting will provide an opportunity to:

- finalize the Working Group working arrangements;
- identify priority CNS implementation issues affecting the SAT Region;
- establish the initial SAT CNS WG work programme;
- identify CNS initiatives requiring regional coordination; and
- agree on reporting arrangements to SAT IMG.

3 Action by the Meeting

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

a) note the progress achieved in the establishment and operationalization of the SAT CNS Working Group; and

b) note the membership list and the ongoing review of the draft Terms of Reference contained in **Appendices A and B,** respectively.

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LIST OF SAT IMG CNS WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

#	Name	State/ Organization	Position	Contacts
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Proposed Terms of Reference (ToR) – SAT IMG CNS Working Group

1 Purpose

1.1 The SAT CNS Working Group (SAT CNS WG) is established under the South Atlantic Implementation Management Group (SAT IMG) to support the planning, implementation, monitoring, and coordination of Communications, Navigation and Surveillance (CNS) initiatives within the South Atlantic (SAT) region.

1.2 The Working Group shall serve as a technical coordination platform to identify, analyse and support the resolution of CNS operational, technical and interoperability issues affecting air navigation services in the SAT region.

2 Objective of the Working Group

2.1 General objective

To strengthen interregional CNS coordination within the South Atlantic (SAT) area and propose technical solutions to enhance interoperability, resilience, and performance of CNS systems supporting safe and efficient air traffic services.

2.2 Specific objectives

The SAT CNS WG shall:

a. Support the implementation of CNS initiatives and projects within the SAT region.
b. Enhance interoperability between neighbouring FIRs and regions through coordination of CNS systems and services.
c. Monitor and address CNS deficiencies affecting safety, efficiency, capacity and continuity of operations.
d. Develop recommendations to improve resilience and redundancy of regional CNS infrastructure.
e. Support the implementation of ICAO regional and global CNS and ATM operational improvements.
f. Provide technical advice and recommendations to SAT IMG and, when appropriate, SAT SOG.

3 Scope of Work

The Working Group will:

- Monitor and report on the operational status and performance of interregional CNS links (REDDIG, CAFSAT, AFISNET).
- Assess and recommend backup solutions for CAFSAT and other critical communication networks.
- Coordinate interoperability of CNS/ATM systems, including AIDC, AMHS, VoIP, ADS-C, CPDLC, and surveillance integration (ADS-B terrestrial and space-based).
- Support harmonization of HF/VHF frequency planning and spectrum management across SAT FIRs.
- Prepare an Interregional CNS Coordination Report summarizing link status, challenges, and recommendations for SAT IMG.

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4 Deliverables

The Working Group shall produce:

- CNS implementation progress reports;
- Reports on CNS deficiencies and corrective actions;
- Recommendations and inputs to SAT IMG on interoperability, resilience, and contingency measures; and
- Action plans and follow-up reports on CNS initiatives.

5 Membership

The Working Group shall comprise:

- CNS experts nominated by SAT States;
- Representatives of participating ANSPs;
- ICAO Regional Offices (WACAF, SAM, ESAF, EUR/NAT and NACC);
- Subject Matter Experts invited as required.

6 Working methods

The Working Group shall:

- Conduct meetings virtually or physically as required;
- Coordinate activities through electronic correspondence and collaborative platforms;
- Establish ad hoc task teams to address specific technical issues where appropriate.

7 Reporting

The SAT CNS WG shall report to SAT IMG and provide progress updates and recommendations to SAT coordination meetings and SAT SOG, as appropriate.

8 Leadership

The Working Group shall elect a Chairperson and, where appropriate, a Vice-Chairperson from among its members.

The Chairperson shall:

- Lead and coordinate the activities of the Working Group;
- Convene and chair meetings;
- Monitor progress of actions and deliverables;
- Present recommendations and reports to SAT IMG.

The Vice-Chairperson shall support the Chairperson and act on their behalf when required.

9 Secretariat

The ICAO Regional Offices participating in the SAT mechanism shall support the Working Group. The ICAO WACAF Regional Office shall serve as Secretariat and coordinate its activities.

10 Review of the Terms of Reference

These Terms of Reference shall be reviewed periodically by SAT IMG to ensure continued relevance and effectiveness.

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