



## INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

### Sixth Meeting of the Steering Committee (SC/6) of the Cooperative Development of Aeronautical Meteorology Services Project in the Africa- Indian Ocean Region

Abuja, Nigeria, 6 - 8 October 2025

#### Agenda Item 4: Review of implementation of Project activities since the SC/5

#### SC6 wp4.7. Progress report on the update of the AMBEX System and Procedures

*(Presented by the Secretariat).*

SUMMARY	
<p>This paper provides an update on activities supporting States with the update of the AMBEX System and Procedures for the exchange of meteorological operational (OPMET) information.</p> <p>Action by the Meeting is provided in <b>paragraph 3</b></p>	
<b>REFERENCES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Management Service Agreement (MSA)</li> <li>▪ RAF16802 revised B ProDoc.</li> <li>▪ CODEVMET-AFI SC/5 Report</li> </ul>	
<i>Strategic Objectives</i>	<i>A – Safety, B – Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency</i>

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Africa- Indian (AFI) Meteorological Bulletin Exchange (AMBEX) scheme was established by the AFI Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG) in 1986.
- 1.2. The AMBEX Handbook is the main guidance material providing detail on the procedures for OPMET exchange under the AMBEX scheme. The Handbook defines the responsibilities of the AMBEX centres and the procedures to be followed. It defines also the content and format of the AMBEX bulletins.
- 1.3. The AMBEX Handbook is published and kept up to date by the ICAO Regional Offices.

- 1.4. As you may aware, the primary challenge faced by users in the Region is the unavailability, delays, and quality issues of OPMET data at airports, particularly with SIGMETs.
- 1.5. In 2021, a workshop co-organized by ICAO and WMO identified several contributing factors, including insufficient competency in applying Annex 10 Volume II procedures, lack of collaboration between NOCs, BCCs, and RODB States, outdated procedures in the AMBEX Handbook, and insufficient regular meetings among Meteorological Service Providers (MSPs), Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs), Regulators, and other Stakeholders.
- 1.6. in 2023, the APIRG/26 Meeting echoed the issues concerning the quality and the availability of the OPMET data in the region, emphasizing on the outdated procedures of the AFI Meteorological Bulletins Exchange (AMBEX) Handbook. The meeting then urged States in coordination with the Secretariat to accelerate the updating of the AMBEX Handbook, considering the exchange of digital format.
- 1.7. This working paper provides an overview of the actions undertaken to update the AMBEX system and its associated procedures.

## **2 DISCUSSIONS**

### *Achievements*

- 2.1. The current AMBEX Handbook (2014 Edition) was last amended in December 2014 (Amendment No. 4). Since then, Annexes 3 and 10 to the Chicago Convention have undergone significant changes.
- 2.2. In response to recurring issues with OPMET availability at airports, a multidisciplinary CNS/MET team was established under the CODEVMET Project to review and update AMBEX procedures. The following progress has been made:
  - A survey questionnaire was developed and circulated to NOCs, BCCs, and ROC States to assess the effectiveness of the AMBEX System.
  - An assessment of the AMBEX System in the AFI region was carried out from 23 May to 4 June 2025, resulting in a report identifying key gaps to be addressed.
  - A gap analysis was conducted comparing the AMBEX System with the relevant ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs).
  - Based on the analysis, the organizational and editorial structure of the future updated AMBEX Handbook was developed.
  - A roadmap was prepared for drafting the updated Handbook, including task assignments and associated deadlines.

### *Challenges*

- 2.3. The challenges encountered by the Team include, but not limited to the :
  - low participation of States to the AMBEX efficacy survey; and
  - unavailability of some experts due their professional duties.

### **3 ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the information provided in this working paper;
- b) Review the progress made in supporting States in the update of AMBEX Handbook; and
- c) Provide further guidance as needed.

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