



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

Ninth Meeting of the AASPG Infrastructure and Information Management Sub-Group (IIM/SG9)

Dakar, Senegal, from 3 to 7 August 2026

Agenda Item 3: Achievements in Infrastructure and Information Management

3.4 : Progress in the Implementation of AASPG IIM Projects

WP3.4A Achievements of the AFI integrated aeronautical telecommunication infrastructure (AFI-IATI) project

(Presented by Mr. Yao Kuma ANOBA, Project Team Coordinator)

SUMMARY
This Working Paper presents the progress achieved by the AFI Integrated Aeronautical Telecommunication Infrastructure (AFI-IATI) Project since its establishment under the AASPG Infrastructure and Information Management (IIM) Sub-group. The paper highlights the establishment of the project implementation framework, the development of planning and coordination mechanisms, and the preparations undertaken to support the Baseline Technical Assessment of aeronautical telecommunication infrastructure in the AFI Region. It also outlines the key achievements realized, challenges encountered, and the next steps for project implementation. Action by the meeting in paragraph 3
REFERENCE(S): ▪ The Global Air Navigation Plan ▪ Doc 7474, AFI Air Navigation Plan ▪ AASPG/1 Report ▪ IIM/SG8 Report ▪ IIM/SG Terms of References ▪ AFI-IATI Project Document
This working document relates to ICAO Strategic Goal(s): A - Every Flight is Safe and Secure, C - Aviation Delivers Seamless, Accessible, and Reliable Mobility for All

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The AFI Integrated Aeronautical Telecommunication Infrastructure (AFI-IATI) Project was established under the AASPG Infrastructure and Information Management (IIM) Sub-group to support the modernization integration and interoperability of aeronautical telecommunication infrastructure throughout the AFI Region.

- 1.2 The project aims to facilitate the development of a seamless and resilient regional communication infrastructure by enhancing interoperability among existing aeronautical networks and supporting the progressive transition towards ATN/IPS-based communications. It also seeks to strengthen interregional connectivity and support the provision of safe, efficient and harmonized air navigation services.
- 1.3 Following the restructuring of the former CNS COM4 project under the AASPG results-based project framework, the AFI-IATI Project commenced implementation in May 2026 under the coordination of the Project Team Coordinator, Mr. Yao Kuma ANOBA.,
- 1.4 This Working Paper presents the progress achieved during the initial phase of project implementation, highlighting the activities undertaken, significant achievements, challenges encountered, and planned next steps.

2. DISCUSSIONS

2.1 Establishment of the Project implementation framework

- 2.1.1 Following its launch in May 2026, the AFI-IATI Project Team focused on establishing the governance, planning, and coordination arrangements required to support implementation of the project and delivery of its first deliverable, namely the Baseline Technical Assessment of AFI Aeronautical Telecommunication Infrastructure (DEL02.1).

To this end, the Project Team:

- a) Reviewed the AFI-IATI Project Document and relevant outputs of the former COM4 Project;
- b) Developed and approved a Project Planning Document, including activities, milestones, responsibilities, and timelines (Appendix A);
- c) Established project coordination arrangements and a regional focal point database; and
- d) Coordinated with the ICAO ESAF and WACAF Regional Offices on project implementation and stakeholder engagement activities.

These activities established the foundation for the execution of the project's technical activities and the forthcoming regional data collection exercise.

2.2 Preparation of the Baseline Technical Assessment

- 2.2.1 As part of the preparations for Deliverable DEL02.1, the Project Team reviewed questionnaires developed under the former COM4 Project and redesigned the data collection approach to better address current operational and technical requirements.
- 2.2.2 The Team subsequently:
 - a) Developed a dedicated State/ANSP Questionnaire (Appendix B);
 - b) Developed a dedicated Network Service Provider/Operator Questionnaire (Appendix C);
 - c) Translated both questionnaires into English and French to facilitate participation by all stakeholders across the AFI Region; and
 - d) Coordinated with the ICAO Secretariat regarding the implementation of the regional data collection exercise.
- 2.2.3 The questionnaires have been designed using practical operational and technical terminology and cover key areas including:
 - Aeronautical VSAT infrastructure;
 - ATN and IP-based communication services;
 - Network topology, interoperability, capacity and performance;
 - Cybersecurity considerations; and
 - Planned modernization initiatives.

2.3 Project Achievements

2.3.1 Within a short period following its establishment, the AFI-IATI Project Team has achieved significant progress towards the implementation of Deliverable DEL02.1.

Key achievements include:

- Conduct of five Project Team meetings between May and June 2026;
- Development and approval of a comprehensive Project Planning Document;
- Development and approval of two regional survey questionnaires (English and French); and
- Establishment of project governance and coordination mechanisms.

2.3.2 The Project Team has also agreed to maintain regular coordination meetings to ensure effective monitoring of implementation progress and timely delivery of project outputs.

2.4 Challenges

2.4.1 The Project Team identified the following challenges:

- Limited availability of historical documentation from previous projects;
- Tight project implementation timelines;
- Protection of commercially and operationally sensitive information while ensuring adequate technical analysis; and
- Diversity of telecommunication infrastructures across the AFI Region.

2.5 Next steps

2.5.1 The next phase of implementation will focus on:

- a) Launching the regional data collection exercise;
- b) Engaging States, ANSPs, and Regional Network Operators to support survey completion;
- c) Collecting and validating technical information;
- d) Conducting the Baseline Technical Assessment of AFI aeronautical telecommunication infrastructure; and
- e) Developing the corresponding assessment report and recommendations for future implementation activities.

3. ACTIONS BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the progress achieved by the AFI-IATI Project Team;
- b) Encourage AFI States, ANSPs and Regional Network Operators to actively participate in the forthcoming data collection exercise;
- c) Encourage timely submission of accurate and complete technical information to support completion of the Baseline Technical Assessment; and

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