



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

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

Dakar, Senegal, from 3 – 7 August 2026

Agenda Item 3 Achievements in Infrastructure and Information Management

3.6. Other Air Navigation initiatives

WP3.6F OPMET Data Exchange Scheme and Associated Procedures Update

Presented by the Secretariat

SUMMARY
This paper presents an update on the actions undertaken by the Secretariat and Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to revise the OPMET Scheme and the Procedures for OPMET Data Exchange, as outlined in the AFI Meteorological Bulletin Exchange (AMBEX) Handbook. It also invites the meeting to review the updated Handbook and consider its endorsement. Action by the meeting in paragraph 3
REFERENCE(S): • AMBEX Handbook, 7th Edition • AASPG/1 Report
Related ICAO Strategic Goal(s): <i>A – Every Flight is Safe and Secure; C - Aviation Delivers Seamless, Accessible and Reliable Mobility for All</i>

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The meeting may recall that Operational Meteorological (OPMET) information is vital to ensuring the safety, regularity, and efficiency of international air navigation. In this context, the Africa-Indian (AFI) Meteorological Bulletin Exchange (AMBEX) scheme was established by the AFI Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG) in 1986 as the primary guidance framework detailing the procedures for OPMET exchange within the Region.
- 1.2. The AMBEX Handbook clearly defines the responsibilities of the AMBEX Centres and the procedures to be followed. However, the current AFI AMBEX procedures, last published in 2014, no longer fully align with recent developments in ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs).

- 1.3. To address these gaps, a Subject Matter Expert Team, established under the CODEVMET Project, has undertaken a comprehensive review and update of the outdated provisions contained in the AFI AMBEX Handbook.
- 1.4. The AASPG/1 Meeting, recognizing concerns over timely delivery of quality OPMET information, commended the Secretariat for initiating the AMBEX system review. It adopted Decision 1/15, directing the Secretariat to expedite updating the AFI AMBEX System and Procedures in coordination with NOCs, BCCs, and IROGs/RODBs; circulate the draft Handbook for stakeholder review; organize a validation workshop; and submit the consolidated Handbook to AASPG/2.
- 1.5. The meeting is therefore invited to review the updated draft Scheme and Procedures for OPMET Exchange in the AFI Region with a view to its endorsement and implementation.

2. DISCUSSIONS

Assessment of the AMBEX System and Gaps Analysis

- 2.1. In May/June 2025, the Subject Matter Expert Team assessed the AMBEX System and identified key issues affecting OPMET information delivery, including outdated procedures and bulletin formats, limited AMHS implementation for IWXXM, inconsistent bulletin timeliness, inactive stations, AFI communication infrastructure (below 97% availability), weak inter-state coordination, limited training, and poor-quality control. Consequently, the Team provided a comprehensive assessment report detailing identified gaps and remedial actions and then recommended updating the AMBEX Handbook to align with current ICAO and WMO standards, incorporating revised routing tables, active stations, valid headers, and updated schedules.

Drafting the Updated Version of the Scheme and Procedure for OPMET Data Exchange

- 2.2. In September 2025, a workshop was held in Freetown, Sierra Leone, bringing together CNS and MET experts to review the assessment report and conduct a gap analysis of the AMBEX system against the relevant ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs). During the workshop, participants also drafted the organizational and editorial structure for the future updated AMBEX Handbook and developed a comprehensive roadmap to guide the preparation of the updated draft.

Validation of the Updated Draft of the Scheme and Procedures for OPMET Data Exchange

- 2.3. In March 2026, a workshop was held in Accra, Ghana, to validate the AFI OPMET Data Exchange (AMBEX) Scheme and Procedures for the AFI region. The event brought together twenty-seven (27) CNS and MET experts from the ESAF and WACAF regions to review the updated draft Handbook and provide guidance for its improvement and finalization.
- 2.4. During the workshop, participants thoroughly examined the draft AMBEX Handbook and provided consolidated comments aimed at enhancing the document for submission to the AASPG through PRCC. They also agreed to rename the Handbook as the AFI OPMET Data Exchange Scheme and Procedures (AODEX–HB) to better reflect the data-centric approach to meteorological information provision.
- 2.5. Additionally, the participants developed Terms of Reference for the AFI Regional OPMET Management Group (AFI-ROMG) and established a roadmap to guide the finalization, endorsement, and implementation of the updated Handbook.

Consultation with States and Stakeholders

- 2.6. In line with the roadmap for updating the AMBEX Handbook, the Secretariat circulated the AFI OPMET Data Exchange Scheme and Procedures (AODEX) Handbook (English/French) to ESAF and WACAF States, as well as to the RODBs in Dakar and Pretoria, for review via Letter Ref: T10/7.2 – 0444 dated 16 June 2026. To date, the Secretariat has not received feedback from one State (Guinea) providing consistent contributions to the AODEX Handbook.

Consolidation of the updated draft Handbook

- 2.7. Despite the low feedback from States and Industry on the drafted AODEX, the Secretariat has considered the contributions of Guinea and consolidated the updated Handbook as provided in Appendices A and B in both English and French. The meeting may need to review them and guide for the further steps.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

- 3.1. The meeting is invited to:

- a) take note of the information presented in this working paper; and
- b) deliberate on §2.7 of this working paper.

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