



## **AFI REGIONAL OPMET MANAGEMENT TECHNICAL TEAM (AROMT)**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

## 1. Background

- 1.1. Observations of meteorological conditions are made by means of instruments and visual estimation and are used for landing and take-off, en-route navigation and flight performance, and as a basis for forecasting. Those observations used primarily for aircraft operations are called “operational meteorological (OPMET) information” while those used primarily for forecasting purposes are considered to be “basic meteorological data”.
- 1.2. OPMET information includes aerodrome reports, landing forecasts, aerodrome forecasts, special aircraft observations, SIGMET and AIRMET information, tropical cyclone, volcanic ash and space weather advisories and WAFS forecasts.
- 1.3. Basic meteorological data includes synoptic surface and upper-air observations, satellite images, weather radar observations and routine aircraft observations.
- 1.4. The AFI OPMET Data Exchange (AODEX) Scheme is a coordinated regional arrangement (resulted in the update of the AFI Meteorological Bulletin Exchange (AMBEX) scheme established by the AFI Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG) in 1986) approved by the Africa-Indian Ocean Aviation System Planning and Implementation Group (AASPG) in 2026 to facilitate the efficient and timely exchange of meteorological information necessary for the safety, regularity and efficiency of international air navigation within the AFI Region and with adjacent ICAO Regions. It supports the exchange of operational meteorological information and enable the progressive migration to ICAO Meteorological Information Exchange Model (IWXXM) format.
- 1.5. The primary objective of the AFI OPMET Data Exchange (AODEX) Scheme is to facilitate the most efficient and standardized exchange of Operational Meteorological (OPMET) information within the AFI region and with other ICAO regions. This ensures that user requirements are met while supporting the implementation of OPMET-related Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) as outlined in ICAO Annex 3 and Annex 10, along with the relevant provisions of the AFI Regional Air Navigation Plan (ANP).
- 1.6. The updated Scheme resulting from the update of the 7<sup>th</sup> Edition of AMBEX dated 2014 was structured to facilitate the evolving from a product-based bulletin exchange arrangement into a data-centric environment supporting digital exchange and future integration into the System Wide Information Management (SWIM) environment. The Scheme has expanded in scope, structure and operational requirements, including the establishment of National OPMET Centres (NOCs), Regional OPMET Centres (ROCs), Inter-regional OPMET Gateways (IROGs), and Regional OPMET Databanks (RODBs).
- 1.7. In view of the need to monitor OPMET exchange operations, support OPMET centres, coordinate regional requirements, follow-up on the transition from Traditional Alphanumeric Code (TAC) format to IWXXM, and maintain effective coordination with other ICAO Regions, it is agreed to establish an **AFI Region OPMET Management Technical Team (AROMT)**. This technical body will be responsible for the continuous monitoring, coordination, and management of OPMET data exchange and delivery within the AFI region.

## **2. Purpose**

- 2.1. The purpose of the AROMT is to act as the regional technical and operational body responsible for monitoring, coordinating, and supporting the exchange and dissemination of OPMET information within the AFI Region and between the AFI region and other ICAO Regions, in accordance with the AFI OPMET Data Exchange (AODEX) Scheme.
- 2.2. The AROMT provides a structured regional framework for monitoring operational performance, identifying gaps, recommending corrective actions, and facilitating the effective implementation of regional OPMET exchange procedures, including initiatives related to digital data exchange and IWXXM implementation.
- 2.3. The Team also serves as a coordination and advisory platform that brings together relevant stakeholders to ensure the continued effectiveness, harmonization, standardization, and sustainability of the AODEX Scheme.

## **3. Mandate of the Group**

The AROMT is established by the Africa-Indian Ocean Aviation System Planning and Implementation Group (AASPG) framework as the technical body responsible for the management of OPMET exchange and delivery in the AFI Region. It will regularly monitor the operation of intra-regional and inter-regional OPMET exchange and support the effective functioning of the AODEX Scheme.

## **4. Group Key Functions and Tasks**

4.1. The AFI Region OPMET Management Technical Team functions include:

- (i) Monitor in a continuous manner, the intra-regional and inter-regional exchange of OPMET Information;
- (ii) Monitor and analyse OPMET availability and provide mid-year and annual reports to be submitted to ICAO AFI Regional offices;
- (iii) Propose relevant corrective measures for effective solutions to the OPMET exchange issues identified in the AFI Region;
- (iv) Validate the draft METNO Bulletins/Messages from the ROCs and the ROBDs;
- (v) Informs all OPMET Centres and ICAO ESAF and WACAF Offices, one month in advance, of future changes (insertion or deletion of one or more OPMET bulletins); and
- (vi) Coordinate and support the transition to the digital meteorological information exchange in IWXXM format.

## **5. Composition**

5.1. The AROMT is composed of:

- (i) 1 Chairperson from the RODBs;
- (ii) 1 Vice-Chairperson from the ROCs;
- (iii) 1 Rapporteur of the Team;
- (iv) Representatives of the Regional OPMET Centres (ROCs);
- (v) Representatives of the Regional OPMET Data Banks (RODBs); and
- (vi) Subject matter experts in meteorological information exchange systems from the NOCs.

5.2. Charing the AROMT

- a) The AROMT is led by a chairperson elected from the representatives designated by RODBs States.
- b) A Vice-Chairperson may be elected from the representatives of the ROCs.
- c) The term of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall be for a maximum period of three years, starting on 1<sup>st</sup> January of the election year plus one.
- d) The Chairmanship of the AROMT shall rotate every three years amongst the representatives of the RODBs and ROCs.

5.3. Membership of the AROMET

- a) a) Members of the AROMT shall be selected on the basis of their expertise. For this purpose, States and Organizations are invited to nominate qualified experts to the Team and submit their curriculum vitae (CVs) to the Regional Offices.
- b) b) Following the review and evaluation of the submitted CVs by the Secretariat, the final list of selected nominees appointed as AROMT members shall be published.
- c) The selection criteria are provided in Appendix A to this ToRs.

## **6. Roles and responsibilities**

6.1. The AROMT is responsible for:

- a) Continuously monitoring and collecting data on the delivery of the OPMET Information as per the AODEX Scheme;
- b) Collect information on issues raised on the provision of OPMET Information, including feedback from users;
- c) carrying out gaps analysis with remedial recommendations and providing gaps assessment reports to ICAO Regional Offices;
- d) Coordinating the provision of OPMET Information activities, including the update of the AODEX Handbook.

## **7. Working methods**

- 7.1. The AROMT shall carry out its duties through technical meetings and outside meetings activities, in accordance with its approved work programme and operational needs.
- 7.2. The Team shall make use of available electronic means, including teleconferencing and other virtual collaboration tools, to prepare and progress its work between meetings and to keep members updated on matters of concern. This approach shall support timely coordination, technical discussions and decision-making.
- 7.3. The Team shall maintain close coordination with the Regional Offices for technical support and guidance as needed.

## **8. Monitoring and reporting on implementation**

- 8.1. The AROMT shall implement a mechanism to maintain follow-up on agreed actions and implementation status, including changes to bulletins, regional procedures and technical arrangements.
- 8.2. The TEAM shall ensure that participating States and OPMET centres are informed in a timely manner of agreed decisions affecting the regional OPMET exchange programme.
- 8.3. The AROMT shall develop and implement consistent report Template to report on the outcomes of monitoring and managing the implementation of the OPMET Scheme to the ICAO AFI Regional Offices and to relevant stakeholders for further action as appropriate.

## **Appendix A: Criteria for selection of AROMT members**

- 1) Senior CNS and/or MET Experts with at least seven (7) year of experience in handling operational meteorological information exchange within an RODB, ROC or NOC;*
- 2) Very good knowledge of ICAO SARPs related to the communication of meteorological exchange as contained in Annex 3 and Annex 10;*
- 3) Familiar with the regional OPMET exchange procedures;*
- 4) Expertise in the Aeronautical Message Handling System (AMHS)*
- 5) Very good knowledge of the concepts related to the IWXXM digital meteorological exchange model;*
- 6) Proved experience in evaluating the availability of OPMET Information at the national and regional levels and implementing remedial actions.*