

**INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION**
**Sixth Meeting of the APIRG Infrastructure and Information Management Sub-Group  
(IIM/SG6)**

*(Nairobi, 30 July - 3 July 2023)*

**Agenda Item 4 : Air Navigation Deficiencies**
**Reciprocal Exchange of Aeronautical Information Publications (AIPs)  
between AFI States**

*(Presented by South Africa)*

<b>SUMMARY</b>
<p>This working paper outlines the requirements as defined by ICAO Annex 15 in section 2.3.6 for the reciprocal exchange of Aeronautical Information Products by contracting States.</p> <p>Action by the meeting in paragraph 3</p>
<p><b>REFERENCE(S):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Annex 15</li> <li>▪ ICAO Doc 8126</li> <li>▪ ICAO Doc 9854</li> </ul>
<p>This working document relates to <b>ICAO Strategic Objectives: Objectives: A – Safety, B – Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency</b></p>

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Aeronautical Information plays a critical role in the daily operation of the Air Traffic Management (ATM) system. Within the context of a globally interoperable ATM system, AIM ensures the timely flow of accurate information necessary for the safety and efficiency of international air navigation and can therefore be seen as the nucleus of the ATM operations.
- 1.2 This role and importance of aeronautical data and aeronautical information changed significantly with the implementation of Area Navigation (RNAV), Performance-Based Navigation (PBN), Airborne Computer-Based Navigation Systems, Performance-Based Communication (PBC), Performance-Based Surveillance (PBS), Data Link Systems and Satellite Voice Communications (SATVOICE).
- 1.3 In such a highly automated and electronic operating environment, corrupt, erroneous, late, or missing aeronautical data and aeronautical information can potentially affect the safety of air navigation.

**2. DISCUSSIONS**

- 2.1 South Africa presented working paper fourth six (46) during APIRG 22 on the Mitigation of the amount of missing Air Traffic Services Messages in the AFI Region.

- 2.2 In WP46, bullet “G”, South Africa highlighted that the reciprocal exchange of AIP’s was not being adhered to, resulting in a one-sided exchange, as again not all States AIP’s were readily available.
- 2.3 South Africa further requested that a platform be created where all African States’ updated AIP’s are easily available.
- 2.4 ICAO Annex 15, section 2.3 - Exchange of aeronautical data and aeronautical information, states the following under 2.3.6:  
*“Except as provided in 2.3.8, one copy of each of the following aeronautical information products (where available) that have been requested by the AIS of a Contracting State shall be made available by the originating State and provided in the mutually agreed form(s), without charge, even where authority for publication/storage and distribution has been delegated to a non-governmental agency:*  
*a) Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP), including Amendments and Supplements;*  
*b) Aeronautical Information Circulars (AIC);*  
*c) NOTAM; and*  
*d) aeronautical charts.*
- 2.5 Annex 15 furthermore states under 2.3.7 Recommendation.— *The exchange of more than one copy of the elements of aeronautical information products, and other air navigation documents, including those containing air navigation legislation and regulations, should be subject to bilateral agreement between the participating Contracting States and entities.*
- 2.6 ICAO Document 8126, section 5.4 – Sale of AIS Documentation, 5.4.1 – State AIS states *“Annex 15 requires the exchange of all elements of the aeronautical information products between States on a reciprocal, no-cost basis. This requirement includes any aeronautical information products produced by a commercial agency on behalf of a State.”*
- 2.7 Many States in the AFI Region, such as South Africa, has made the PDF and/or eAIP (HTML version) available to States via a website. The South African AIP and other related documents can be accessed from the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) website at <https://www.caa.co.za/industry-information/aeronautical-information/> .
- 2.8 Some States have included subscriptions services on the website which requires specific login details in order to restrict activities to only “paying customers” and is therefore not aligned to the ICAO Annex 15 section 2.3.6 requirements.
- 2.9 The SACAA and ATNS has previously engaged other AFI States to re-establish communication mechanisms to allow for the reciprocal exchange of aeronautical information products in alignment with Annex 15 section 2.3.6, however have not been very successful. There is therefore a need to identify the focal point in each State that is tasked with responsibility of facilitating reciprocal exchange of aeronautical information products to re-establish this mechanism between AFI-States.
- 2.10 Due to the advancement of technology, multiple platforms are currently available that could facilitate the timely exchange of these aeronautical information products in an automated and seamless way, without having to use traditional conventional postal services.

### 3. ACTIONS BY THE MEETING

- 3.1 The meeting is invited to:
- a) Review the contents of this working paper and deliberate on the proposed draft conclusions.
  - b) To support the adoption of proposed draft conclusions as listed in 3.2 below

#### 3.2 **Draft Conclusion /Decision 6/xx : Reciprocal Exchange of Aeronautical Information Publications (AIPs) between AFI States**

**That ;**

- a) AFI States identify and communicate the focal points within each State, responsible of the management and reciprocal exchange of aeronautical information products defined in Annex 15 section 2.3.6 to ICAO by XX October 2023;
- b) ICAO consolidate inputs and disseminate the list of focal points to each State identified focal point.
- c) AFI States that do not have current and updated Aeronautical Information Products available to allow for reciprocal exchange with other States to advise the ICAO regional Offices.

- d) The State focal point to establish communication with respective States focal point in order to coordinate the exchange of aeronautical information products with the identified AFI States by XX November 2023.
- e) The “Reciprocal Exchange of Aeronautical Information Products” be defined on the AFI Air Navigation Deficiency Database (AANDD) as a deficiency for AFI Region.

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