
Agenda Item 1: Status of implementation of the RLA/98/019 Regional Technical Cooperation Project

1.1 As established during the opening stage, the meeting started its deliberations considering the administrative aspects related with the status of execution of the UNDP/ICAO RLA/98/019 Technical Cooperation Regional Project on Implementation of the SAM digital network (REDDIG), provided by the Secretariat in working paper 2.

1.2 After a brief introduction on project establishment and approval, based on Conclusion 3.1 of the REDDIG/3 meeting (Lima, 21-23 October 1998), information was provided on States that have expressed to UNDP or ICAO their support to project implementation and decision to participate in its financing under a cost sharing scheme, and also on the status of the deposits of their contributions as per the payments schedule included in the project document.

1.3 Details on States that adhered the project after its approval, increased the number of nodes required, and provided information on payment commitments, was also exposed to the meeting, together with an explanation on the situation of those States that have not yet confirmed their payment commitments to UNDP and the possible consequences of the lack of an immediate decision on the matter, as stated in the project document.

1.4 Deliberating on the matter, several delegates manifested their points of view or the position of their States in connection with the suggested action. In this regard, the meeting concluded that those States which contributions or payment commitments have not yet been received, be exhorted by ICAO to take the appropriate action not later than 22 September 2000, taking into account that if not doing so, they would not be complying the provisions and obligations established in the relevant paragraphs of the project document, remaining out of the project. In this regard, the meeting adopted the following conclusion:

Conclusion REDDIG 4.1 - Deposit of cost sharing contributions to finance the project

That ICAO urge participant States which contributions or payment commitments to finance the project have not yet been received as provided in Paragraphs E. 2.8.1 and G. 1 of the RLA/98/019 project document, to take the appropriate action not later than 22 September 2000, taking into account that if not doing so, they would be in the case foreseen in Paragraphs F. 1 and G. 5 of the same document, which establish that if said pre-requisite is not fulfilled, their participation in the project would be suspended or terminated.

1.5 The possibility of collecting States contributions in excess of the funds required to finance the project was also considered, which balance could be subject to two alternatives: an equitable refund to participant States or retention to finance an extension of the period of network administration by the project, which should include the REDDIG operation costs.

1.6 In connection with the alternatives exposed, a consensus was manifested on the preference for the retention of any possible remaining funds to finance the extension of network administration by the project, originating the following conclusion:

Conclusion REDDIG 4.2 - Use of possible remaining funds after the REDDIG is operative

That, if States' contributions collected to finance the RLA/98/019 project are in excess of the funds required to finance it, the remaining funds be retained by UNDP/ICAO to finance an extension of the period of network administration by the project, which should include the REDDIG operation costs.

1.7 The need for the establishment of a Coordination group representing participant States in project review and/or coordination meetings was also considered, together with the need for the Technical Committee required to represent participant States in the evaluation process of bids and negotiation of the contract by ICAO.

1.8 Concerning this matter, taking into account that participation of States in both groups would involve additional financial commitments, since the project budget does not consider the funding of States delegations movements, the meeting decided that ICAO officially invite the concerned administrations to participate in both groups designating their delegates and financing their missions.

1.9 The consideration of agenda item 1 also included a brief information on the status of implementation of project activities and a proposal for the updating of the tentative project work plan included as Attachment 1 to the RLA/98/019 project document. In this regard, the meeting was requested to constitute the initial Coordination group required to participate with ICAO in the updating of such Attachment, in order to comply with Activity 0.0.1 of the plan.

1.10 Concerning the implementation of Activities 1.2.4 and 1.2.5, related with the evaluation process of bids and negotiation of the contract by ICAO, a brief description on the procurement procedures applied by ICAO under UN regulations on the matter was provided to the meeting for a better understanding of the management of the REDDIG procurement. In this regard, it was suggested that the technical evaluation of bids received take place at the ICAO Regional Office in Lima and the negotiation of the contract with selected supplier(s) at ICAO Headquarters in Montreal.

1.11 With regard to the evaluation methodology of the bids, it was informed to the meeting that its preparation by project experts will be based on the final version of the technical specifications. Due to this, its consideration and approval would be carried out by the technical committee to be designated representing participant States. Concerning this part of agenda item 1, the meeting adopted the following conclusion:

Conclusion REDDIG 4.3 - RLA/98/019 Project Co-ordination Group and Technical Committee

That ICAO officially invite the administrations of States participating in Project RLA/98/019, to consider the nomination of delegates to a general Project Co-ordination Group representing them in the project co-ordination, monitoring and tripartite review meetings foreseen in the project document, and also the nomination of suitable delegates to the Technical Committee representing them in the evaluation process of the bids and negotiation of the contract by ICAO with the selected supplier(s).

1.12 Taking into account that the treatment of the other agenda items could affect the updating of the tentative project work plan, the meeting decided to take action on this part of agenda item 1 at the end of its deliberations.