Agenda Item 2 Status of implementation of CAR/SAM digital networks and their interconnection

2.1 The meeting noted that several States and COCESNA, in order to modernize the communications and to cope with the CNS/ATM ICAO systems requirements, implemented or are in process to implement modern digital networks in the area of coverage of the meeting. In this regard, the meeting noted the following status of implementation:

MEVA An SCPC/DAMA/PAMA VSAT network using the PAS-5 satellite, establishing physical point-to-point connections among its users for voice and data. DAMA access is used for voice switching functions. It also has PAMA access for voice non-switching circuits and for data circuits. Its users are mainly located in the Central Caribbean. MEVA is currently being re-configurated and it is probable that it would adopt an open architecture.

E-CAR ATN compatible terrestrial optic fibre ISDN open network. The E-CAR users are mainly located in the Eastern Caribbean and has one node in the SAM region (Caracas), which will facilitate its interconnection with the REDDIG.

REDDIG A multisystem/multiprotocol open system design for voice, data and video communications, ATN compatible, based on Frame Relay and will use as main physical media VSAT technology with TDMA access method and ISDN terrestrial backup. Its users will be all SAM States, with the exception of Panama. It is expected to be implemented by 2002. Recently was signed the corresponding contract for the implementation of the network

CAMSAT ATN compatible Frame Relay VSAT network for voice and data. Its users are located in Central America. It uses Intelsat 805 satellite. The network would be operational in November 2001.

COLOMBIAN VSAT NETWORK Colombia operates, since one year, a SCPC/DAMA/PAMA network using INTELSAT 805 satellite attending 36 nodes with geographically redundant HUBs in Bogota and Barranquilla. The CAR/SAM/3 RAN meeting has recommended that a study be made to use this network to improve voice/data communications with Panama, Kingston, COCESNA and Netherlands Antilles (Conclusion 9/8). Colombia made several Power Point presentations to show the architecture, features and performance of its VSAT network and the perspectives of its development. A visit to the Bogota HUB station was made.

2.2 Although the interconnection of digital networks was not the focal point of the meeting, under this agenda item some situations were examined. In this regard, it was noted that:

a) the installation of nodes of the Colombian VSAT digital network, as recommended by CAR/SAM/3 Conclusion 9/8, was an immediate alternative solution for the AFS deficiencies identified by the meeting;

b) it was recognized that the most challenging situation would be the REDDIG/MEVA interconnection, and the several technical solutions on this matter would depend on the progress to be made by MEVA concerning its reconfiguration. In this regard, it was noted that some coordinations had already been made, to be considered in next year's meeting on digital networks interconnection; and

c) the meeting also recognized the paramount importance to count in the digital networks with an effective and efficient alternative means in case of failure/interruption of the main/primary means of transmission.

2.3 The meeting also noted the proliferation tendency of different VSATs networks in the different States/Organizations and considered of importance to reach the corresponding interconnection among inter-regional/regional networks in order to avoid such a trend and, therefore, further studies in this matter should be urgently performed. In this regard, it was informed that the GREPECAS mechanism, in relation with the digital networks interconnection, has elaborated some guidance material on this matter.