

**INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION****Western and Central Africa Office****First Meeting of the Central Atlantic FIRs Satellite (CAFSAT) Network Management Committee (CNMC/1)
(Recife, Brazil 2 May 2011)**

Agenda Item 4: Implementation of Recommendations 6/19 of Special AFI/RAN meeting**(Presented by the secretariat)**

SUMMARY
The purpose of this paper is to review the status of implementation of Recommendation 6/19 of the Special AFI RAN meeting that calls for regular meetings of all AFI VSAT Networks managers
Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.
References : Recommendation 6/19 of Special, AFI/RAN meeting Conclusion 17/22 of APIRG 17 Meeting <i>Note: References can be downloaded from www.icao.int/wacaf.</i>
Related ICAO Strategic Objective A.

1. Introduction

AFI region is provided with four satellite based networks (AFISNET, CAFSAT, NAFISAT, and SADC/2) that are operating for Aeronautical Fixed Service. In the framework of the harmonization of those VSAT Networks operations in order to ensure an end to end interoperability. As a matter of coordination between these various interconnected networks, the Special AFI/RAN meeting adopted Recommendation 6/19 that calls for all entities involved with planning, implementation and operation of Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) networks in the AFI Region to hold regular joint meetings under the auspices of ICAO regional offices.

Since then, and under the auspices of ICAO Regional Offices (ESAF and WACAF), AFI VSAT managers have undertaken actions to implement this recommendation.

2. Discussion**2.1 Implementation of AFI/RAN Recommendation 6/19 by AFISNET States**

The 17th Satellite Network Management Committee (SNMC/17) meeting in charge of West and Central Africa aeronautical Network (AFISNET) management convened by WACAF, hosted by Roberts FIR and held in Monrovia, **Liberia from 23 to 25 June 2009**, commended the idea of a coordination meeting between AFISNET, CAFSAT, NAFISAT and SADC /2 networks managers to be held as soon as possible by formulating the following conclusion:

Conclusion 17/12: Follow-up of SP AFI RAN 08 recommendations 6/19

That, in accordance with recommendation 6/19 of the SP AFI RAN 08 meeting, ICAO convene as soon as possible all entities involved with planning, implementation and operation of VSAT networks in the AFI Region a joint meeting for the purpose of harmonization and eventual realization of a seamless AFI communication network supporting all present and future CNS systems.

During its 18th session held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso **from 01 to 04 July 2010**, the SNMC meeting examined the status of implementation of AFI/RAN **Recommendation 6/19**. The meeting was provided with the ongoing information pertaining to AFISNET neighboring Networks that may be involved in such regular meetings (CAFSAT, NAFISAT, SADC/2...) as called for by SP AFI RAN.

In particular, SNMC/18th meeting noted that the SAT/15 meeting (Lisbon, Portugal, **19-21 May 2010**) has set up the **CAFSAT Network Management Committee (CNMC)** based on the SNMC model so that the similar management exercise of the two networks will be a step towards the institution of the global regular meetings called for by SP AFI RAN. The meeting discussed at length the best way for a fruitful participation of SNMC in such meetings.

It was stated that in order to ensure a good participation, consolidated Terms of Reference should be developed for the management of the meetings of each AFI local Sub-Network. The outcome of those meetings, which can be of common interest to all stakeholders, should serve as inputs for the regular AFI comprehensive meetings.

The meeting also raised concerns over of the body to which such meetings should report and formulated Conclusion/18/07 which reads as following:

Conclusion 18/07: Implementation of conclusion 6/19 of SP AFI RAN

That:

- a) SNMC member States/Organizations participate in the AFI VSAT managers meeting called for by Recommendation 6/19 of the SP AFI RAN meeting on the basis of representative (s) from each SNMC members Sate/Organization (i.e. NAMA, GCAA, Roberts FIR, ASECNA);
- b) ICAO regional Offices (WACAF and ESAF) initiate suitable arrangements for the venue of the first meeting during which the Terms of Reference and frequency of meetings will be defined; and
- c) APIRG indicates the body to which reports of those global meetings will be addressed.

2.2 Implementation of AFI/RAN Recommendation 6/19 by NAFISAT/SADC2 States

At the first step ATNS was supposed to represent NAFISAT/SADC/2 in an AFI global meeting dealing as stated by AFI/RAN conclusion 6/19.

Furthermore during a coordinating meeting, NAFISAT States members expressed their desire to attend the meetings and proposed that the meetings be only held when a special issue that needs coordination occurs.

During the 5th Supervisory Committee Meeting held in Khartoum, Sudan, **from 13 to 14 December 2010**, the NAFISAT States members discussed the status of implementation of the Recommendation 6/19 of ICAO SP AFI/ RAN Meeting on regular meetings to be held between AFI VSAT networks managers.

It was proposed that the first meeting of this kind will take place under the aegis of ICAO in 2011, in South Africa, at the kind invitation of ATNS. Further coordination between ICAO ESAF & WACAF Offices with ATNS led to have the first meeting scheduled from 13 to 15 June 2011.

2.3 Implementation of AFI/RAN Recommendation 6/19 by CAFSAT States

The meeting of the Working Group for the Migration of CAFSAT network (**Madrid, Spain, 2- 3 July, 2008**) made recommendation 1/7 calling for the creation of a board for the management of CAFSAT network on the model of the SNMC which is currently in charge of the management of AFISNET network in order to satisfy recommendation 6/19 (*Planning, implementation and operation of very small Aperture terminal (VSAT) networks in the AFI Region*) of RAN/AFI SP meeting (Durban, South Africa, 241 - November 29th, 2008).

Based on this recommendation the first meeting of the Working Group of the SAT 14, SAT14/TF/1 (**Sal, Cape Verde, 10-12 June, 2009**) approved this proposal for the creation of the Committee for the Management of CAFSAT Network.

This committee was set up during SAT/15 meeting held in **Lisbon, Portugal from 19 - 21 May 2010** during which the Terms of References of CNMC were adopted and the Decision to hold CNMC meetings back to back with SAT meetings agreed.

2.4 Review of the status of implementation of Recommendation 6/19 of AFI/RAN by APIRG/17

APIRG/17 Meeting held in **Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso from 02 to 06 August 2010** was provided with all the outputs of the discussions on the implementation of Recommendation 6/19 of SP AFI RAN 2008 meeting calling for regular AFI VSAT Networks Managers meeting.

It was noted that no such meeting had been held yet because of differences in organizational structure of Institutions that manage the Networks.

The APIRG/17 meeting also noted the summary of the discussion on this issue conducted during each network management meeting (AFISNET, CAFSAT, NAFISAT & SADC/2) in particular the modality of participation to this meeting and taking into consideration that some of the re-modification of the networks might have financial implications.

APIRG/17 encouraged AFI States to go forward in the implementation of the recommendation 6/19 of AFI/RAN meeting and therefore formulated the following conclusion.

CONCLUSION 17/ 22: REGULAR MEETINGS BETWEEN VSAT NETWORK MANAGERS

That, in order to ensure interoperability between VSAT Networks AFI States should implement Recommendation 6/19 of SP AFI RAN 2008 calling for regular meetings to be held by VSAT Managers under the coordination of ICAO Regional Offices.

2.5 Conclusion

At this step it can be noted that each Network is now provided with a management board and the AFI VSAT Network managers have taken the commitment to implement Recommendation 6/19 of Sp AFI/RAN meeting.

However the Terms of Reference of the so called regular meeting, its periodicity and his agenda, should be developed and clarified as well as the body to which the reports will be addressed (probably CNS/SG should be the suitable board.).

The principle of the meeting proposed by NAFISAT Supervisory body in South Africa and scheduled to be held in South Africa, from 13 to 15 June 2011 is to be taken into consideration by all the stakeholders in particular by this current CNMC meeting.

3. Action by the meeting:

The meeting is invited to:

- a) Take note of the above information
- b) Review and comment the status of implementation of Recommendation 6/19 of Sp AFI/RAN meeting among CAFSAT and its neighboring Networks
- c) Take the commitment for an effective participation to the VSAT Manager regular meeting planned to take place in South Africa from 13 to 15 June 2011 as called for by SP AFI/RAN Recommendation 6/19 and;
- d) Decide on the modality of CNMC members States representation to this meeting, accordingly.