



**Agenda Item 4: Review of Project H4 – OPMET Exchange**

**Guide for the drafting and dissemination of SIGMET messages for the CAR/SAM Regions  
and OPMET Guide**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

<b>SUMMARY</b>	
This paper presents a review of the SIGMET and OPMET Guides for the CAR/SAM Regions	
<b>References:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Report of the Second meeting on MET Projects, Lima, 18-22 September 2017</li><li>• Report of the COM/MET meeting, Lima- Peru, 22-25 May 2019</li><li>• Report of the ICAO MET Panel meeting</li><li>• SIGMET and OPMET Guides for the CAR/SAM Regions</li></ul>	
<b>ICAO strategic objectives:</b>	<i>A - Safety</i> <i>B – Air navigation capacity and efficiency</i> <i>E – Environmental protection</i>

**1. Introduction**

1.1 Amendments 77 and 78 to ICAO Annex 3 introduced changes to SIGMET and AIRMET formats, as well as to METAR, SPECI and TAF messages.

1.2 The MP/2 meeting analysed the alignment of the SIGMET Guide to the requirements of the METWSG Agreed Action 5/4.

1.3 The second meeting of the MET Panel reviewed the Regional SIGMET Guide and provided guidelines for its alignment with Amendment 77 to Annex 3 (2016).

1.4 The COM/MET/2019 meeting reviewed the Guide for the drafting of OPMET messages.

**2. Discussion**

2.1 The MET Panel considered updating the Regional SIGMET Guide template. In this regard, it was noted that Amendment 77 to ICAO Annex 3 – Meteorological service for international air navigation, would introduce significant changes to SIGMET (and AIRMET) templates. These changes had been proposed by the METWSG and endorsed by the MET Divisional Meeting (7-18 July 2014, Montreal, Canada), with the purpose of providing a more logical structure and clarifying certain aspects, in order to obtain a more consistent SIGMET.

2.2 Given the importance of SIGMETs for the aeronautical community and the constant desire to improve consistency and compliance of SIGMETs worldwide, the METP/2 meeting, through Decision 6/1, approved the regional SIGMET guide template, which is presented in **Appendix A** to this working paper.

2.3 The ICAO SAM Office, with the support of Regional Projects RLA/06/901 and RLA/99/901, restructured the Guide for the drafting and dissemination of SIGMET messages for the CAR/SAM Regions, taking into account Amendments 77 and 78 and based on the proposed template, introducing some appendices that had not been considered in the proposals of the MET Panel. The proposal has been sent to the NACC Office for feedback. The Meeting could recommend holding a series of teleconferences between the two Offices and the States in order to approve the document and notify Headquarters.

2.4 The Guide for the drafting and dissemination of OPMET messages for the CAR/SAM Regions was reviewed by the COM/MET/2019 meeting and aligned with Amendments 76, 77 and 78 to ICAO Annex 3. The COM/MET/2019 meeting recommended its review by the authorities and other areas of the State, and that comments be sent by 30 August this year. A review is especially required of the exchange table in order to align it to the existing air traffic flows.

2.5 Regarding the CAR Region, similar work should be done through teleconferencing between the two Offices and the States in order to finalise and approve it by December 2019.

2.6 Documents in Word format will be provided during the Meeting for review.

### 3. **Suggested action**

3.1. The Meeting is invited to:

- a) take note of the information provided in this working paper;
- b) review the information provided in Appendix A; and
- c) discuss any other action related to items 2.3 and 2.4.