



Agenda Item 2: Review of Project H2 - Implementation of the *International Airways Volcano Watch (IAVW)*

Analysis of AIRMET and GAMET dissemination

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY	
This working paper presents considerations for assessing the feasibility of establishing air navigation agreements for international dissemination of SIGMET and AIRMET messages.	
References:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annex 3 – <i>Meteorological service for international air navigation</i>• Conclusions of the Workshop on SIGMET/AIRMET/GAMET/Aerodrome warnings	
ICAO strategic objectives:	<i>A - Safety</i> <i>B - Air navigation capacity and efficiency</i> <i>E - Environmental protection</i>

1. Introduction

1.1 Amendments 79 to ICAO Annex 3 introduced recommendations and modifications related to the dissemination of AIRMET and GAMET messages.

1.2 The Workshop on SIGMET/AIRMET/GAMET/Aerodrome warnings issued recommendations related to AIRMET and GAMET messages.

1.3 The SAM Region offers the opportunity of assessing the introduction of an air navigation agreement for the dissemination of AIRMET and GAMET messages.

1.4 The second and fourth meetings of the MET Panel amended the SIGMET Issuance and Dissemination Guide and recommended its adoption by the Regional Offices.

2. Discussion

2.1 ICAO Annex 3 states in 6.5.2 that, when the density of traffic below flight level 100 warrants the issuance of AIRMET information in accordance with 7.2.1, area forecasts for such operations shall be prepared in a format agreed between the meteorological authorities in the States concerned. When abbreviated plain language is used, the forecast shall be prepared as a GAMET area forecast, employing approved ICAO abbreviations and numerical values; when chart form is used, the forecast shall be prepared as a combination of forecasts of upper wind, upper-air temperature, and SIGWX phenomena. The area forecasts shall be issued to cover the layer between the ground and flight level 100 (or up to flight level 150

in mountainous areas, or higher, where necessary) and shall contain information on en-route weather phenomena hazardous to low-level flights, in support of the issuance of AIRMET information, and additional information required by low-level flights.

2.2 The Meeting may wish to note that Amendment 79 to Annex 3 introduces recommendation 4.4.2 in Appendix 5. This recommendation states that AIRMET messages, which are prepared in accordance with a regional air navigation agreement, should be disseminated to the aeronautical fixed service and Internet-based services.

2.3 States should conduct a risk assessment in order to define:

- the density of operations below FL100 or FL150 in mountainous areas, which could pose a safety risk;
- criteria for establishing an air navigation agreement to define whether or not to issue AIRMET messages.

3. **Suggested action**

3.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) take note of the information provided in this working paper;
- b) review recommendation 4.4.2 in Appendix 5 to Annex 3, and recommend actions accordingly; and
- c) agree on other actions it may deem appropriate.
