



**Agenda Item 2: Based on the ACG/7 meeting results, review of proposals for the
GREPECAS/15 concerning the future treatment of ATM and CNS matters**

**IMPROVEMENT OF WORKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TREATMENT OF ATM/CNS
MATTERS BY GREPECAS MECHANISM**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This working paper presents information on the matters discussed and decided during the ACG/7 meeting concerning the treatment of ATM/CNS matters by the GREPECAS mechanism and the functioning of the ATM/CNS Sub-Group. Action suggested for the ATM/CNS/SG/6 meeting is presented in paragraph 4.

References:

- GREPECAS/14 Meeting Report
- GREPECAS Procedure Handbook
- ATM/CNS/SG/5 Meeting Report
- ACG/7 Meeting Report

1 Introduction

1.1 The ATM/CNS/SG was created during GREPECAS/9 meeting (August 2001, Decision 9/20) as result of a reorganization of the Group. The main reason to create the ATM/CNS/SG was to strengthen the coordination in the development of tasks related with the implementation of ATM/CNS matters including those of multinational nature involving institutional aspects in considering their intra/inter regional implementation aspects. The structure of the Sub-Group considers two Committees: the ATM/COMM and the CNS/COMM as contributory bodies and a Steering Committee to coordinate the functioning of the Sub-Group between meetings as well during the same.

1.2 The Sub-Group has already held five meetings. From the beginning the functioning of the Sub-Group as a whole represented a heavy financial burden for ICAO and the States. The meetings of about 90 persons with a duration of five days, were divided in two sections, the first and the last days met the plenary (the Sub-Group) and other three days in the middle were dedicated to the Committees work. It was always considered that this arrangement presented an insufficient time for the Sub-Group work especially for the contributory bodies work, mainly considering that very few preparatory work were made between Sub-Group meetings.

1.3 Based on the ICAO current planning made to implement the ATM operational concept towards the Global ATM and the way how the CNS/ATM matters are being dealing within the other ICAO PIRGs, the ACG/7 meeting (Lima, Peru, 3-4 March 2008) analyzed the functioning of the ATM/CNS/SG. This analysis is presented below.

2 Analysis made during the ACG/7 meeting

2.1 Current situation of the ATM/CNS Sub-Group work arrangements

2.1.1 The creation of the ATM/CNS/SG was done through some special mechanism in the ICAO structure of PIRGs, whose functioning was not clearly contained and ruled in the GREPECAS Procedure Handbook, because, the mechanism is in a certain way an “small” RPG, which has contributory bodies, the ATM/COMM and CNS/COMM, working as Sub-Groups with the capability to be represented in the GREPECAS meetings (unlike the other Sub-Groups contributory bodies) and a Steering Committee like an kind of “ACG”. However the following matters should be noted that are affecting the functioning of the Sub-Group:

Membership

2.1.2 The Sub-Group has really no membership, it is assumed that the Sub-Group membership is the composition of the membership of the Committees, but because the responsibilities of the Committees are ruled by their Chairman, and these bodies work as genuine Sub-Groups, this situation creates an double line of action presenting a duality that it is difficult to manage because finally the “members” of the Sub-Group are under the action line of the Committees Chairman’s and not under the Sub-Group Chairman. Therefore it should be noted that the Sub-Group membership is VIRTUAL and figurative.

2.1.3 In the other hand, considering the concept of Sub-Group in the GREPECAS Handbook, which should be formed by an reduced group of experts with precise TORs and Tasks with defined target dates, the ATM/CNS/SG do not met this requirement.

Work Programme

2.1.4 Tasks assigned by GREPECAS to the Sub-Group shall be the basis to develop TORs and Tasks for the Committees, a carefully study of this issue shows that this is not performed in this way, the tasks assigned to the Sub-Group are of general nature and more than tasks are long term objectives of coordination, in contradiction with the GREPECAS Handbook. The Committees generate their work programmes without a possibility of analysis by the Sub-group, which has not clear objectives to guide the work of the Committees. It become clear when considering the Work Programmes of the Sub-Group and the Committees that they are different entities and not correlated to work as an GREPECAS contributory body as a whole.

Work Capacity

2.1.5 In reviewing the Work Programme of the Sub-Group, it could be noted that the Sub-Group has no capacity to develop its tasks, due to the following reasons:

- a) has no real membership, therefore no specific human recourses
- b) has no time to develop the tasks. During the Sub-Group meeting of five days, only the morning of the first day (one hour and half) is dedicated to analyse the papers that the Secretary/Chairman may present and these papers normally are of informative nature.

The rest of the time is taken by the Committees and the last day to review mainly the Committees work reports.

Functioning of the Contributory Bodies

2.1.6 Considering the current operation of the Sub-Group, the Committees, as it was indicated, operate as genuine GREPECAS Sub-Groups. The coordination function of the Sub-Group by means of the Steering Committee became weaker and weaker with the time and no improvements could be envisaged under the current working arrangements.

2.2 Current situation in other PIRGs

2.2.1 In considering the development of CNS/ATM matters it was noted the way how other PIRG's treat this important issue from the technical/operational point of view. In this regard it should be noted that APANPIRG, MIDANPIRG and APIRG have a specific Sub-Group to consider the ATM issues and the same are treated together with the AIS and SAR subjects. Concerning CNS MIDANPIRG and APIRG has a specific CNS Sub-Group while APANPIRG treats the CNS matters together with the MET issues. Likewise EANPG has a Group to deal with ATM matters and other Groups to deal with AFS matters. It was also noted, that as part of the matters to be developed by ICAO in implementing the Strategic Objectives, it is expected that the ICAO Council will align all the TORs and Working Programmes of the PIRGs so as to harmonize programmes and structures of the PIRG's.

2.3 Based on the above the ACG/7 meeting concluded as follows:

The ATM/CNS/SG it is a mechanism that it is not complete lined-up with the GREPECAS handbook procedure regarding its functioning as GREPECAS contributory body.

- a) The ATM/COMM and CNS/COMM that hold the real potential power to develop tasks in the technical and operational field are not guided by clear objectives established by the Sub-Group. The intended coordination mechanism for the development of ATM and CNS matters in an harmonized and systematic way has been not really established in the current situation and it is not described in the GREPECAS Handbook.
- b) Under the current shortage of financial recourses, the Sub-Group current working arrangements limits the working capacity of the mechanism affecting results.

2.4 It was presented to the ACG/7 three proposals in order to improve working arrangements. These proposals were oriented to

- 1) provide a more flexible and efficient working schedule for the development of ATM and CNS matters so as to improve working capacity in terms of time and effectiveness.
- 2) agreed a common working programme in the operational/technical field so as to implement performance objectives to be established by the ATM field.
- 3) provide an effective means of coordination and monitoring of the status of implementation of the task commonly agreed.
- 4) provide an effective means of coordination with other GREPECAS contributory bodies to implement the performance objectives.

2.4.1 The proposals to improve working arrangements and to obtain points 1), 2), 3) and 4) indicated above were based on:

- i) the simplification of the ATM/CNS/SG mechanism; and
- ii) considering the existing implementation mechanism in both the CAR and SAM regions, which was established under proper characteristics of collaboration among the involved States (SAM region uses widely the technical cooperation ICAO programme), the focusing of the common working programme to the matters of inter-regional nature to harmonize the implementation processes that due to the nature of the implementation arrangements, have their proper characteristics.

2.4.2 For reference of the meeting the three proposals examined by the ACG/7 meeting are presented in **Appendix A** to this Working Paper.

2.5 After a thorough discussion and analysis of the advantage and disadvantage of each of the options, the meeting agreed that the best option was to disband the ATM/CNS/SG and to elevate the ATM/COMM and CNS/COMM to the category of Sub-Groups and establish the coordination arrangements as foreseen in the GREPECAS Handbook. The ACG/7 meeting requested that the ATM/CNS/SG Secretary presents to the forthcoming ATM/CNS/SG/6 Meeting the ACG's decision to obtain the opinion of the Sub-Group and formulated the following Draft Decision that it is reproduced below:

**DRAFT
DECISION ACG/7/03 RESTRUCTURING OF THE GREPECAS ATM/CNS
MECHANISM**

In order to streamline the consideration of the ATM and CNS issues in GREPECAS, that:

- a) the ATM/CNS Subgroup be disbanded and the ATM and CNS Committees both be structured as GREPECAS Subgroups.
- b) the ATM/CNS/SG Secretary should:
 - i) restructure both the ATM and CNS Committees as GREPECAS Subgroups; and
 - ii) present the results of the ATM/CNS/SG/6 Meeting to the GREPECAS/15 Meeting

3 Discussion

3.1 It should be noted that ATM/CNS/SG mechanism was not completely in line with the corresponding provisions of the handbook causing that the mechanism operated as an special Sub-Group, which functioning was not completely described in the mentioned handbook. The meeting should also note that the decision taken by the ACG/7 meeting establish a mechanism in complete correspondence with the GREPECAS Handbook, which would facilitate and establish in a clear way the functioning of the new Sub-Groups. In the other hand it should be noted that the meeting arrangement adopted for the ATM/CNS/SG mechanism (the only one possible to meet coordination requirements between the ATM and CNS fields) limited the working capacity of the ATM and CNS Committees, where the real power to

develop the tasks is located. Likewise it should be also noted, that the tasks assigned by GREPECAS to the ATM/CNS/SG were of a general and permanent nature, more oriented to be objectives than real tasks to be developed.

3.2 As the experience shown, during the GREPECAS meetings, where the Committees were represented as Sub-Groups, their activities were the relevant part of the ATM/CNS/SG mechanism, demonstrating clearly that the ATM/CNS/SG represented an step that could be avoided without no mayor impact in the treatment of ATM and CNS matters.

3.3 Considering the analysis made by the ACG/7 meeting mentioned in this part of the Working Paper, the meeting should consider to support the decision of the ACG/7 meeting. It should be noted, that regarding coordination, the main reason for creating the ATM/CNS/SG, in the GREPECAS handbook, is contemplated a clear and precise procedure for Sub-Groups coordination, which if applied as indicated, would produce the results considered in the reasons of creation of the ATM/CNS/SG for the new Sub-Groups and their relation with the others.

3.3.1 In the light of the above, and in order to prepare the proposals for the GREPECAS/15 meeting concerning the Term of Reference, Working Programme and Membership of the new ATM and CNS Sub-Groups, the meeting should consider that the ATM/COMM/6 and CNS/COMM/6 meetings be tasked with this matter and to provide during the consideration of Agenda Item 5 the documentation to prepare the corresponding proposals through a Draft Decision for the consideration of GREPECAS/15 Meeting

4 Action Suggested

4.1 The meeting is invited to consider the information presented in this working paper in order to:

- a. examine the results of the ACG/7 meeting, which decides to disband the ATM/CNS Sub-Group and to elevate to Sub-Group category to the ATM and CNS Committees;
- b. support the decision of the ACG/7 meeting;
- c. request the ATM/COMM/6 and CNS/COMM/6 meetings to prepare proposals concerning Term of reference, Working Programme and membership for the future ATM/SG and CNS/SG; and
- d. Prepare during the consideration of the Agenda Item 5 the corresponding action to be considered by GREPECAS/15 meeting.

APPENDIX A

PROPOSAL PRESENTED TO THE ACG/7 MEETING TO IMPROVE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS CONCERNING ATM AND CNS MATTERS

Proposal No 1

2.4.1 To organize the ATM/CNS/SG as an normal Sub-Group according the GREPECAS Procedural Handbook defining, membership, adequate TORs and the corresponding Work Programme with specific tasks. It operates as foresee in the GREPECAS Procedural Handbook .

2.4.1.1 Due to the wide scope of the issues to be handled by the Sub-Group the modus operandi of the structure would be as follows:

- a) The Sub-Group should designate a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman and two Secretaries one ATM and one CNS.
- b) The Subgroup may create the necessary Task Forces to develop specific tasks, the Secretaries of the Sub-Group would support the Task Forces work as usually.
- c) During the GREPECAS Meeting the Chairman presents the results of the Sub-Group work supported by the presence of the both Secretaries.

2.4.1.2 This structure is a very simple one and cost/effective for the States and GREPECAS. It would allow the examination of ATM and CNS matters implementation by GREPECAS, having the assurance that are due coordinated and harmonized. In this regard and unlike the situation in other GREPECAS contributory bodies, implementation of ATM improvements need of a close and strong coordination between ATM and CNS areas. This structure would allow focusing the GREPECAS work in the CNS/ATM areas in a very precise and specific way, especially in relation to the inter-regional planning and implementation and also would allow the monitoring of the CAR/SAM regions implementation process in a systemic way. This proposal, is more effective to carry out a complete coordination, harmonization and integration of work between both the CNS and ATM areas. The working programmes of the Task Forces would have an adequate and clear guidance from the instructions emanated from the Sub-Group. Coordination with other GREPECAS contributory bodies could be made according the GREPECAS Procedural Handbook.

Proposal No 2

- i) To elevate to the category of Sub-Groups the current ATM/COMM and CNS/COMM.
- ii) To establish an Internal Coordination Group (ICG) mechanism between the ATM/SG and the CNS/SG composed by:
 - A Chairman to be elected from the two Chairman's and the two Vice-Chairman's of the mentioned Sub-Groups
 - A Secretary elected by the Secretary of the GREPECAS
 - The rest of the Chairman's and Vice-Chairman's of the mentioned Sub-Groups
 - The Reporters of the SG's Task Forces.

2.4.1.3 The modus operandi of this structure is as follows:

- a) The Sub-Groups operate as per established in the GREPECAS Handbook developing common issues as part of their work programme and other important particular issues.
- b) The ICG meets in one of the ICAO Regional Offices premise, at least once before SG`s meetings to agreed and plan the future common work of the SG`s including coordination with other GREPECAS contributory bodies. Before of any SG`s meetings the ICG establish a teleconference using the Webex service to exchange views concerning the work to be performed by the particular SG. Likewise the ICG using Webex service exchange views concerning the results of the SG`s work before a formal GREPECAS meeting so as to coordinate the presentation of information by the SG`s for GREPECAS revision.
- c) At each GREPECAS ACG meeting the Chairman of the ICG prepare an information paper over work performed by the same and results obtained.

2.4.1.4 This working arrangement provide a more flexible working arrangement for the Sub-Groups as well as allows possibilities to obtain a better support from the States due to lesser cost involved. In the other hand increase the possibility that the ATM and CNS matters to be discussed by GREPECAS are coordinate and adequate harmonized between them and with other contributory bodies, and information on the ATM and CNS SG`s coordination made will be available at each ACG meeting. Extensive use of internet facilities are considered according GREPECAS recommendation to eliminate costs.

Proposal No 3

2.4.1.5 Disband the ATM/CNS Sub-Group and elevate to the category of Sub-Groups the ATM/COMM and CNS/COMM and establish the coordination arrangements as foresee in the GREPECAS handbook.
