



International civil aviation organization

COM CO-ORDINATION MEETING
(Afghanistan, India, Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan)

16 – 17 December 2014, New Delhi, India



Agenda Item 4: Review the action plans of COM Coordination meeting held in June 2012 in particular for the recovery of VSAT communication between States

REVIEW FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS TO THE ACTION PLAN

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper reviews the action plan adopted in the June 2012 at a COM Coordination meeting held in Karachi, Pakistan. Administrations concerned are urged to provide updated status and information on their follow-up taken.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 A COM Coordination meeting, hosted by the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) was held at Headquarters of PCAA, Karachi, Pakistan from 20 to 22 June 2012. The 13 representatives from Afghanistan and Pakistan participated in the meeting. The meeting developed three action items as duplicated in Section 2 of this paper. Administrations are urged to provide an update on their follow-up actions taken.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The following action plan was adopted by the COM Coordination for implementation within the established time frame as follows:

Near-Term: Immediate – from 25 June to 24 September 2012
Mid-Term: from 25 June 2012 to 24 March 2013
Long-term: from 25 June 2012 to 24 June 2014

2.2 The meeting discussed following options initially proposed at the special ATS coordination meeting held on 19-20 March 2012.

- a) Near-Term: VPN circuits may be established directly between Pakistan and Afghanistan including virtual circuit via UK ARTEMIS and option of CADAS UA connection via either dial-up connection or Public Internet;

Note: using VPN circuits via public internet with special arrangements for security concerns.

- b) Mid-Term: Recover VSAT links established in July 2000 by replacing parts and selection of common Network Service Provider; and
- c) Long-Term: Establishment of landline cable circuit between communications centers and ACCs of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

2.3 Accordingly, the meeting agreed to the following action items to be taken by Afghanistan and Pakistan:

ACTION ITEM 1: Near-Term: VPN Solution - Afghanistan and Pakistan

That, Afghanistan and Pakistan fully utilize the VPN circuit put into operation since January 2012 for exchange of FPL and operational ATS Messages. The basic procedure of message acknowledgement and channel checks should be followed. Necessary training to the operators at Kabul side is required. In order to monitor the daily operation of the circuit and/or to develop alternate VPN solutions, a list of contact points at different level was developed during the meeting and provided in **Appendix D** to this report.

ACTION ITEM 2: Mid-Term: Restoration of VSAT Communications – Afghanistan and Pakistan

That, Afghanistan and Pakistan work with relevant service providers to harmonize VSAT terminal equipment to be used and identify common network service provider for the Satellite Radio Spectrum with target date of circuits restoration by March 2013.

ACTION ITEM 3: Long-Term: Dedicated landline cable connection between COM Centres and ACCs - Afghanistan and Pakistan

That, Afghanistan and Pakistan establish dedicated 2 MB landline cable circuit between two States to support both data communication and speech circuits' requirements with multiplexers with target date of implementation by June 2014. The VSAT circuits will be used as backup once the landline circuits are established.

2.4 There was a concern regarding the different IDU of ND SATCOM VSAT terminal used by both States (The paragraph 2.22 of the meeting report refers). It was said that the VSAT terminal equipment at Kabul side was upgraded from IDU 5000 to IDU 7000 in 2011. This change was not coordinated with Pakistan. Pakistan was requested to verify with equipment provider whether VSAT terminal IDU 5000 is compatible with IDU 7000 VSAT terminal. Later was found out by ICAO Mission in 2013 that the upgraded IDU 7000 was used for domestic communication only. The one supposed to be used for communication with Pakistan still remains IDU 5000.

2.5 The resource of space sector used was ASIASAT through PCCW Global as contact point. Access technology used could be DAMA and size of Antenna was only 2.4 diameters at Pakistan side. It was initially suspended from 31 August 2011. There was a recovery trial on 26 May 2012.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is expected to review the status of actions taken for the action plan adopted in June 2012 and the meeting is also invited to develop an update action plan during the meeting.
