



**Air Traffic Management Coordination Meeting for Southern AFI Flight Information
Regions (ATM/CM-SAF)
(Johannesburg, South Africa, 3-5 February 2015)**

Presented by IATA

Item 2: ATM Coordination Issues

1. Introduction

Communication is a key enabler in the provision of safe and effective air traffic services.

Failing to ensure reliable ground- ground between ATS units or air-ground communication with flights by ATS unit may lead to poor ATM coordination which affects negatively safety of air operations especially in procedural environment where ATC rely only on pilot reports to update aircraft positions.

2. Discussions

2.1 *In 2014, operators reported to IATA 98 air safety reports (ASR) related communication failure that occurred within AFI southern FIRs.*

Reports show that 75% of these incidents are concentrated in Luanda (highest number), Beira and Harare FIRs.

In the case of Luanda FIR the number of events has decreased significantly since ADS-C/CPDLC operations trials took place on August 2014 in the oceanic part of the FIR.

IATA is of the view that ADS-C/CPDLC should be extended to the continental part to improve ATC situational awareness and as an alternate of VHF system which performance was not satisfactory in 2014. Operators have been informed on works being done to rehabilitate VHF system.

ADS-C/CPDLC operational implementation is still to be effective.

Within Harare and Beira FIRs negative trend in air ground communication performance have been observed:

- *There are challenges to establish air-ground communication with Beira Control on HF frequencies (interface with Antanarivo FIR) and the VHF (120.7 Mhz) is subject to regular interferences or background noise.*
- *Regarding Harare FIR, the VHF (131.5 Mhz) is also experiencing recurrent transmission issues and background noise.*

It is generally noted in also that published contact details of SATCOM/INMARSAT telephone used as back-up of primary means of mobile communication are not update in some FIRs.



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2.2 *Mitigation of loss of operational messages workshop held in Dakar 12-14 May 2014 formulated recommendations to address the issue of missing FPL.*

Although there is no major issues reported in FPL transmission within AFI Southern FIRs, implementation of these recommendations by States/ANSPs would help in monitoring homogeneously the situation along with other AFI FIRs.

3. Recommendations

- *That necessary actions be taken to enhance VHF communication within Luanda FIR*
- *That investigations be conducted to identify causes of VHF and HF communication failures respectively in Beira and Harare FIRs and remediate actions to be taken accordingly*
- *That ANSPs publish update SATCOM/INMARSAT contact details*
- *That States/ANSP implement workshop recommendations (Dakar, 12-14 May 2014) on mitigation of loss of operational messages*