

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

Fifth Meeting of the APIRG Airspace and Aerodrome Operations Sub-Group
(AAO/SG5), Virtual Meeting, 23 to 26 August 2022**Agenda Item 6: Implementation challenges of the Subgroup****Main challenges encountered by the AAO/SG in the conduct of its activities***(Presented by Secretariat)***SUMMARY**

This working paper presents the main challenges faced by the AAO/SG in the conduct of its activities.

Action by the meeting is in paragraph 3

REFERENCE(S):

APIRG Procedural Handbook

Related ICAO Strategic Objective(s):

This Working Paper relates to Strategic Objectives: A & B

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The AAO/SG is established and mandated by APIRG to support the implementation of ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and carry out specific activities to enable APIRG to discharge its functions and responsibilities in the areas of Aerodrome and Airspace Operations (AAO).

1.2 Key functions of the Subgroup are to:

- a) Foster the implementation of specific Modules of the ICAO Aviation Systems Block Upgrades (ASBUs) assigned by APIRG;
- b) Carry out implementation projects in support of States related to the areas of AOP and ATM/SAR in accordance with the ASBUs methodology and as guided by the Regional performance objectives to support States in the implementation of SARPs and regional requirements;
- c) Take necessary action to enable coherent planning and implementation of AOP and ATM/SAR(ASBU PIA 1,2 and 4) systems in the AFI Region, to facilitate the objective of achieving seamlessness in the air navigation system, interoperability, and harmonization within the Region and with other Regions;
- d) Keep under review the adequacy of requirements in the areas of AAO, taking into account changes in user requirements, the evolution in operational requirements, and technological developments in accordance with the ASBUs methodology;
- e) Ensure AOP environmental initiatives are consistently identified and progressed, and report outcomes from AOP environmental initiatives; and

- f) Identify and collect, State by State, information on deficiencies in the areas of AAO in accordance with the Uniform Methodology approved by the Council and the APIRG guidance; analyze and propose solution; report on progress and obstacles beyond the capacity of the sub-group.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 **Lack of participation of States' experts:** The involvement of experts from States is critical to the successful implementation of the projects initiated by the Subgroup. The unavailability of experts to participate in the projects is one of the significant challenges the AAO/SG encountered. Designated experts are either not participating because of their work constraints or because due to other state engagements.

2.2 **Availability of data:** In order to assess the adequacy of the requirements in the areas of Airspace and Aerodrome Operations, the Subgroup needs data. Data is essential to developing gap analysis that will help foster the implementation of requirements. However, many States do not respond to survey questionnaires, thus not facilitating the identification of gaps and, therefore, the development of potential solutions.

2.3 **Reporting:** There is a lack of reporting, making it difficult to accurately estimate the progress of implementation of the different requirements within the States, identify their specific challenges and propose recommendations.

2.4 **Induction of Experts:** The Experts also need to be given appropriate induction on a number of the areas assigned to them in term of working arrangements.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information presented in this working paper, highlighting the challenges of the AAO/SG
- b) urge States to nominate experts for participation in AAO/SG activities and to ensure their availability and commitment.
- c) urge States to provide data when requested by responding to survey questionnaires or any other solicitation from the Subgroup
- d) urge State to report on the status of implementation of requirements within their territory
