INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

Sixth Meeting of the APIRG Infrastructure and Information Management Sub-Group (IIM/SG6)

(Nairobi, 31st July to 3rd August 2023)

Agenda Item 3 : Achievements in AIM, CNS and MET

WP3.2B Implementation of Ground/Ground communication aimed at ensuring Air traffic control Progress Report

(Presented by Farida Mitei)

SUMMARY
This working paper outlines the status of the Project, indicate the challenges encountered by the team, possible recommendations and the documentation developed by the team.
REFERENCE(S): ▪ Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP) ▪ ICAO Annex 10 Volumes II & III Aeronautical Telecommunication ▪ Annex 11 Air Traffic Service ▪ Doc 4444 Procedures for Air Navigation Service ▪ Doc 9694 Manuel on Air Traffic Services Data Link Applications ▪ Doc 10037 Global Operational Data Link Document (GOLD) ▪ APIRG IIM SG/1, SG/2 and SG/3 Report
This working document relates to ICAO Strategic Objectives: A – Safety and B – Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency.
KPIS and concerned ASBU B0 Modules: All applicable to CNS and Spectrum.

1. **Introduction**

1.1. During the APIRG Sub-Group on Infrastructure and Information Management (IIM / SG / 1) held in Nairobi, Kenya from 27 to 30 June 2017, the IIMSG Communication Project 2 was recommended as Communication project to assist with the implementation of Ground/Ground communication aimed at ensuring Air Traffic Control within AFI region through:

   a) Aeronautical Fixed Service Network (AFTN)

   b) Air Traffic Service Message Handling System (AMHS).

1.2. This is to assist States with the implementation of Ground/Ground Communication to ensure seamless coordination and exchange of aeronautical time sensitive operational data among all Air Traffic Services Centres involved in the provision of air navigation services for international civil aviation. The project provides an effective forum for the discussion, review and management of ground/ground communication issues, to ensure that the implementation scheme remains in accordance with the requirements of the provision of Aeronautical Fixed Service (AFS) as defined by the AFI Air Navigation Plan (AFI/RAN Abuja 1997). The project from this perspective is thus an interactive process through which all concerns of relevant stakeholders can be considered while keeping them adequately informed.

1.3. All tasks are carried out by COM/ IT experts nominated by AFI States participating in the project, led by the Project-Team Coordinator and under the supervision of the Project Facilitators (ROs/CNS, Dakar, and Nairobi) through the IIM SG working methodology.

1.4. The states were invited by ICAO via a letter reference ES AN 13/0-584 dated 14 August 2017, to appoint and notify the participation of its qualified experts in any of the 14 regional IIM project teams identified.

1.5 **Rationale/Justification**

1.5.1 The communication project 2 is the APIRG IIM/SG project intended to follow up and accompany states of the AFI region in the implementation of ground/ground communication systems to ensure the smooth flow of traffic data and information management.

In the framework of the technologies Roadmap for Communication defined in the GANP and the AFI strategy, the IIMSG Com project 2 is aimed at assisting States in transitioning from Aeronautical Fixed Service Network (AFTN) to Air Traffic Service Message Handling System (AMHS).

In accordance with the operational requirements of Annex 3 Aeronautical Meteorology, Annex 10 Volume II Aeronautical telecommunication, Annex 11, Air Traffic Service, Annex 15 Aeronautical Information Service, and the relevant supporting guidance documents (Doc 9896 Manual for the ATN using IPS Standards and Protocols, Doc 9880, Manual on Detailed Technical Specifications for the Aeronautical Telecommunication Network (ATN) using ISO/OSI Standards and Protocols Doc 9694 Manuel on Air Traffic Services Data link Applications

1.6 This paper provides the progress made by the IIM SG COM 2 Ground/Ground Communication project. It elaborates the achievements; challenges encountered by the team and highlights the plans to re-establish the group.

2   **Discussions**

2.1. The last IIMSG Communication Project 2 progress meeting was on 07 June 2021 via MS Teams.

2.2. The IIMSG Communication Project 2 team was in the process of developing the Project Organisation, Terms of Reference, Project Questionnaire documents and finalizing the project team nominations from the states.

2.3. A new Project Team Coordinator was appointed in May 2023 to get the project back on track as the IIMSG Communication Project 2 is lagging with its activities.

2.4. Kenya has been appointed to lead the project and is in the process of re-establishing the IIMSG Communication Project 2 team.

2.4. The Project Team Coordinator has contacted the previous team members to identify which members are still available and to determine which states need to be contacted to nominate members to join IIMSG Communication Project 2 team.

2.5 The project team members have also been communicating via a WhatsApp group if required. IIM COM 2 MS Team folder was created for project documentation ease of access and record purposes.

2.6 Implications

2.6.1. States who had members in the project by June 2021 but have since exited the organization will have to nominate. The project teams are the foundation on the implementation of the APIRG plans and ensuring that Africa is not left behind. Its success is largely dependent on the project team members active participation, commitment, and experts in the work of the project team.

2.6.2. The team will need to review, update, and finalise the following documents:
- Project Organisation
- Project Questionnaire
- Terms of Reference
- Action Plans
- Project Costing

2.7 **Outlook for the next reporting period**:
   2.7.1 Nomination of members from states that currently have no representation.
   2.7.2 Reviewed the Project Organisation, Terms of Reference, Project Questionnaire, action plans, project costing and documentation.
   2.7.3 AFI Ground to Ground Implementation status report.

3   Actions by the Meeting

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

a)   Take note of the status of the IIMSG Communication Project 2 team.

b)   States to encourage the participation of its qualified experts in the AFI region projects; and

c)   Submit projects Questionnaires responses.

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