



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

Sixth Meeting of the APIRG Infrastructure and Information Management Sub-Group
(IIM/SG6)*(Nairobi, 31 July 2023 - 3 August 2023)***Agenda Item 3.2 : Achievements in the implementation of IIM/SG Projects*****Achievements of the Aeronautical Frequency Management Project- SPEC Project****(Presented by Coordinator SPEC Project- Uganda)*

SUMMARY
<p>This paper presents the SPEC project's works- the development of policies and systems to protect Aeronautical Spectrum. The SPECs project is one of the projects identified within the Infrastructure and Information Management (IIM) subgroup of APIRG. This project aims to ensure that the Aeronautical frequency spectrum is free from harmful and any form of interference.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Action by the meeting in paragraph 3</p>
<p>REFERENCE(S):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Annex 10 – Aeronautical Telecommunications ▪ DOC 9718 – Handbook on Radio Frequency Spectrum Requirements for Civil Aviation. ▪ Report of the 5th meeting of APIRG IIM Subgroup. ▪ Terms of Reference for APRIG IIM Subgroup. ▪ Electronic Air Navigation Plan— Africa-Indian Ocean Region (eANP- AFI)
<p>This working document relates to ICAO's Strategic Objectives: A – Safety and B – Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency.</p>

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The 21st APIRG meeting held in Nairobi in October 2017 endorsed the SPEC project following development and approval by the 1st IIM meeting and the APIRG Projects Coordination Committee (APCC) in line with the regional priorities and targets related to ICAO ASBU priorities for the AFI region.
- 1.2 Aviation frequency Spectrum protection has been a subject of interest both within and outside the industry as spectrum needs have increased exponentially due to technological innovation and evolution. New technologies have put a severe strain on the frequency spectrum; however, the utilization within the aviation sector covers the safety of life services that require protection from harmful interference.
- 1.3 In the framework of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) which is mandated with the responsibility of managing the frequency spectrum, initiatives are being proposed to share frequencies across various industries to cope with the frequency demand.
- 1.4 It is, therefore, imperative that the aviation industry, through ICAO, continuously develop /improve on the policies and systems to ensure the protection of aviation frequencies and bands used for the safety of aircraft operation.

2. DISCUSSIONS

2.1 The IIM Aeronautical Frequency Management Project was established by the APIRG IIM subgroup meeting to develop policies and systems to protect the aeronautical spectrum. The project's expected deliverables were tied to ensuring that the regional aeronautical frequency bands are free from harmful interference and any form of interference.

2.2 Objectives

The key objectives of the project, as outlined in the draft project description of the project initiation documentation, are

- a) Develop a resilient framework for coordination of Aeronautical frequencies in the region.
- b) Establish a forum and logical infrastructure for coordination of aeronautical frequencies with State regulators sub-region and regional frequency Management bodies.
- c) Ensure states are conversant with developed ICAO tools on frequency management.
- d) Establish a forum for coordination and support of ICAO positions for forthcoming WRC.
- e) Carryout studies on effects on aeronautical frequency bands from adjacent bands.

2.3 Project scope

The project is focused on maintaining, identifying, and protecting all Aeronautical frequency bands and any other frequencies key to the safe and secure operations of all aeronautical telecommunication and avionics facilities and systems in line with ICAO's long-term vision to ensure continuity and harmonization of international civil aviation.

2.4 Baseline – Status of the ASBU implementation

The project assisted all AFI States accredited to the two regional offices of ESAF and WACAF with the implementation of the ASBU elements. The status of the implementation of the ASBU elements that affect the spectrum project is contained in the status report as contained in Appendix A.

2.5 Status of the implementation of the 2023 Action Plan

The status of implementation of the 2023 Action planned is contained in the Status report of this working paper as contained in Appendix A.

2.6 Project Costing

The Spectrum project costing has been developed and adopted by the spectrum project team at the meeting held in July 2023 and submitted to the secretariat for consideration.

3. ACTIONS BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the content of this working paper
- b) Request states/ administrations to participate actively in the project through their nominated representatives.

3.2 Draft Conclusion /Decision 6/xx :

No new conclusion

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