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North American, Central American and Caribbean Office

WORKING PAPER

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Basseterre, Saint Kitts and Nevis, 19 to 21 October 2016

- Agenda Item 3: Air Navigation Matters**
3.1 Global/Regional Air Navigation Developments
3.1.4 WRC – 2015 and Support to Aviation Spectrum Management

RESULTS OF THE ITU WORLD RADIOCOMMUNICATION CONFERENCE 2015 (WRC-15)

(Presented by the Secretariat)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This working paper recalls the results from the World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (WRC-2015) regarding ICAO position and addresses the positive precursors and future actions by the NAM/CAR Regions States to continue the protection of the radiofrequency spectrum.

Action:	The suggested actions are detailed in Section 3.
<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safety• Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency
<i>References:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ICAO AN WP/9017• Second NAM/CAR Air Navigation Implementation Working Group Meeting (ANI/WG/2), Puntarenas, Costa Rica, 1 to 4 June 2015• Fourth North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group Meeting (NACC/WG/4) was held at the Ottawa Convention Centre in Ottawa, Canada, from 24 to 28 March 2014

1. Introduction

1.1 The radio frequency spectrum is a scarce natural resource with finite capacity limits and for which demand is constantly increasing. The availability of the necessary radio frequency spectrum is a critical aspect for safety of civil aviation and the effective implementation of existing and future Communications, Navigation and Surveillance (CNS) and Air Traffic Management (ATM) systems.

1.2 Radio frequency spectrum congestion imposes on all users the duty of spectrum-efficient operation. The adequate allotment/assignment of frequencies for aeronautical national/international use, based on regional agreements and coordinated between States and ICAO, is an indispensable task for the optimum use of radio frequency spectrum and safety of aviation operations.

1.3 Due to the importance of this matter, States and Territories adopted:

- The ICAO Twelfth Air Navigation Conference Assembly Recommendation 1/12 (Development of the aeronautical frequency spectrum resource)
- Assembly Resolution A38-6 (Support of the ICAO policy on radio frequency spectrum matters), urging Member States, international organizations and other civil aviation stakeholders to firmly support the ICAO frequency spectrum strategy and the ICAO position at WRCs and in regional and other international activities conducted in preparation for WRCs
- The NACC/WG/4 meeting formulated related Conclusion 4/5: *Active Support from States for ICAO ITU WRC-2015 Position*
- The ANI/WG/02 Meeting carried out several actions and conclusions in support to these conclusions; and
- The MEVA TMG Meeting adopted several conclusions for the C Band protection

1.4 ICAO submitted the ICAO position as approved by the ICAO Council through electronic bulletin, Ref: E 3/5. 15-13/57, dated 2 July 2013.

1.5 The ITU World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (WRC-15) was held from 2 to 27 November 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland.

2. Discussion

2.1 In general, the conference results fully conformed to the ICAO Position. In order to follow up on this very positive result, ICAO will need to ensure consistency between ICAO provisions and the new radio regulatory provisions through active participation in the relevant ITU studies and the development of ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) as appropriate.

2.2 A significant element in the ICAO preparatory activities for this conference was the early awareness and involvement of Member States in the development of the ICAO position. Major factors contributing to this achievement included:

- a) the early development and dissemination of the draft ICAO Position by the Secretariat (Regional Offices) and the Commission;
- b) the active participation by ICAO experts in the preparatory work of the ITU, including the relevant meetings of the ITU-R (e.g. Study Groups 4 and 5, including the relevant Working Parties, and the Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM));
- c) the active participation by ICAO experts in meetings of the regional telecommunication organizations (like CITELE). The involvement and assistance of

the Regional Offices proved important in supporting the development of proposals by the regional telecommunication organizations to the conference, which were in line with the ICAO Position;

- d) the organization of Aeronautical Communications Panel (ACP) and Frequency Spectrum Management Panel (FSMP) working group meetings and ICAO radio frequency workshops;
- e) the implementation of Assembly Resolution A38-6; and
- f) the active participation of the ICAO delegation at the conference itself, during which the ICAO Position was often challenged, allowed ICAO to counter and refute numerous proposals that would adversely impact aeronautical spectrum.

2.3 In support to the positive results of the conference for ICAO position, the Meeting is to recall:

- keeping a States Points of Contact (PoCs) list in support of the ICAO WRC Position for coordination and mutual support; and
- keeping the Regional Frequency Assignment List available for States and general public: ICAO Website: <http://www.icao.int/NACC/Pages/frequency.aspx>.

2.4 The active participation of States in support of ICAO position and the aviation radiofrequency allocations is key and relevant for the region to protect the aeronautical spectrum and make all stakeholders aware of their important to safety of life services like aviation. A recent example of collaboration was provided by Trinidad and Tobago who represented the region as ICAO in the ITU Forum: “WRC-15 outcomes and WRC-19 Agenda: Regional Challenges and Opportunities for Spectrum Harmonisation” into the Framework of the ITU/CTU Regional Radio communication Seminar 2016 for the Americas (RRS-16–Americas), held at Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 18-22 July 2016, with a presentation and panel discussion on this matter.

2.5 Similarly, the C band VSAT Air Navigation Networks, like MEVA and CAMSAT (COCESNA) were recommended by the MEVA Meetings, to register their corresponding nodes in the ITU Master International Frequency Register (MIFR), as to identify and recognise the nodes and magnitude of the networks in use for safety reasons in air navigation; as well as to (MEVA/TMG/26 Meeting Conclusion 26/21) consider the studies for C-band protection; and report all aeronautical VSAT interference cases to the MEVA TMG, including recording and documenting each case. To this extend the ANIWG/3 Meeting adopted a conclusion for PROTECTION AND RECOGNITION OF C BAND SPECTRUM USAGE.

2.6 From this experience an expeditious start of the ICAO preparatory activities for the next conference in 2019 is now essential. The FSMP will develop an initial draft of the ICAO Position by end of 2016. A final review of the ICAO Position by the Commission, and a subsequent approval by the Council, is foreseen in 2017.

2.7 Finally ICAO to continue this effort had scheduled a Frequency Finder Workshop which will be held at ICAO NACC Regional Office, between in February 2017 and a Frequency Spectrum Management Panel (FSMP) and Frequency Spectrum Workshop for Aviation Professionals by late 2017 or early 2018.

3. Suggested Action

3.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) take note of the positive results of the WRC-2015 for aviation and in accordance to ICAO position and of the list of frequency assignment kept and coordinate by the ICAO NACC Regional Office (ICAO Website: <http://www.icao.int/NACC/Pages/frequency.aspx>);
- b) congratulate States like Trinidad and Tobago that support ICAO on the defense of the aeronautical spectrum and;
- e) implement an active participation on the radiofrequency activities for supporting ICAO on this position for the next triennium, beginning in participating in the 2017 workshops.

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