

*APPENDIX TO WP/04*

**INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION**



**AFI PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION REGIONAL GROUP (APIRG)**

**REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE  
AFI OPMET MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE (AFI MTF/2)**

**(Johannesburg, South Africa, 6 - 7 September 2010)**

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Prepared by the Secretary of AFI MTF

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
PART 1 - HISTORY OF THE MEETING.....	v
Date and Site of the Meeting .....	v
Officers and Secretariat .....	v
Attendance .....	v
Working Languages.....	v
Agenda.....	v
Documentation and Working Language .....	v
Recommendations.....	vi
PART II - REPORT ON THE AGENDA.....	1
Agenda Item 1: Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Subgroup.....	1-1
Agenda Item 2: Review of the AFI Meteorological Bulletin Exchange (AMBEX) scheme .....	2-1
Agenda Item 3: Regional Interface Control Document (ICD) for AFI OPMET Database Access Procedures	3-1
Agenda Item 4: Terms of Reference, work programme and composition of the AFI OPMET MTF .....	4-1
Agenda Item 5: Any other business.....	5-1

<b>APPENDICES</b>	<b>Page</b>
Appendix A: List of participants .....	A-1
Appendix B: List of Documents .....	B-1
Appendix C: Amendment to AMBEX Handbook.....	C-1
Appendix D: AFI OPMET Draft Data Catalogue.....	D-1
Appendix E: Terms of reference and Future MTF Work Programme for 2009-2014 .....	E-1

## **PART 1 - HISTORY OF THE MEETING**

### **1.1 Date and Site of the Meeting**

1.1.1 The Second Meeting of the AFI OPMET Management Task Force (MTF/2) was held at the premises of the South African Weather Service, OR Tambo Aviation Weather Centre, Boardroom, from 6 to 7 September 2010.

### **1.2 Officers and Secretariat**

1.2.1 Ms. Ms. G.E. Khambule, Senior Manager, Aviation Weather Centre, South African Weather Service, opened the meeting. She also welcome the participants on behalf of the South African Weather Service, CEO, Dr Linda Makuleni, who could not join nor be available at the opening due to prior commitments of equal importance. She expressed her appreciation to the participants attending this second meeting of the MTF, and highlighted the tasks to be accomplished during the meeting.

1.2.2 Ms. Khambule recalled that the OPMET MTF was established by APIRG during its 16<sup>th</sup> meeting with the objective to enhance operational meteorological (OPMET) information exchange in the AFI Region and adjacent regions by regularly reviewing the OPMET exchange scheme and developing proposals for their optimization, developing monitoring and management procedures related to the AFI MET Bulletin Exchange (AMBEX) scheme and other exchange of OPMET information, and updating the regional guidance material related to OPMET exchange, in the interest of safety, efficiency and economy of civil aviation. During its First Meeting in Dakar, Senegal, She said, the MTF/1 provided height recommendations which were all adopted by MET/SG/9 and APIRG/17 Meetings.

1.2.3 She said she remained convinced this Task Force will provide substantial material for the incoming future MET/SG/10 meeting while keeping in mind the main objective of improving meteorological services for aviation in the region.

1.2.4 The AFI OPMET MTF/2 was chaired by Mr. Nirison Rakotoarimanana from Madagascar CAA, Mr. Akoi T. Vanyanbah from Liberia CAA being the Vice-Chairperson. Mr. A. Benoit Okossi, Regional Officer, Aeronautical Meteorology, ICAO Western and Central African Office, Dakar, Senegal, served as the Secretary and was assisted by Mr. B. M. Sekwati, Deputy Director and former Regional Officer Aeronautical Meteorology of the ICAO Eastern and Southern African Office, Nairobi, Kenya.

### **1.3 Attendance**

1.3.1 The meeting was attended by fourteen (12) participants from four (4) Member States.

1.3.2 The list of participants is at **Appendix A**.

### **1.4 Working Languages**

1.4.1 The discussions were conducted in the English language only as per APIRG procedures concerning the Task Forces.

### **1.5 Agenda**

1.5.1 The following Agenda was adopted:

- Agenda Item 1:
- a) Adoption of provisional Agenda and working arrangements for the meeting
  - b) Review of the TORs and follow up action on the MTF/1 Recommendations

- Agenda Item 2:           Review
- a) Current status of OPMET Exchange in the region
  - b) Assessment of the Implementation the AFI Meteorological Bulletin Exchange (AMBEX) scheme
  - c) Assessment of the Procedures for monitoring and management of the OPMET information exchange at AMBEX centres and the Regional OPMET Data Banks (RODBs)
  - d) Interregional OPMET information exchange procedures and satellite distribution system for information relating to air navigation (SADIS)
- Agenda Item 3:           Review of regional guidance material on OPMET exchange
- a) AMBEX Handbook
  - b) AFI ICD
  - c) OPMET related FASID Tables
  - d) AFI Regional SIGMET Guide
- Agenda Item 4:           Future work programme of the AFI OPMET MTF
- Agenda Item 5:           Any other business

## **1.6. Documentation and Working Language**

1.6.1           The working language of the Meeting as well as all documentation was in English.

1.6.2           Eighteen (18) Working Papers and three (3) Information Papers were presented at the Meeting. The List of Papers is included at **Appendix B** to this Report.

## **1.7 Recommendations**

1.7.1           The OPMET MTF recorded its action in the form of recommendations and decisions, with the following significance:

- Decisions deal with matters of concern only to the OPMET MTF;
- Recommendations, when reviewed by the MET/SG, became Draft Conclusions for the matters which in accordance with the APIRG Terms of Reference, merit the attention of States or on which further action will be initiated by ICAO in accordance with established procedures, or Draft Decisions, when approved by MET/SG, deal with matters of concern only to the MET/SG.

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**PART II - REPORT ON THE AGENDA**

- Agenda Item 1:**
- a) **Adoption of provisional Agenda and working arrangements for the meeting**
  - b) **Review of the TORs and follow up action on the MTF/1 Recommendations**

1.1 The provisional Agenda in WP/1 and the working arrangements in IP/3 were reviewed and adopted by the Task Force.

1.2 The meeting recalled that the AFI OPMET MTF was established by Conclusion 16/54 of APIRG/16 meeting with terms of reference as given in the **Appendix E** to this report. The AFI OPMET MTF held its first Meeting back to back with the MET/SG/9 meeting at the ICAO Western and Central African Office (WACAF), Dakar, Senegal, from 19 to 20 October 2009.

1.3 The Task Force reviewed the Terms of Reference (TORs) and the composition of the AFI OPMET MTF as given in **Appendix E** to this report. The meeting noted that from a composition of 16 Member States/Organizations only four were represented at the current meeting.

1.4 The Task Force noted that the composition of the MTF and its TORs were described by APIRG during the establishment of the AFI OPMET MTF. The Terms of Reference reflect the overall tasks of the MTF and need to be revised only when major changes are introduced to the MTF programme. Furthermore, any change would have to be subject to a draft conclusion to be endorsed by APIRG. The meeting agreed that there was no need to amend the terms of reference at this meeting.

1.5 To improve participation of the MTF members to the meetings, the Task Force adopted the following recommendation and decision:

**Recommendation 2/1: Composition of the AFI OPMET MTF**

**That,**

- a) **a Member of the Task Force who is unable to attend the MTF's meeting should notify the Chairman and the Secretary accordingly;**
- b) **two successive absences without a written apology to the Chairman by a member will automatically cause them to cease to be member.**

**Decision 2/2: Dispatching Invitation Letters to the MTF Members**

**That, the Secretariat forward a copy of the invitation letter directly to the Members of the MTF.**

1.6 The Task Force then reviewed the list of the MTF/1 Recommendations and noted with satisfaction that all recommendations submitted to MET/SG/9 and the APIRG/17 Meetings have been adopted.





- Agenda Item 2:**            **Review of the**
- a) **Current status of OPMET Exchange in the region**
  - b) **Assessment of the Implementation the AFI Meteorological Bulletin Exchange (AMBEX) scheme**
  - c) **Assessment of the Procedures for monitoring and management of the OPMET information exchange at AMBEX centres and the Regional OPMET Data Banks (RODBs)**
  - d) **Interregional OPMET information exchange procedures and satellite distribution system for information relating to air navigation (SADIS)**

**2.1**                    *Current status of OPMET Exchange in the region*

2.1.1                The Task Force recalled that Conclusion 17/56 of APIRG/17 meeting, held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, called for the implementation of OPMET exchange requirements and inter- regional OPMET gateway (IROG) functions by both Dakar and Pretoria RODBs including new OPMET data types, OPMET bulletin format, regional exchange, interregional exchange and exchange of OPMET through SADIS, all described in the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the AMBEX Handbook.

2.1.2                In order to harmonize the monitoring of OPMET data in the AFI region, the meeting reached an agreement that the AFI OPMET monitoring procedures be implemented on a regular basis using the procedures in the AMBEX Handbook. In this regard, the Task Force adopted the following recommendation and decision on the monitoring schedule and validation criteria:

**Recommendation 2/3:     Schedule of the AFI OPMET Monitoring**

**That, Dakar and Pretoria RODBs:**

- a) **implement an automatic OPMET data monitoring scheme using procedures in Chapter 12 and Appendix F of the AMBEX Handbook on quarterly basis (March 31, June 30, August, 31 and December 31 of each year)**
- b) **distribute the monitoring statistics to the Chairman of the Task Force and the Secretariat;**
- c) **perform regular 24 hour simultaneous monitoring starting at 00:00:00 UTC on the first Wednesday of every month,**
- d) **Implement the above tasks from 01 January 2012.**

**Decision 2/4:            Time validation criteria for data reception**

**That, Dakar and Pretoria ROdB Managers develop a draft OPMET time validation criteria for reception of data in the AMBEX Handbook using guidance material developed by the BMG (Bulletins Management Group of the EUR Region).**

*Note: The proposals should be circulated to the other Members and the Secretariat by June 2011.*

**2.2**            *Assessment of the Implementation of the AFI Meteorological Bulletin Exchange (AMBEX)*

2.2.1            The meeting will recall that the AFI OPMET MTF was established by Conclusion 16/54 of APIRG/16 meeting with terms of reference inter alia to develop monitoring and management procedures related to AMBEX exchange and other exchange of OPMET information.

2.2.2            On the request of the AFI regional offices, Dakar and Pretoria RODBs undertook a special regional monitoring which results were shown in different formats. The meeting recall the requirement to provide these results in a unique format. The MTF/2 feels that it is urgent to maintain a catalogue that lists data frequency and issue times of OPMET types for catalogue stations. The meeting then formulated the following decision:

**Decision 2/5:        Monitoring Time Frames**

**That, Dakar and Pretoria RODBs provide the monitoring statistics using provisions in ICAO Annexes 3 and 10**

**2.3**            *Assessment of the Procedures for monitoring and management of the OPMET information exchange at AMBEX centres and the Regional OPMET Data Banks (RODBs)*

2.3.1            The meeting reviewed the monitoring and management procedures at the Bulletins Compiling Centres (BCC) and Regional OPMET Data Banks (RODB) in the AFI Region, assess the said procedures and suggests actions for the implementation of the related AMBEX procedures. The meeting agreed that Dakar and Pretoria RODBs should submit a status of implementation report of the AMBEX scheme at each MTF meeting. The meeting agreed on the proposed procedures and formulated the following decision:

**Decision 2/6:        AMBEX Implementation Status Report by AFI RODBs**

**That, Dakar and Pretoria RODBs Managers submit AMBEX scheme implementation reports to the AFI OPMET MTF Meetings.**

2.3.2            The meeting noted that OPMET required bulletins from Accra, Conakry, Freetown, Kano, Kinshasa, Lagos, Luanda and Monrovia are received at Dakar RODB with a rate below **30%**. The required bulletins from Pretoria RODB area of responsibility as per Nairobi and Addis Ababa are also received with a very small rate. The meeting formulated the following recommendations:

**Recommendation 2/7:        Direct AFTN Link between AFI RODBs**

**That,**

- a) **Dakar and Pretoria RODBs Provider States take the required measures to provide direct AFTN connexion between both RODBs to facilitate the implementation of back up procedures between them.**

- b) **back-up procedures for the two RODBS be developed for use and supported by reliable telecommunications facilities.**

**Recommendation 2/8: Improvement of availability of OPMET from a number of AFI States**

**That, efforts be made by the concerned States to improve the availability at Dakar RODB, of required OPMET from Accra, Conakry, Freetown, Kano, Kinshasa, Lagos, Luanda**

**2.4 *Interregional OPMET information exchange procedures and satellite distribution system for information relating to air navigation (SADIS)***

2.4.1 The meeting recalled that Conclusion 17/56 of the APIRG/17 Meeting calls for OPMET exchange requirements and inter- regional OPMET gateway (IROG) functions. Further to the satellite distribution system for information relating to air navigation (SADIS) Operations Group (SADISOPSG) activities during its 15th meeting, the Task Force reviewed and submitted the required actions to the attention of the MET/SG and APIRG.

2.4.2 In accordance with the above mentioned Conclusion, Dakar and Pretoria RODBs are also assigned IROG functions with additional inter-regional OPMET gateway responsibilities for all AFI region. In this regards, the task Force agreed to develop a back up procedures for the AFI RODBs. The meeting formulated the following recommendation and decision:

**Recommendation 2/9: Development of a back up procedures for the AFI RODBs**

**That, a Core Team of experts consisting of Members from Kenya, Madagascar, Senegal and South Africa be established to develop a back up procedures for the AFI RODBs.**

*Note: The team is expected to provide the results of their efforts to the Chairperson before 30 June 2011.*

**Decision 2/10: Internet Access Address of the RODBs**

**That, Dakar and Pretoria RODBs Managers publish the following Internet access address of the RODBs:**

**Dakar RODB:** <http://brdo.asecna.org/>

**Pretoria RODB:** <http://aviation.weathersa.co.za>



**Agenda Item 3: Review of regional Guidance Material on OPMET Exchange:**

- a) **AMBEX Handbook**
- b) **AFI ICD**
- c) **OPMET related FASID Tables**
- d) **AFI Regional SIGMET Guide**

**3.1 Review of the AMBEX Handbook**

3.1.1 The Task Force reviewed the AMBEX Handbook and amendments or addendums proposed by States. The meeting agreed that any proposed changes to the AFI OPMET guidance materials should be submitted to the MET/SG for further review. The meeting then reviewed and endorsed the changes proposed by States. The Task Force adopted the following recommendations:

**Recommendation 2/11 Amendment Proposals to the AMBEX HANDBOOK**

**That, the amendments to the AMBEX Handbook given on Appendix C to this report be submitted to the MET/SG Meeting for further review.**

*Note: Appendix C is to be finalized after the meeting*

**Recommendation 2/12 Updating paragraph 6.2.10 of the AMBEX HANDBOOK**

**That, paragraph 6.2.10 c) of the AMBEX Handbook be corrected according to the AFI ICD.**

**Recommendation 2/13 Updating AFTN Addresses of some Aerodromes in South Africa**

**That, the ICAO Regional Office in Nairobi updates Appendixes A and B of the AMBEX Handbook as follows:**

- **AFTN address for Pretoria (FAPRYMYX) to be changed to Johannesburg (FAJSYMYX)**
- **Durban (FADN) to be changed to King Shaka (FALE)**
- **Lilongwe's ICAO location indicator (FWLI) to be changed to FWKI**
- **FAPR to be changed to FAJS in the bulletins.**
- **Spelling for Cape Town to be corrected.**

**3.2 Review of the AFI Inter-regional Control Document (ICD)**

3.2.1 The MTF/2 recalled that Conclusion 17/59 of APIRG/17 Meeting calls for the implementation of the interface control document (ICD) for AFI OPMET database access procedures. The meeting reviewed AFI ICD and agreed that the AFI OPMET Database Catalogue shall consist of the lists of OPMET products that are required to be available in the ICAO AFI OPMET Databases, following the requirements by the AFI ANP.

3.2.2 The three sections of the harmonized AFI OPMET Database Catalogue in **Appendix D** to this report are the following:

a) Message types METAR/SPECI and FT TAF: (section 1)

*The list of required reports is based on the CCCC list contained in the ANP / FASID (Facilities and Services Implementation Document), adopted by ICAO. The names of the CCCC locations and States are those adopted by the AFI AOP.*

b) SIGMET: (section 2)

*SIGMETs for all FIRs are required. The SIGMET list is based upon the list from ICAO publication 7910.*

c) Bulletins: (section 3)

Bulletin requests are shortcuts for requests of lists of reports. The reply to a bulletin request consists of one or more messages containing the latest valid (not NIL) reports of the requested stations.

The bulletins selected for this catalogue:

- belong to the African area (African "AA" in the header)
- have an "ii" < 50
- contain at least one station of the AFI OPMET DB station catalogue

Some further manual selection was done, in case of duplicate TTAAii in the headers.

3.2.3 The meeting agreed for the proposed data catalogue to be finalized and implemented by the RODBs. The meeting formulated the following recommendation:

**Recommendation 2/14 AFI OPMET data catalogue**

**That, the draft OPMET data catalogue given in the Appendix D to this report be finalized by the RODB Managers for use by the two OPMET data banks. The updating of the catalogues be a joint responsibility of the two data banks'.**

3.2.4 The meeting was presented with WP/14 and WP/18 describing Dakar and Pretoria RODBs data catalogues, the MTF/2 reviewed the current data catalogues of both RODBs. It was found that all types of required OPMET data are included in both catalogues except special AIREP which is not handled by Dakar RODB. The meeting agreed that Dakar RODB should implement all types of OPMET data described in the AMBEX Handbook including special AIREP. The Task Force then formulated the following recommendation:

**Recommendation 2/15 Implementation of Special AIREP by Dakar RODB**

**That, Dakar RODB implements all types of OPMET data described in the AMBEX Handbook including special AIREP (UA).**

**3.3 OPMET related FASID Tables**

3.3.1 The meeting recalled that the AFI OPMET MTF/1 recommended to review the amendments to AFI FASID Tables MET 1A and 2A from SADISOPSG meetings before submitting them to States.

3.3.2 In this regards, Tables MET 1A and 2A from SADISOPSG/15 Meeting were reviewed by the Task Force. Appendix C shows amendments of MET Table 2A recommended by SADISOPSG/15. The meeting agreed on the changes proposed by SADISOPSG/15 and submitted them to ESAF and WACAF Offices for implementation in accordance with the established procedures.

### **3.4 *AFI Regional SIGMET Guide***

3.4.1 The meeting recalled that Conclusion 17/61 d) of APIRG/17 urged ICAO regional offices of Dakar and Nairobi to update the AFI SIGMET guide for additional details of VA and TC test procedures.

3.4.2 Father to the above Conclusion, the AFI SIGMET Guide has been updated early this year. The updated SIGMET Guide was review and amendments as appropriate. The meeting agreed that there is a need to sensitize Authorities on the importance of continuously monitoring hazardous weather conditions and it is urgent that AFI BCCs and RODBs provide guidance and support to MWOs which are unable to issue SIGMETs for one reason or another using information at their disposal such as weather satellite information and SPECIs.

3.4.2 The meeting then formulated the following decisions end recommendations:

#### **Decision 2/16 Correction of SIGMET examples in the SIGMET Guide**

**That, ICAO regional Offices issue a corrigendum to the Appendix J to the SIGMET Guide by inserting the ICAO location indicators where needed.**

#### **Recommendation 2/17 Sensitizing Authorities at High Level AFI Region Meetings on Safety and Security Issues**

**That, ICAO Regional Offices sensitize Authorities at the highest political level on the importance of continually monitoring hazardous weather conditions in their respective air spaces (Flight Information Regions (FIRs)) for air safety especially the issuance of SIGMETs by the MWOs.**

#### **Decision 2/18: Awareness of MWOs to issue SIGMETs**

**That, AFI BCCs and RODBs Provide guidance and support to MWOs which are unable to issue SIGMETs for one reason or another using information at their disposal such as weather satellite information and SPECIs.**





**Agenda Item 4: Future work programme and composition of the AFI OPMET MTF**

4.1 The Task Force reviewed its work programme shown in **Appendix E** to this report. When reviewing the work programme, the Task Force was expected to update the following elements:

- a) future work programme for 2010 to 2015; and
- b) executive summaries for each recurrent task.

4.2 The meeting noted that the work programme is subject to revision and consolidation in order to align it with the ICAO Business Plan and to better reflect the work that is being undertaken by the MTF.

4.3 The MTF endorse the changes proposed and formulate the following decision:

**Decision 2/19: Future Work Programme of the MTF**

**That, the work programme of the MTF be updated as shown in Appendix E and cover the period 2010-2015,**

*Note: The tasks implemented two years earlier should be deleted from the work programme.*



**Agenda Item 5: Any other business**

5.1 The Task Force recognized the continuous necessity to schedule annual meetings of the MTF for the foreseeable future. Regarding the venue for the next meeting in 2011, it was noted that the task Force had just held its 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa. In accordance with APIRG/17 Decision 17/80, the next meeting will be held in Dakar. Furthermore, it was noted that the MET/SG/9 meeting was held in October last year and the APIRG/17 meeting was held last August. Since APIRG meetings are planned to be held every 18 months and MET/SGs are supposed to be conducted at least six months prior to the APIRG, it was suggested to plan to conduct of MET/SG/10 meeting before October 2011.

5.2 The meeting agreed on the proposal that the AFI OPMET MTF/3 and MET/SG/10 Meetings should be convened in Dakar back to back. The task Force Formulated the following decision:

**Decision 2/20: MTF/3 and MET/SG/10 Meetings**

**That, the Secretariat take the required actions to plan to conduct the MTF/3 and MET/SG/10 Meetings back to back before October 2011.**