INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

AFI Aeronautical Surveillance Implementation Task Force

Dakar, Senegal, 22 to 24 June 2011

Agenda Item 6: Updating the draft strategy and the implementation plan of AFI   Aeronautical Surveillance

Presented by ASECNA

SUMMARY

This working paper deals with the need for AFI region to develop and/or to adopt an Interface Control Document (ICD) in the framework of ATS Inter-Facility Data Communications (AIDC) implementation.

Working paper related to ICAO strategic objective A (GPI 17)

1.   INTRODUCTION

1.1   AFI Air Navigation Service Providers are implementing more and more ATM automated systems to face the continuous increasing traffic improving thus efficiency and accuracy within airspaces in which they are responsible for the provision of air traffic services.

1.2   These automated systems include generally facilities such as exchange of flight plan and radar data information between neighboring equipped Area Control Centers in the framework of ATS Inter-Facility Data Communications (AIDC) implementation

2.   DISCUSSIONS

2.1   AIDC is a data link application which allows automated data exchange between equipped ATS units.

2.2   It provides capability to exchange data between ATS units in support of critical ATC functions such as notification, coordination and transfer. It will also permit automatic communication between ATC systems to improve efficiency and accuracy for ATS providers

2.3   As levels of traffic crossing FIR boundaries is increasing, ATC-to-ATC coordination (ATS/DS) will more contribute in ATC workload. Resulting large number of ground-to-to ground coordination will thus increase wrong coordination risk.

2.4   Hence, AIDC implementation between equipped ATS units within AFI region to reduce ATC workload and human errors in operations between adjacent centers should be considered.

2.5   Standards regarding AIDC are set by ICAO documents (Annex 10 Vol II, Annex 12, Doc 4444, 8643, 7910, 9705, 9426, etc.) but an interface addressing all required messages and suitable related contents should be established particularly when considering that automation systems are not always fully compatible with parts of ICAO standard.

2.6   To achieve this, development of a harmonized process and protocols for exchanging data between AFI States/Territories/International Organizations is required to ensure that inter-facility messages are harmonized to a common standard.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1   The meeting is invited to :

a) Agree to the need for AFI region to establish common procedures regarding AIDC in support of critical ATC function;

b) Agree to elaborate or/and to adopt an interface control document (ICD) for AIDC developing process and protocols for exchanging data between ATS units in AFI region and taken into account experience gained in the other regions.