INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA OFFICE

Twenty-fifth Meeting of the AFI Satellite Network Management Committee (SNMC/25)
(Freetown, Sierra Leone, 18-22 December 2017)

Agenda Item 3: **Evaluation and Re-engineering of AFISNET** (*Implementation of Special AFI/RAN meeting Recommendations 6/18*)

Funding mechanisms for AFISNET re-engineering and modernization

(***Presented by the Secretariat***)

SUMMARY

The purpose of this paper is to explore the way for common funding mechanisms for the modernization and re-engineering of AFISNET.

Reference: SNMC 24th Report, Report on AFISNET Audit

Action by the meeting in paragraph 3

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1.   Introduction

1.1   The issues of the AFISNET evaluation and re-engineering have been regularly addressed by the SNMC members during the meeting and through the activities of the Join Technical Team for AFISNET Evaluation & Re-engineering (JTE).

1.2   After an internal evaluation of the Network by the JTE, AFISNET members commonly funded an external technical Audit of the Network which came out with a report and an Action Plan. The Audit confirmed amongst other the need to undertake a re-engineering exercise of the network.

2.   Discussion

2.1   The 24th meeting of SNMC (**SNMC/24**) held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 14 to 18 November 2016, under its Agenda Item 3-**Evaluation and Re-engineering of AFISNET** (*Implementation of Special AFI/RAN meeting Recommendations 6/18*), reviewed a draft project scheme for AFISNET re-engineering and modernization that should be finalized by the compilation of inputs from members. Unfortunately, with the lack of contribution this draft, is not yet completed.

2.2   The project scheme involves identification of operational and technical requirements, agreement on a common procurement process and procurement regulation, estimation of costs and search for common funding.

2.3   Amongst these above identified elements, the funding mechanism appears to be the corner stone of the re-engineering and modernization of AFISNET. Three scenario can be envisaged:

2.3.1   Common funding with direct mobilization resources by ANSPs

In this case each ANSPs will mobilize and bring its own resources for the funding based on the cost estimation for its contributing nodes to be modernized. This Scenario is similar to the one used to fund the Audit.

2.3.2   The Second Scenario will consist on prefunding the total of the project by one or more ANSP in a cost recovery basis. In this case a Memorandum of Understanding will include in the project the schedule for reimbursement of the prefund.

2.3.3   The third Scenario consist on a search for a common funding source.

In this scenario, the project is considered as a sub-regional Aeronautical Telecommunication Project by donors or funders.

2.3.3.1 It may be recalled that the SNMC/24 meeting paid a courtesy visit to the Community Development Programme (**CDP**), Macroeconomic Policy Department of the ECOWAS Commission for Infrastructure. During this meeting were discussed issues on the eligibility of the AFISNET modernization project as an ECOWAS regional project. The minutes of the meeting is attached at **Appendix A** to this Working Paper

2.3.3.2 At the request of ECOWAS, the Secretariat filled up the Guidelines for the Finalization of Priority Projects and the Project Datasheet Template for submission of the project to the round table with the funders/donors.

2.3.3.3 Furthermore, the Secretariat recently updated the document to include ATM systems and AMHS terminals for the SNMC centers and included Cape Verde in order to have a "**No country Left Behind**" ECOWAS Project. The updated documents were submitted to ECOWAS through the attached letter (**Appendix B**) with copy to Members.

The round table is tentatively planned to take place in Abidjan Cote d'Ivoire from 25 to 26 January 2018

3.   Action Required

The meeting is invited to:

a)   Take note of the information given above

b)   Review the scenario of the funding mechanism and agree on proposals to be brought to the attention of the SNMC Board.

c)   Propose any other follow-up action thereon.