INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

Fourth Meeting of the APIRG Infrastructure and Information Management Sub-Group (IIM/SG/4)

(Virtual, 31 August-3 September 2021)

Agenda Item 4 : Update on the Regional Projects implementation

WP4.1B - Implementation of Ground/Ground communication aimed at ensuring Air traffic control Progress Report

(Presented by Nigeria – Tijani Mojeed A)

SUMMARY
This working paper outlines the status of the project, indicate the challenges encountered by the team, possible recommendations and the documentation developed by the team; and
Action by the meeting in paragraph 4.

REFERENCE(S):

- Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP)
- ICAO Annex 10 Volumes II & III Aeronautical Telecommunication
- Annex 11 Air Traffic Service
- Doc 4444 Procedures for Air Navigation Service
- Doc 9694 Manuel on Air Traffic Services Data Link Applications
- Doc 10037 Global Operational Data Link Document (GOLD)
- APIRG IIM SG/1, SG/2 and SG/3 Report

This working document relates to ICAO Strategic Objectives: A – Safety and B – Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency.

KPIS and concerned ASBU B0 Modules: All applicable to CNS and Spectrum.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. During the APIRG Sub-Group on Infrastructure and Information Management (IIM / SG / 1) held in Nairobi, Kenya from 27 to 30 June 2017, the IIMSG Communication Project 2 was recommended as Communication project to assist with the implementation of Ground/Ground communication aimed at ensuring Air Traffic Control within AFI region through:

   a)   Aeronautical Fixed Service Network (**AFTN**)

   b)   Air Traffic Service Message Handling System (AMHS);

1.2. This is to assist States with the implementation of Ground/Ground Communication to ensure seamless coordination and exchange of aeronautical time sensitive operational data among all Air Traffic Services Centres involved in the provision of air navigation services for international civil aviation. The project provides an effective forum for the discussion, review and management of ground/ground communication issues, to ensure that the implementation scheme remains in accordance with the requirements of the provision of Aeronautical Fixed Service (AFS) as defined by the AFI Air Navigation Plan (AFI/RAN Abuja 1997). The project from this perspective is thus an interactive process through which all concerns of relevant stakeholders can be taken into account while keeping them adequately informed.

1.3. All tasks are carried out by COM/ IT experts nominated by AFI States participating in the project, led by the Project-Team Coordinator and under the supervision of the Project Facilitators (ROs/CNS, Dakar and Nairobi) through the IIM SG working methodology.

1.4. The states were invited by ICAO via a letter reference ES AN 13/0-584 dated 14 August 2017, to appoint and notify the participation of its qualified experts in any of the 14 regional IIM project teams identified.

1.5. Rationale/Justification

1.5.1   The communication project 2 is the APIRG IIM/SG project intended to follow up and accompany states of the AFI region in the implementation of ground/ground communication systems to ensure the smooth flow of traffic data and information management.

In the framework of the technologies Roadmap for Communication defined in the GANP and the AFI strategy, the IIMSG Com project 2 is aimed at assisting States in the implementation of:

a) Aeronautical Fixed Service Network (AFTN)

b) Air Traffic Service Message Handling System (AMHS);

1.5.2   In accordance with the operational requirements of Annex 3 Aeronautical Meteorology, Annex 10 Volume II Aeronautical telecommunication, Annex 11, Air Traffic Service, Annex 15 Aeronautical Information Service, and the relevant supporting guidance documents (Doc 9896 Manual for the ATN using IPS Standards and Protocols, Doc 9880, Manual on Detailed Technical Specifications for the Aeronautical Telecommunication Network (ATN) using ISO/OSI Standards and Protocols Doc 9694 Manuel on Air Traffic Services Data link Applications

1.6.1.6   This paper provides the progress made by the IIM SG COM 2 Ground/Ground Communication project. It elaborates the achievements, challenges encountered by the team, possible recommendations and the documentation developed by the team attached as indicated below :

- Annexure A : Terms of reference;
- Annexure B : Project Plan;
- Annexure C : The Questionaire;
- Annexure D : Project Description
- Annexure E : Project Implementation Status

2   DISCUSSIONS

2.1. The IIMSG Communication Project 2 team, is submitting the project deliverables to the IIM SG Chairman, Vice chairman and Secretariat as a final document for submission to, and if necessary, approval by the APIRG Projects Coordination Committee (APCC).

2.2. 2.2 A project progress report is submitted to the IIM SG Chairman, Vice chairman and Secretariat indicating the project status, challenges, and possible recommendations.

2.3. The IIM Sub-Group teams were allocated tasks and expected deliverables as indicated in Annexure A.

   a) The team has managed to complete some of the project planning documentations;

   b) Developed the Questionnaire analysis template attached as Annexure C;

   c) Tracked the states AFI Ground to Ground (G/G) implementation status, attached as Annexure E;

2.4. The last IIMSG Communication Project 2 progress meeting was on 07 June 2021 via MS Teams. The project meeting minutes and matters arising have been compiled.

2.5. The project team members have also been communicating via a WhatsApp group if required.

2.6. IIM COM 2 MS Team folder was created for project documentation ease of access and record purposes.

3   Implications

3.1. Project Team Experts Active Participation - AFI HDL/VDL Manual/Guideline development

   a) The project teams are the foundation on the implementation of the APIRG plans and ensuring that Africa is not left behind. Its success is largely dependent on the project team members active participation, commitment, and experts in the work of the project team.

   b) Due to various organization or State operational matters; some of the identified experts are not available to assist with the development of AFI HDL/VDL Manual/Guideline. It is requested that additional experts are appointed to assist with the development of AFI HDL/VDL Manual/Guideline.

3.2   To improve on Communication and Coordination, a meeting program was developed as indicated below:

ITEM	OBJECTIVE	FREQUENCY /DATE	MEDIA	OUTPUT
Kick-off meeting	1. To initiate project 2. To discuss and allocate task 3. Project documentation	21 December 2020	Zoom	Minutes, Matters arising and Project Status report

Project progress meeting	To track project progress and deliverables as per last meeting.	11 March 2021	Microsoft Teams	Minutes, Matters arising and Project Status report
Project progress meeting	To track project progress and deliverables as per last meeting.	26 April 2021	Microsoft Teams	Minutes, Matters arising and Project Status report
Project progress meeting	To track project progress and deliverables as per last meeting.	7 June 2021	Microsoft Teams	Minutes, Matters arising and Project Status report
IIM Sub-Group Meeting	To provide project progress to IIM Chairperson, Vice-Chair and Secretariat.	Once a year – ICAO Meeting	Formal meeting	IIM Sub-Group Report with Decisions and Conclusions.
Project progress meeting	To track project progress and deliverables as per last meeting.	02 December 2021	Microsoft Teams	Minutes, Matters arising and Project Status report
Project progress meeting	To track project progress and deliverables as per last meeting.	11 February 2022	Microsoft Teams	Minutes, Matters arising and Project Status report
Close-Out	Project Close-out meeting	28 March 2022	Microsoft Teams	Project Close-out Report and Minutes.

3.4 The project deliverables are listed below with comments. The deliverables status is attached as Annexure A:

	Project Deliverables	**Planned Delivery Date**	**Revised Delivery**	**Objectives**
1.	Project Progress Report	After each meeting		To enable the Chair/Vice Chair and the Secretariat to monitor the progress of the project team
2.	Project Organization / Plan	31 January 2021	31 March 2021	To outline the tasks for the project organization and coordination. Revised.
3.	Project Description	31 January 2021	31 March 2021	To provide a description of the project
4	Project Terms of reference	31 January 2021	31 March 2021	
5	Project Linkage	31 January 2021	31 March 2021	

	Project Deliverables	Planned Delivery Date	Revised Delivery	Objectives
6	Restauration/Improvement of the availability of AFTN Failing circuits	Quarterly		To improve the availability of AFTN Failing circuits
7	Implementation/Activation of AFTN Circuits	Quarterly		To provide implementation status of AFTN circuits
8	Teleconferences, Workshops/Seminars, meetings (French and English) on AMHS systems operation and their implementation scheme	Monthly		To track project progress
9	Implementation/interconnection and operation of AMHS systems	Quarterly		To provide implementation status of
10	Assessment/Reporting on the operation of AMHS systems and operation	Quarterly		To provide implementation status of
11	Detailed guidance provided to States not complying with the AFI Aeronautical Fixed Service (AFS) Plan	Quarterly		To provide guidance to states not complying with AFI AFS Plan
12	List of States with AFTN and AMHS, implemented	Quarterly		To provide implementation status of AFTN and AMHS

3.3 3.5 Outlook for the next reporting period:

      a) Questionnaire survey analysis report;

      b) AFI ground to Ground Implementation status report;

4   ACTIONS BY THE MEETING

4.1   The meeting is invited to :

      a) Take note of the progress made so far regarding the IIMSG Communication Project 2 deliverables and challenges;

      b) Encourage State participation in the AFI region projects; and

      c) Submit projects Questionnaires responses.

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