



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

Seventh Meeting of the APIRG Airspace and Aerodrome Operation Subgroup (AAO/SG7)

(Nairobi, 12-16 August 2024)

Agenda Item 3: Achievements in AOP and ATM/SAR

3B7 Development in the South Atlantic Area

(Presented by Secretariat)

SUMMARY	
<p>This paper provides developments in the South Atlantic area (SAT) regarding achievements, ongoing activities and issues to be brought to the attention of APIRG.</p> <p>Actions by the Meeting is in paragraph 3</p>	
REFERENCES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APIRG Procedural Handbook • SAT Handbook • Summary of discussions of SAT IMG/3 • Summary of discussions of SAT SOG/3 • Summary of discussions of SAT SG/1 	
<i>Strategic Objectives</i>	<i>A – Safety, B – Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency, D – Economic Development of Air Transport, and E – Environmental Protection.</i>

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Group of the Improvement of Air Traffic Services over the South Atlantic (SAT) is a technical group whose membership encompasses ICAO Member States responsible for the provision of Air Traffic Services over the South Atlantic, associated Air Navigation Service Providers, and International Air Transport Association (IATA) as well as other relevant stakeholders. Member States are Angola, Argentina, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, France, Ghana, Morocco, Namibia, Portugal, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay.
- 1.2 The structure of the SAT Group includes three main bodies, an administrative group, the SAT Steering Group (SAT SG) and two working groups i.e. the SAT implementation management group (SAT IMG) and the SAT safety oversight group (SAT SOG). Several projects' teams are established under each body to plan and implement the SAT SG Decisions.

- 1.3 The SAT handbook section 1.4 b) and 2.3 states that the Africa–Indian Ocean Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG) and all user States should be kept informed of new developments as well as the identification and resolution of air navigation deficiencies in the SAT area. In addition, section 7.1 of the SAT handbook requires that the SAT Steering Group (SAT-SG) shall report to APIRG through its Secretary and to other PIRGs through the accredited ICAO Regional Offices.
- 1.4 Since the AAO/SG6 meeting, several activities have been conducted in the SAT including meetings of the contributory bodies as well as activities of established projects teams with significant achievements. Key issues raised as well will also be brought to the attention of the meeting.

2 DISCUSSIONS

- 2.1. The SAT SG held its first meeting in virtual mode on 4 December 2023. Outcomes of the discussions included the call for the secretariat to report on the frequency allocation at each SAT SG meeting, the conduct of a feasibility study for the establishment of a SAT ATS event scrutiny group and in line with that, the call for the participation of AFI RSOOs in SAT Safety Oversight Group (SAT SOG) meetings, the development and implementation of action plans to address the lack of or incomplete reporting by the States of RVSM, PBCS and LHD data in the SAT area. The meeting also recommended that The SAT SG chair team coordinates with relevant PIRGs to agree on the suitable options to receive adequate traffic forecast in the SAT area.
- 2.2. The third meeting of the SAT Implementation Management Group (SAT IMG) took place from 5 to 8 February 2024 in Santa Maria (Azores), Portugal with remote participation of some members. The meeting discussed matters related to ATS planning and implementation in the SAT area. Outcomes of the meeting included the adoption of the SAT ATM contingency plan (SAT Doc 002), the development and publication of a SAT OPS Bulletin to address the CPDLC logon issues for flights especially in the Dakar - Abidjan - Accra FIRs, and the change of ATS Route UN866 to bi-directional route in the EURSAM corridor.
- 2.3. The third meeting of the SAT Safety Oversight Group (SAT SOG 3) was held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, from 15 to 19 April 2024 with the remote participation of the EURNAT, ESAF and WACAF Regional Offices. Outcomes of the meeting included the establishment of a SAT project team to progress work on the determination of safety monitoring responsibilities and areas of applicability of ATM improvements the SAT area in accordance with SAT SG/01 DEC05 which tasked the SAT IMG and SAT SOG relevant project teams to coordinate this work and to submit the final version to States for their review and contribution by 31 October 2024. A phased-approach will be followed in this process which is aimed at facilitating safety assessment and reporting, as well as consistent implementation of new concepts and applications in the area. The issue of lack of data from AFI SAT member States to enable the conduct of the collision Risk Assessment in the RVSM airspace over the south Atlantic was raised and States concerned were called for to improve the regularity and consistency of data provided to SATMA.

- 2.4. From the three meetings, the issue of the areas of responsibilities and applicability in the SAT area appears to be crucial for both the safety oversight and the harmonization of implementation projects. It is anticipated that it will have a potential impact on the monitoring of air navigation operations in the interface areas with the continental airspace. APIRG and RASG-AFI should monitor more closely the developments in the SAT in order to better provide guidance for harmonization and coordination of applicable operational procedures.

3 ACTION BY THE MEETING

- 3.1. The meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the information provided in this working paper;
- b) Endorse the following draft conclusions

Draft Decision XX: Monitoring of developments in the SAT area

That, to facilitate a timely assessment of the potential impact of developments in the SAT area on continental operations, the Secretariat of APIRG and RASG-AFI should closely monitor and report on such developments in a timely manner to better provide guidance to ensure that of applicable operational procedures are properly harmonized and coordinated.

Draft conclusion XX: Scrutiny of ATS event in the SAT

That to enhance the scrutiny group established for the SAT area

- a) *AFI RSOOs with ANS capabilities be encouraged to support the scrutiny activities in the SAT area once established.*
- b) *The reports of the scrutiny group be presented to APIRG and RASG-AFI annual meetings for SAT FIRs managed by AFI States.*

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