NACC/DCA/11 — WP/08 06/06/23

# Eleventh North American, Central American and Caribbean Directors of Civil Aviation Meeting (NACC/DCA/11)

Varadero, Cuba, 28-30 June 2023

## Agenda Item 4: NAM/CAR Regional Safety/Air Navigation Implementation

## 4.2 Air Navigation Implementation Matters

#### PROGRESS OF AIR NAVIGATION SERVICES IMPLEMENTATION

(Presented by the Secretariat)

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This working paper includes a summary of the activities carried out in the different areas of air navigation, both through the NACC/WG Working Group and its different Working Groups and for the actions that this Implementation Group, NACC/WG responds to. to the different tasks of GREPECAS. In turn, this working paper responds to Conclusion NACC/DCA/10/3 "Improving the preparation of air navigation services" taken during the last meeting of the Tenth Meeting of Directors of Civil Aviation Directors.

Action:	Suggested actions are listed under paragraph 4.			
Strategic Objectives:	Strategic Objective 1 – Safety Strategic Objective 2 – Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency Strategic Objective 4 – Economic Development of Air Transport Strategic Objective 5 – Environmental Protection			
References:	<ul> <li>Tenth North American, Central American and Caribbean Directors of Civil Aviation Meeting (NACC/DCA/10) Fort-de-France, Martinique, France, 21 to 23 June 2022.</li> <li>Seventh North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group Meeting (NACC/WG/7), ICAO NACC Regional Office, Ciudad de México, México, 29 August to 1 September 2022.</li> <li>Twentieth Meeting of the CAR/SAM Regional Planning and Implementation Group (GREPECAS/20), Salvador, Brazil, 16 to 18 November 2022.</li> <li>Second Meeting of Rapporteurs of the North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group (NACC/WG/RAP/2), Mexico City, Mexico, 28 to 31 March 2023.</li> </ul>			

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Through Conclusion NACC/DCA/10/3 "Enhance Preparedness of Air Navigation Services" the regional implementation arm, the North American, Central American and Caribbean NACC/WG Working Group, was requested to collect information to maintain the continuity of Air Navigation Services (ANS) while guaranteeing the required levels of safety, learning from the experiences of the COVID-19 Pandemic and for the improved preparation of ANS services.
- 1.2 The NACC/WG took this request under its leadership and since August 2022 has worked on a series of activities that will improve regional planning, decision-making and the search for regional benefits that allow growth for all States.

## 2. Activities reported in the different areas of Air Navigation

- Air Traffic Services (ATS): The Twentieth Meeting of the Caribbean and South American Regional Planning and Implementation Group (GREPECAS/20) approved the creation of an Ad hoc Group to update the CAR/SAM regional guidance manual for the implementation of quality assurance programmes for ATS services. This guidance manual addresses and provides guidelines for the implementation of key elements to ensure the safe provision of ATS, such as:
  - the reporting, collection, analysis and investigation of ATS incidents;
  - the verification of the competencies of air traffic controllers;
  - the implementation of ATS incident prevention programmes, ATS evaluation programmes and ATS quality improvement programmes.
- 2.2 The Ad hoc Group is made up of experts in Air Traffic Management (ATM) from Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Panama, Venezuela and COCESNA, with the coordination of ATM personnel from the ICAO NACC and SAM Regional Offices. The results of this task will be presented to the GREPECAS/21 Meeting.
- 2.3 Following up on the recommendations of the Technical Assistance Missions (TEAM) carried out by the ICAO NACC Regional Office to the Member States of the Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority (ECCAA) in 2022, the ICAO NACC Regional Office, in collaboration with the ECCAA, is organizing a workshop on the concept of airspace for ATS Services for ECCAA Member States. This workshop will take place in St. Johns, Antigua and Barbuda, from 14 to 18 August 2023. The main objective of the workshop is to provide guidance to ECCAA Member States to ensure that the provision of ATS is associated with an adequate classification of the airspace and the expected level of services is in line with the international standards established by the ICAO CAR/SAM Regions Air Navigation Plan. This will also be an opportunity to review and update the operational procedures for ATS in ECCAA Member States, supporting compliance with their updated ANS Regulations.
- 2.4 **Aeronautical Information Management (AIM)**: adjustments have been made during 2022 and 2023 to the AIM work programme in response to the priorities in terms of implementation of ANS service implementation activities, such as:

- ensuring that AIM implementation in the CAR Region is coherent and compatible with developments in adjacent regions, and is in line with the Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP), the Aviation System Block Upgrades (ASBU) framework and the CAR Region Air Programme navigation strategy;
- supervising the implementation status of the CAR Region AIM-related ASBU subprocesses, elements included in the AIM Collaborative Plan, as well as other required AIM facilities and services; identifying associated difficulties and deficiencies and provide progress reports, as required;
- c) keeping under review the AIM performance objectives/priorities of the CAR Region, developing action plans to achieve the agreed performance objectives and proposing changes to the AIM plans/priorities of the CAR Region;
- d) trying to achieve a common understanding and support of all stakeholders involved or affected by AIM developments/activities in the CAR Region;
- e) providing a platform for the harmonization of developments and deployments in the AIM domain;
- f) monitoring and reviewing the latest developments in the area of AIM and procedure design issues associated with AIM, providing expert input for AIM-related issues; and proposing solutions to meet ATM operational requirements;
- g) providing regular progress reports to GREPECAS regarding its work programme;
- h) periodically reviewing its Terms of Reference and propose modifications, as necessary.
- 2.5 **Aerodromes and ground aids (AGA)**: As a follow-up to the decisions of GREPECAS/18 and the GREPECAS Programmes and Projects Review Committee Second Virtual Meeting (ePPRC/02), the F Aerodromes Programme carried out the following Projects:
  - a) Project F1: Certification and Safety of Aerodromes
  - b) Project F2: Aerodrome Planning
  - c) Project F3: Implementation of Airport Collaborative Decision Making (A-CDM) level.
- 2.6 For the implementation and monitoring of GREPECAS and the Regional Aviation Safety Group—Pan America (RASG-PA) projects and the identification of other needs in the AGA area in the NAM/CAR Region, during the Seventh North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group Meeting (NACC/WG/7) it was decided to create the AGA Task Force.
- 2.7 **Communications, navigation and surveillance (CNS)**: Under the CNS area, work is being done on the following activities for the Air Navigation area:
  - a) coordination of the air navigation activities of the NACC/WG;
  - b) coordination of the Air Traffic Services Inter-facility Data Communication (AIDC), Surveillance, Frequencies and ASBU;

- c) cybersecurity tasks for the Air Navigation area;
- d) coordination of Air Navigation activities for the area of unmanned aircraft;
- e) coordination of the Improvements to the ATS Voice Link (MEVA) III communications network, which will become the Caribbean Air Navigation Services Network (CANSNET).
- 2.8 **Meteorology (MET)**: The regional Task Force (TF) related to MET issues was created, and the first MET/TF Meeting was held online on 16 March 2023 with the participation of 19 Representatives from 12 States and 7 Territories.
- 2.9 The MET/TF discussed the expected deliverables, which could be structured under a two-tier approach as follows:
  - a) provide support to States in the establishment and implementation of the necessary safety oversight system;
  - b) in support of States' safety oversight activities, assist in explaining MET-related ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) (which are expected to be captured by national regulations) and ensuring that a minimum level of services is achieved in accordance with the requirements of the CAR/SAM Air Navigation Plan (eANP CAR/SAM).
- 2.10 **Search and Rescue (SAR)**: The attention to the responsibilities of provision and supervision of the SAR service continues to be a challenge for the States of the CAR Region in particular. While the overall Effective Implementation (EI) of the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Program (USOAP) for the NAM/CAR Regions is 67.82%, that of the ANS area is reduced to 65.21% and that of SAR is reduced even more to 51.79%. Regarding the EI of the SAR subarea, there are three key points worth mentioning:
  - a) 9 States of the CAR Region have an EI equal to or less than 25% (2 States have a SAR EI of 0%);
  - b) 8 States of the CAR Region have not made arrangements for the establishment and provision of SAR services within their territory and the areas where the State has accepted the responsibility of providing 24-hour SAR in accordance with the provisions of Annex 12;
  - c) only 7 States of the CAR Region (Belize, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua) have established and implemented a formal surveillance programme for the continuous supervision of the Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC), and/ o Rescue Subcentre (RSC) as appropriate.
- 2.11 GREPECAS/20 approved a SAR implementation support project for the CAR and SAM Regions. The approval of this SAR project by GREPECAS will allow greater visibility and support for related activities, communicating the progress of SAR implementation in the CAR/SAM Regions to the ICAO Council in a more objective manner. The Fourth NAM/CAR NACC/WG SAR Implementation Task Force (NACC/WG/SAR/TF/3) meeting will be held at the ICAO NACC Regional Office from 7 to 11 August 2023, and will integrate the activities of the approved GREPECAS SAR Project to the NAM/CAR Regions. The priorities will continue to be:

- a) the clear definition of the limits and scope of the responsibilities for the provision of SAR services by each State and Territory of the CAR Region;
- b) the establishment and provision of SAR services within the territory of each State and the areas where the State has accepted the responsibility of providing SAR 24 hours a day in accordance with the provisions of Annex 12. Note: The establishment of SAR services includes all arrangements related to the development and implementation of SAR coordination procedures in accordance with the requirements of Annex 12, as well as operational agreements for internal coordination with air traffic services.
- c) the signing of interstate SAR agreements to allow SAR operational coordination, as well as the establishment of the conditions under which SAR units from other States may enter the territory of another neighbouring State in the course of a SAR operation.

## 3. Results of the NACC/WG Meetings

- 3.1 As a result of the NACC/WG meetings, the following priority activities emerged that must be supported by the Directorates of Civil Aviation of the different NAM/CAR States to achieve the goals set by the Group:
  - a) Support the analysis of the Basic Building Blocks (BBB) of all States.
  - b) Complete the evaluation of the level of implementation of the ASBU elements identified by the NACC/WG, which must be evaluated regionally.
  - c) Carry out the evaluation of the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) in the areas of Air Traffic operations and airport operations.
- 3.2 Upon completion of the work listed above, the NACC/WG will be able to:
  - a) Update the status of regional implementation in air navigation.
  - b) Identify regional deficiencies.
  - c) Identify the regional projects that must be carried out in the short term.
  - d) Make decisions on how to measure the performance of the States and the region.
- 3.3 This information will help States to identify priorities and decision-making.
- 3.4 The Meeting is also requested to approve the new structure of the NACC/WG. This new structure and responsibilities of the Working Group is created to meet the needs of air navigation implementation under a single Working Group. The new structure is presented under **Appendix A** to this working paper.

3.5 As a result of the work developed by the NACC/WG and in response to the different activities and objectives to be achieved during 2023, the different Task Groups contributed and approved the NACC/WG 2023 work plan found in **Appendix B** of this working paper. In this regard, it is requested that States provide the necessary human resources to support the completion of the work plan in August 2023, based on the following draft conclusion:

DRAFT CONCLUSION				
NACC/DCA/11/XX APPROVAL OF NACC/WG ACT			VITIES	
What:			Expected impact:	
<ul> <li>That, with the objective of supporting the actions of the North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group (NACC/WG), the Meeting agrees to:</li> <li>a) approve the new structure of the NACC/WG as the regional air navigation implementation arm;</li> <li>b) approve and support the execution of the 2023 work plan of the NACC/WG to achieve the goals that the group has set;</li> <li>c) States agree to support the activities of the NACC/WG Group with the necessary resources.</li> </ul>			<ul> <li>☑ Political / Global</li> <li>☑ Inter-regional</li> <li>☑ Economic</li> <li>☐ Environmental</li> <li>☑ Operational/Technical</li> </ul>	
Why:				
Supporting organized work and the development of activities that support regional development is a priority.				
When:	Immediately	Status: 🗵 Valid	/ □ Superseded / □ Completed	
Who:	oxtimes States $oxtimes$ ICAO $oxtimes$ Other:	NACC/WG		

## 4. Suggested actions:

- 4.1 The Directors are invited to support the programmed activities in the areas of air navigation, especially the actions included in the NACC/WG work plan through:
  - a) Designate suitable personnel to integrate the different Task Groups with the necessary knowledge and experience to fulfill the tasks framed within the Group's plan.
  - b) Support the development of the NACC/WG work plan.
  - c) Approve the new structure of the NACC/WG.

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#### **NEW NACC/WG STRUCTURE**

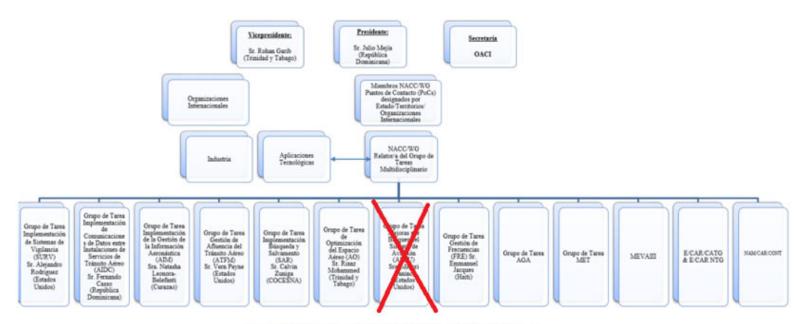
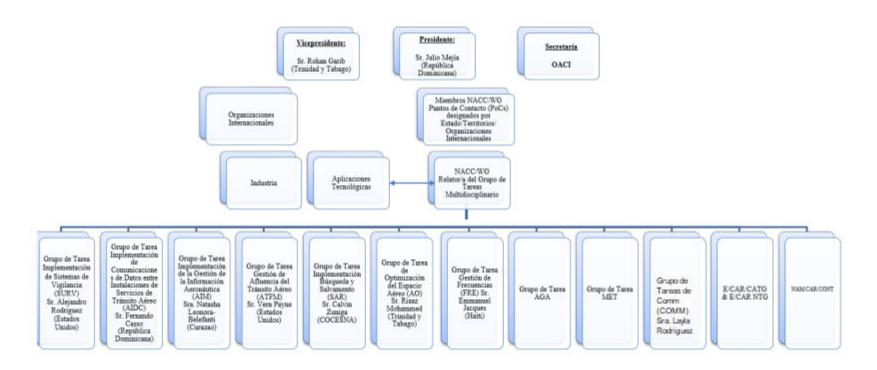


Fig. 1: Change proposal to the NACC/WG structure

#### PROPOSAL:

- 1. Integrate all the Air Navigation Task Groups under the NACC/WG, so that this is the only implementation arm that reports to GREPECAS, to Directors and that all issues in this area are managed in this way.
- 2. Eliminate the ASBU Task Group, since all the Task Groups have absorbed the topics that correspond to them according to their areas.
- 3. The MEVA Technical Management Group (MEVA/TMG) will become a Communications Task Group, the Eastern Caribbean Groups will be integrated into the NACC/WG and their work will be made more efficient and the Contingency Group will be integrated to the NACC/WG. The other Groups were already under the NACC/WG.
- 4. Once this new structure is approved, the NACC/WG Terms of Reference (ToR) should be reviewed to define/modify the responsibilities of:
  - a) the Secretariat
  - b) the Rapporteurs
  - c) Points of Contact (PoC) Person designated by the State/Organization with the authorization/responsibility for coordinating information between the ICAO NACC Regional Office and relevant personnel in their State/Organization.
  - d) Task Force (TF) Members Subject Matter Expert (SME) assigned to a TF for a specific purpose or time.

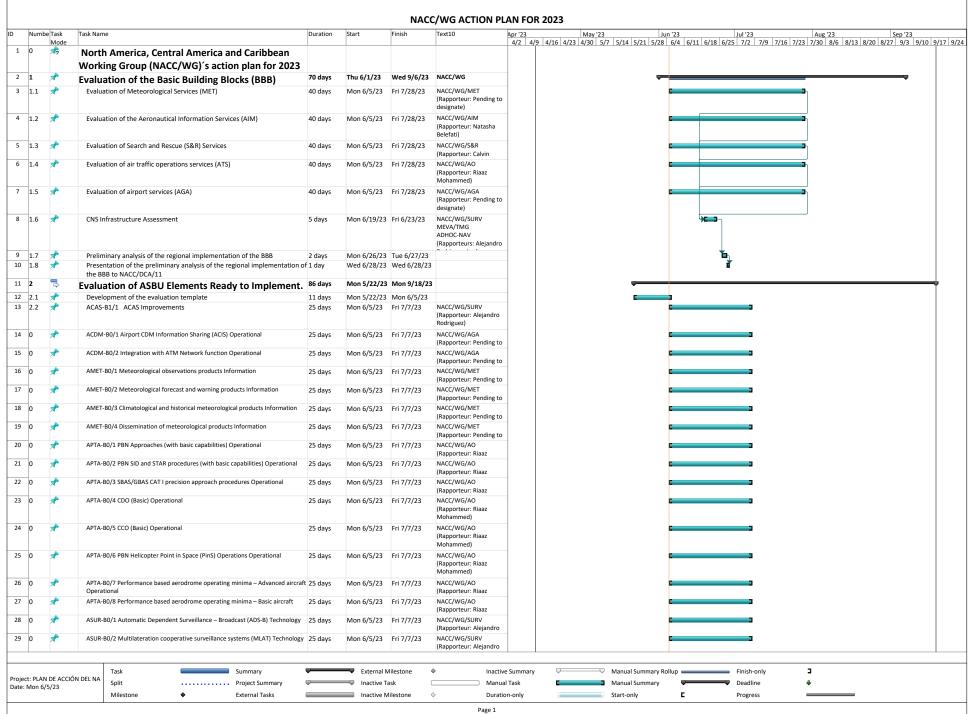
#### **Final Structure**

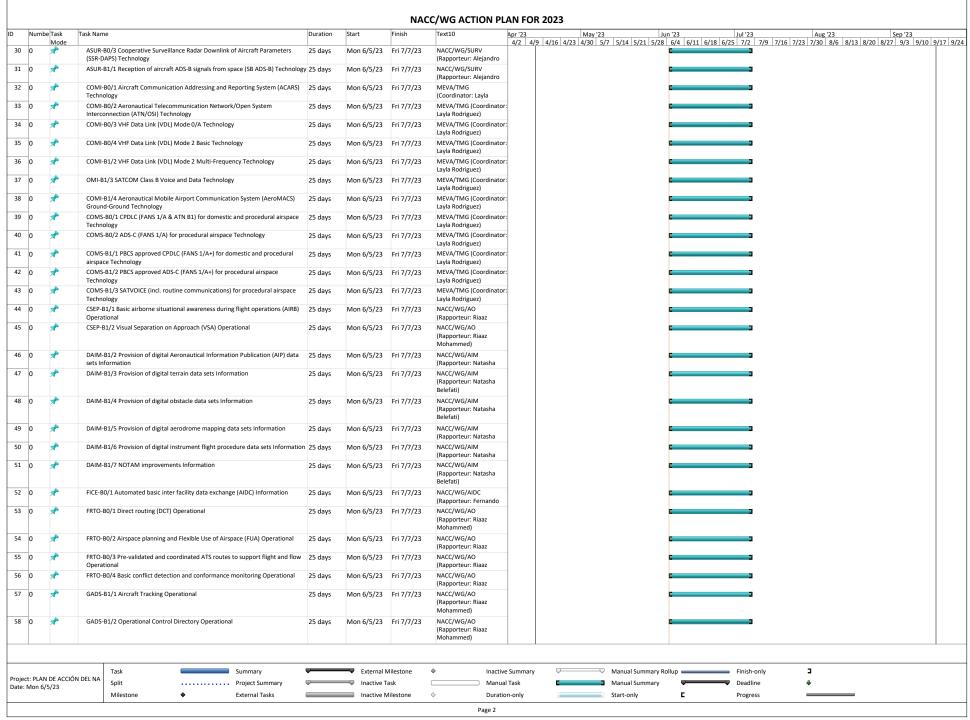


## Pending to define:

- a) Meteorology Task Force rapporteur;
- b) AGA Task Force rapporteur;
- c) Task Forces of the Eastern Caribbean States rapporteurs update;
- d) Contingency Task Force rapporteur update.

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NACC/WG ACTION PLAN FOR 2023

