



ICAO

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North American, Central American and Caribbean Office

WORKING PAPER

NACC/WG/RAP/02 — WP/10

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**Second Meeting of Rapporteurs of the North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group
(NACC/WG/RAP/02)**

ICAO NACC Regional Office, Mexico City, Mexico, 28 to 31 March 2023

Agenda Item 5: Update of the Action Plans of the Task Groups of the NACC/WG, of the NACC/WG Action Plan and of the regional activities in the Development of the Projects of the CAR/SAM Regional Planning and Implementation Group (GREPECAS)

WORK PROGRAMME AND PRIORITIES OF THE AERONAUTICAL METEOROLOGY AREA

(Presented by the Secretariat)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
This working paper presents, for the consideration and discussion of the Meeting, the Work Programme of the NACC/WG Aeronautical Meteorology Task Force (MET/TF), approved during its first meeting on 16 March 2023.	
Action:	As presented in numeral 4 of the working paper
Strategic Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategic Objective 1 – Safety• Strategic Objective 2 – Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency
References:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First Meeting of the North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group (NACC/WG) Meteorology (MET) Task Force (TF) (MET/TF/01)

1. Introduction

1.1 The Seventh North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group Meeting NACC/WG/7, held in Mexico City from 30 August to 1 September 2022, approved the MET Task Force in order to promote MET implementation initiatives in the NAM/CAR Regions and streamline the assistance mechanism at the regional level.

1.2 The First Meeting of the MET/TF was held online on 16 March 2023 with the participation of 19 Representatives from 12 States and 7 Territories. The Meeting agreed the Terms of Reference and reviewed the Work Programme of the MET/TF. The NACC Regional Office received nominations from States and Territories, pending the nomination of the rapporteur, to be defined during the Second Virtual Meeting in April 2023.

2. MET/TF Work Programme

2.1 The MET/TF discussed the expected deliverables, which could be structured under a two-tier approach, as follows:

- a) provide support to States on the establishment and implementation of the necessary safety oversight system;
- b) in support to the States' safety oversight activities, provide assistance by explaining the requirements for the ICAO MET-related Standard and Recommended Practices (SARPs) (expected to be captured by the national regulations) and ensuring that a minimum level of services according to the Caribbean and South American Air Navigation Plan (eANP CAR/SAM) requirements is achieved.

2.2 In this regard, the short-term activities to be conducted during the next webinars and virtual meetings are included in the following table:

Reference	Description of the deliverable
Annex 3 GANP e-ANP	Regional event on the foundational cores of Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation and its evolution.
Annex 3 ICAO Guidance Material	Regional event on provisions related to the implementation of Operational meteorological (OPMET) data exchange under the ICAO Weather Information Exchange Model (IWXXM).
Annex 3 GANP e-ANP ICAO Guidance Material	Regional event on provisions related to meteorological authority, quality assurance, State safety oversight responsibilities and functions, and competency training and qualifications for aeronautical meteorological personnel.
Annex 3 e-ANP	Review of current CAR/SAM provisions on Significant meteorological information (SIGMET).
Annex 3 e-ANP ICAO Guidance Material	CAR Regional SIGMET test analysis and report.
Annex 3 ICAO Guidance Material	Dissemination and analysis of the MET-System wide information management (SWIM) Plan and the MET-SWIM roadmap.
Annex 3 GANP e-ANP BBB / ASBU Frameworks	Event for the review of the national and regional MET systems and essential services – Basic Building Blocks (BBB).
GANP e-ANP	Review of the e-ANP Vol. I and Vol. II MET Tables and drafting of the corresponding Proposals for Amendment.
GANP ASBU Framework	Development of the e-ANP Vol. III MET component.
Annex 3 Anne 19 USOAP CMA	Assistance to enhance the State's capability for the safety oversight of aeronautical meteorology.

2.3 The MET/TF took note of Conclusion eCRPP/4/03 from the Fourth Virtual Meeting of the GREPECAS Programs and Projects Committee (eCRPP/4), to extend the following two projects to the CAR region, the MET/TF will determine the necessary work:

- a) SIGMET Coordination Project among Meteorological Watch Offices (MWO) covering adjacent Flight Information Regions (FIRs);
- b) Regional implementation of the ICAO Meteorological Information Exchange Model (IWXXM).

2.4 The Secretariat was informed on the Second Meeting of the North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group (NACC/WG) Airspace Optimization Task Force (AO/TF/2) results, particularly regarding the initiatives in which the MET/TF could support the implementation. The initiatives were analysed and it was determined that the majority are addressed through the BBBs verification, except for the temperature requirements in the Aeronautical special meteorological report (SPECI), new requirements on the quantification of volcanic ash, and the procedures for the evaluation of volcanic ash contamination and removal, which are subject of the work conducted by the ICAO Meteorology panel of experts, through which the introduction of new provisions for Annex 3 is expected.

3. Preliminary results

3.1 Within the framework of the MET/TF Work Programme, the NACC Regional Office, with the support of Cuba, is formulating a project to assist States in the implementation of the Quality Management System (QMS) for the provision of Meteorological services (MET) for international air navigation; once approved, it will be integrated into the work programme.

3.2 The MET/TF noted the initiation of the individual assistance with Eastern Caribbean States to verify the implementation of the BBBs of the Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation. Forms designed with the support of Costa Rica were used to facilitate the record of information through the Power BI platform and integrate the CAR Regional Dashboard in accordance with GREPECAS Conclusion 19/02. The progress of the analysis is presented in the link below and will be assessed by the MET/TF as part of the agreed work programme: [General Status CAR](#).

3.3 In addition to the assistance webinars for the implementation of the IWXXM developed by the ICAO NACC Regional Office in previous years, the Air Traffic Services Inter-facility Data Communication (AIDC) and Improvements to the ATS Voice Link (MEVA) Task Groups incorporated activities to conduct exchange tests, in order to determine bandwidth requirements for communication channels. The NACC/WG Rapporteurs Meeting will take note of tests conducted by Cuba, jointly with other States/Organizations, to demonstrate the systems' interoperability of all parties for the exchange of the operational meteorological (OPMET) information in accordance to the IWXXM on the Aeronautical Message Handling System (AMHS). This enormous contribution facilitates and streamlines the IWXXM implementation.

3.4 The Steering Committee of Project RLA09801 - Multi-Regional Civil Aviation Assistance Programme (MCAAP) had previously approved the Significant meteorological information (SIGMET) Workshop, to improve the availability and quality of MET messages in the North American, Central American, Caribbean and South American States. In this regard, the ICAO NACC Regional Office invited States to participate in the SIGMET Workshop Part 1 (SIGMET/Workshop/P1) – Analysis and forecasting

techniques, to be convened at the Regional Office premises, in Mexico City, Mexico, from 29 May to 2 June 2023. This Part 1 of the SIGMET Workshop is intended to provide Aeronautical meteorological personnel (AMP) from the Meteorological Watch Offices (MWO), with the necessary knowledge and skills, to improve the diagnose and forecast of en-route weather phenomena and other local phenomena, that may affect the safety, regularity and efficiency of international air navigation, in preparation for the Part 2 of the workshop to be scheduled during 2023, in cooperation with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Regional Association IV.

4. Suggested actions

4.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) take note of the creation of the MET/TF to harmonize the implementation work of the NACC/WG in the MET area;
- b) provide comments to improve the MET Programme and support its compliance;
- c) arrange with NAM/CAR States so that they continue nominating representatives for the MET/TF and the rapporteur before **14 April 2023**;
- d) designate experts from States' Meteorological Watch Offices (MWO) to participate in the SIGMET Workshop Part 1 ([see information here](#)) before **14 April 2023**.