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WORKING PAPER

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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)

REGIONAL FREQUENCIES MANAGEMENT THE FOR CAR REGION

(Presented by the Frequency Task Force Rapporteur)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This working paper presents the work of the development by the CAR Region with the aim to have a regional frequency management in coordination with SAM. This work is a result of the Ad-hoc Group of CAR and SAM regions on Regional Management of Aeronautical Frequencies.

Action:	Suggested actions are included in section 4.
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">• Conclusion GREPECAS/20/05 "Creation of an Ad hoc Group for the Development of a Regional Project for the Management of Aeronautical Frequencies", November 2022: https://www.icao.int/NACC/Pages/meetings-2022-grepecas20.aspx• Resolution A41-7: "Support of the ICAO policy on radio frequency spectrum matters". October 2022: https://www.icao.int/Meetings/a41/Documents/Resolutions/a41_res_prov_en.pdf• Meeting of the Ad-hoc Group on Regional Management of Aeronautical Frequencies, Mexico City, Mexico, 30 January to 03 February 2023: https://www.icao.int/NACC/Documents/Meetings/2023/AFM/FrequencyReview-SumaryofDiscussions.pdf

1. Introduction

1.1 The radio electromagnetic spectrum is a limited natural resource in which different actors compete for the allocation of different bandwidths to provide different services. The vulgarisation of an integrated regional approach of all CAR and SAM States must be ongoing to protect the frequencies that are necessary for current and future aviation air navigation services before the ITU World Conferences.

1.2 Following the Conclusion GREPECAS/20/05 *"Creation of an Ad hoc Group for the Development of a Regional Project for the Management of Aeronautical Frequencies"*, which was reinforced by the ICAO Assembly Resolution A41-7: *"Support of the ICAO policy on radio frequency spectrum matters"*; the first meeting of the Ad hoc Group was held at the ICAO NACC Regional office, from January 30th to February 3rd 2023.

1.3 Specialists from the CAR and SAM regions worked on the elaboration of the regional project that promote the regional management of the aeronautical frequency spectrum, with the aim of ensuring that the aeronautical frequencies necessary for air navigation services are available both for current and future needs of the regions, and also to improve safety, avoid interference and other problems related to the use of frequencies.

2. Discussions

2.1 During the event, the challenges of the CAR and SAM Regions regarding the management of aeronautical frequencies were discussed, and it was identified the need to:

- a) Update the aeronautical frequency databases of the CAR and SAM Regions;
- b) Update the aeronautical management procedures of both regions and standardize their regional use; and
- c) Establish Points of contact (PoCs) with the States of both regions, area specialists who support aeronautical frequency management activities, to ensure the correct use of frequencies and contribute to providing the necessary recommendations for the use of the bands of the radio spectrum for future services.

2.2 The Ad hoc Group prepared a proposal for a project to be developed during 2023 and the first half of 2024.

2.3 As part of the Project proposal, the status of regional aviation frequencies for both regions will be updated and a process of analysis and evaluation of the information presented by the CAR/SAM States will be integrated to update the information of the current operating frequencies and improve future regional assignments. The analysis included in the draft Project will support decision-making in the future and the ordering of regional frequency management.

2.4 The Regional Project proposal for frequency management in the CAR/SAM Regions will be submitted to GREPECAS for evaluation and it is expected to be approved during the Fifth Virtual Meeting of the GREPECAS Programme and Project Review Committee (PPCR) (PPRC/5) to be held from 11 to 12 April 2023.

2.5 The project presents the following essential activities to be implemented:

- a) Carry out the necessary activities for the establishment of the Project at the regional level;

- b) Update the information on aeronautical frequency assignment in the CAR/SAM Regions;
- c) Establish/update the regional frequency assignment procedure;
- d) Propose a regional training programme on aeronautical frequencies management; and
- e) Establish follow-up and evaluation mechanisms for ITU WRC topics.

2.6 In addition, it was discussed the activities carried out to date by States with the support of the Regional Offices for the implementation of mitigating measures due to the implementation of 5G technologies for the use of cellular service communications.

2.7 In this regard, the Ad hoc Group indicated that States of both regions would not be affected by this implementation, based on the information available at the moment, but that it was necessary for States to continue monitoring this implementation and other future implementations that could compromise the aviation services.

2.8 An important point discussed was the global allocation of frequencies for various services through ITU meetings every four years. The latest allocations of radio spectrum use have been affecting aeronautical services.

2.9 In this sense, the Frequency Working Group (NACC/WG/FRE), once formed with all its members, will be responsible for sharing information about the use of aeronautical frequencies that affect aviation operations and jointly lead regional actions to safeguard and protect this important resource for aeronautical services.

3. Outcomes and Recommendations

3.1 The radio spectrum and the frequencies for aeronautical use within this spectrum are key to providing safe and efficient air traffic management. In this regard, it is essential that CAR States have regionally standardized and harmonized management mechanisms to ensure efficiency and effectiveness and promote the safety of air navigation services.

3.2 It is essential that States establish management mechanisms for the frequencies assigned for the use of aeronautical services, in order to protect and use them safely.

3.3 It is crucial that States assign human resource(s) and that they specialize, through training, the personnel that will be responsible for the management of the radio electric spectrum assigned to aviation, both for current and future services.

3.4 It is recommended that States support this Project initiative, the execution and follow-up of each of its activities, as well as assign personnel from their organizations for the development of this Project and related future projects, the latter due to the fact that mismanagement or misuse of aeronautical frequencies can be the cause of serious incidents and accidents in aviation, with incalculable human and material losses.

4. Suggested actions

4.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) Take note of the information provided in this working paper;
- b) Recommend any additional action deemed necessary

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