Thirteenth Eastern Caribbean Network Technical Group (E/CAR/NTG/13) and Eleventh Eastern Caribbean Radar Data Sharing Ad hoc Group (E/CAR/RD/11) Meetings

Final Report

Miami, United States, 21 October 2024

Prepared by the Secretariat

December 2024

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HISTORICAL

ii.1 Place and Date of the Meeting

The Thirteenth Eastern Caribbean Network Technical Group (E/CAR/NTG/13) and the Eleventh Eastern Caribbean Radar Data Sharing Ad hoc Group (E/CAR/RD/11) meetings were held on 21 October 2024, in Miami, United States, at IATA Regional Office for the Americas. These meetings were done back-to-back with the Eighth Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Technical Group (E/CAR/CATG/8) (22 to 24 October 2024).

ii.2 Opening Ceremony

Mrs. Mayda Avila, Regional Officer, Communications, Navigation and Surveillance of the North American, Central American, and Caribbean (NACC) Regional Office of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), provided opening remarks and thanked IATA for hosting the meeting. On behalf of Mr. Steve Saroop, the E/CAR/RD and NTG Rapporteur; Mr. Rohan Garib, Executive Manager Air Navigation Service representative from Trinidad and Tobago and acting Rapporteur of the meetings, welcomed the participants to and officially opened the meeting.

ii.3 Officers of the Meeting

In the absence of Mr. Saroop, the E/CAR/RD and NTG Rapporteur, the E/CAR/NTG/13 and the E/CAR/RD/11 meetings were chaired by Mr. Naresh Seeparsad, representative from Trinidad and Tobago. Mrs. Mayda Avila, Communications, Navigation and Surveillance Regional Officer of the ICAO NACC Regional Office served as Secretary of the Meeting.

ii.4 Working Languages

The working language of the Meeting was English and working papers, information papers and conclusions of the meeting were available to participants in English.

ii.5 Schedule and Working Arrangements

It was agreed that the working hours for the meeting would be from 09:00 to 16:00 hours daily with adequate breaks.

ii.6 Agenda

Agenda Item 1: Approval of the Agenda, Working Method, and Schedule of the Meetings

Agenda Item 2: Review of E/CAR/NTG and E/CAR/RD and Other Meetings Valid Conclusions

- 2.1 Follow-up on E/CAR/NTG and E/CAR/RD's Valid Conclusions and Decisions
- 2.2 Follow-up on North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group (NACC/WG), North American, NACC/WG/FREQ Task Force, NACC/WG/COMM/40 meetings Valid Conclusions and Decisions

Agenda Item 3: Operation and Performance of the E/CAR Aeronautical Fixed Services (AFS)

Network

- 3.1 Network Performance and General Aspects
- 3.2 E/CAR Network Interconnections and Integration
- 3.3 Global Air Navigation Plan (ANP) Elements Implementation Group

Agenda Item 4: Surveillance Sharing Activities

Agenda Item 5: Transition from E/CAR/NTG and E/CAR/RD to ECAR/CATWG CNS Committee

Agenda Item 6: Other Business

ii.7 Attendance

The Meeting was attended by seven E/CAR States/Territories, and 1 International Organization, totalling 30 delegates as indicated in the list of participants.

ii.8 Conclusions and Decisions

The Meeting recorded its activities as Conclusions and Decisions as follows:

CONCLUSIONS:

Activities requiring endorsement by the by the E/CAR Civil Aviation Technical Group (E/CAR/CATG)

DECISIONS: Internal activities of the E/CAR **NTG** and **RD**

ii.8.1 List of Conclusions/Decisions

Number	Title					
E/CAR/NTG/13 -	Update information of the Aeronautical Frequencies operating in ECAR					
E/CAR/RD/11 - 1	States					
E/CAR/NTG/13 -	Analysis to integrate Trinidad and Tobago into CANSNET	3-3				
E/CAR/RD/11 - 2	communications network					
E/CAR/NTG/13 -	Updating the CNS Infrastructure Information of ECAR States					
E/CAR/RD/11 - 3						

ii.9 List of Working and Information Papers and Presentations

WORKING PAPERS						
Number	Agenda Item	Date	Prepared and Presented by			
WP/01	1	Approval of the Agenda, Working Method, and Schedule of the Meetings	18/10/24	Secretariat		
WP/02	2.1	Follow-up on E/CAR/NTG and E/CAR/RD's Valid Conclusions and Decisions	18/10/24	ECAR/NTG and RD Rapporteur		
WP/03	3	NACC FREQ TF Update	18/10/24	Secretariat		
WP/04	3	ECAR network performance	18/10/24	ECCAA		
WP/05	3.1	Network Performances and General Aspects	18/10/24	France		
WP/06	3.2	Interconnection between CANSNET and ECAR	18/10/24	Secretariat		
WP/07	4	Modernization of the FWI ATM system	18/10/24	France		
WP/08	4	Update on the Antigua and Barbuda ATM and Surveillance System	18/10/24	Antigua and Barbuda		
WP/09	4	Update on the Automatic Dependent Surveillance – Broadcast (ADS-B)/Multilateration (MLAT), Aeronautical Fixed Services (AFS) And Aeronautical Mobile Services (AMS) Very High Frequency (VHF) Communication Network Projects in the PIARCO FIR	18/10/24	Trinidad and Tobago		

INFORMATION PAPERS					
Number Agenda Item		r - IITIP		Prepared and Presented by	
IP/01	1	List of working and information papers	18/10/24	Secretariat	
IP/02	3.2	Progress on CANSNET and interconnection to the E/CAR network	18/10/24	United States	

E/CAR/NTG/13 & E/CAR/RD/11 Historical

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	Information Papers						
Number	Agenda Item	Title	Date	Prepared and Presented by			
IP/03	3.3	Proposed voice interconnection between FAA and REDDIG	18/10/24	United States			

Refer to the Meeting web page:

https://www.icao.int/NACC/Pages/meetings-2024-ecarntg13.aspx

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

- 1. Audrey Davis
- 2. Kelly-Anne Andrew
- 3. Lorne Salmon
- 4. Alando George Michael
- 5. Natasha Mussington
- 6. Shenneth Phillips

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- 7. Donna Archer
- 8. Jackie Crichlow
- 9. Neil Andre Sarjeant
- 10. Richard Odle

ECCAA

- 11. Eloise Silston
- 12. Luana Isaac
- 13. Richard Cox
- 14. Trevor Davis

GRENADA

- 15. Cecil Kim Angelique Mitchell
- 16. Edgar Stephen

SAINT LUCIA

- 17. Lynden Heath Leonce
- 18. Ricardo Fabian Charles

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

19. James Ollivierre

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

- 20. Ashley Lalman
- 21. Ian Raphael Gomez
- 22. Naresh Seeparsad
- 23. Neil Ali
- 24. Rohan Garib
- 25. Salima Mohamdally

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- 26. Jorge Chades
- 27. Rudolph Lawrence
- 28. Vincent Mcmenamy
- 29. Al O'Neill
- 30. John Fullerton

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- 31. Mayda Ávila
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Agenda Item 1 Approval of the Agenda, Working Method, and Schedule of the Meetings

1.1 Under WP/01, the Chairperson invited the Meeting to approve the provisional agenda and schedule. The working method was done as Meeting Plenary. The Meeting approved the agenda and the schedule as presented in the historical section of this report.

Agenda Item 2 Review of E/CAR/NTG and E/CAR/RD and Other Meetings Valid Conclusions

2.1 Follow-up on E/CAR/NTG and E/CAR/RD's Valid Conclusions and Decisions

- 2.1.1 Under WP/02 ECAR/NTG and RD Rapporteur summarized the follow-up on decisions and action plans from the Twelfth Eastern Caribbean Network Technical Group (E/CAR/NTG/12) and Tenth Eastern Caribbean Radar Data Sharing Ad hoc Group (E/CAR/RD/10) meetings.
- 2.1.2 From the review made by the Meeting, two conclusions/decisions were considered completed, and the two remaining ones are valid as detailed in the **Appendix** to this report.
- 2.1.3 This review results from the most relevant updates to the work of the RD/NTG:
 - 1. **Network Maintenance**: Enhanced reporting and monitoring mechanisms for network issues are being implemented to improve service quality and safety.
 - Regional Surveillance Data Project: An Ad hoc Group was formed to develop a project proposal
 for regional surveillance data sharing, aimed at supporting air navigation advancements with
 Automatic dependent surveillance-broadcast (ADS-B) and Multilateration (MLAT) installations
 across the subregion.
 - 3. **Communication Improvements**: Updated points of contact and a revised distribution list ensure that ICAO event information reaches all relevant stakeholders in the Eastern Caribbean.
 - 4. **Infrastructure Upgrades**: Trinidad and Tobago has commenced upgrading the Aeronautical Fixed Services (AFS) network and is progressing with ADS-B and very high frequency (VHF) system upgrades, targeting completion between 2024 and 2025.
 - 2.2 Follow-up on North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group (NACC/WG), North American, NACC/WG/FREQ Task Force, NACC/WG/COMM/40 meetings Valid Conclusions and Decisions
- 2.2.1 This Agenda Item was discussed in the Eighth Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Technical Group meeting (E/CAR/CATG/8) under agenda 5: Other Business, and is reflected in the E/CAR/CATG/8 report.

Agenda Item 3 Operation and Performance of the E/CAR Aeronautical Fixed Services (AFS) Network

3.1 Network Performance and General Aspects

- 3.1.1 Under WP/03, the Secretariat summarized the activities and action plan of the North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group (NACC/WG) Frequencies Task Force (NACC/WG/FREQ) to protect and manage aeronautical frequencies in the Caribbean and surrounding regions. Key points included:
 - a) **Task Force Goals**: Update frequency assignments, establish procedures, provide training, and prepare for the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-27) to secure aviation spectrum needs.
 - b) **Collaboration and Preparation**: States were encouraged to coordinate with national spectrum authorities to strengthen aviation's presence at WRC-27 and ensure safe, interference-free spectrum allocation.
 - c) **Challenges**: The Frequency Finder tool, while valuable, has limitations. A study for improved software to manage aeronautical frequencies was recommended, along with training for its use.
 - d) Ad Hoc Group Proposal: The NACC/WG/FREQ TF proposed creating an Ad hoc Group to assess the impact of ICAO Annex 10 Vol. VI on Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems.
- 3.1.2 The document urged regional integration into the TF's action plan and updated frequency listings to meet evolving requirements.
- 3.1.2 According to the discussion, the following conclusion was formulated:

CONCLUS E/CAR/N	SION TG/13 - E/CAR/RD/11 - 1	UPDATE INFORMATION OF THE AERONAUTICAL FREQUENCIES OPERATING IN THE E/CAR STATES			
What:					Expected impact:
That, the Eastern Caribbean States update the list of operating frequencies in each of their States by 30 January 2025 and provide this list to the NACC Regional Office.		 □ Political / Global □ Inter-regional ⋈ Economic □ Environmental ⋈ Operational/Technical 			
Why:					
Becaus date.	Because the assignment of regional frequencies requires the States to keep this information up to date.				
When:	30 June 2025		Status:	⊠ Valid	/ □ Superseded / □ Completed
Who:	☐ States ☐ ICAO ☐ Other ☐ Other ☐ ICAO ☐ Other ☐	er:	E/CAR St	ates	

- 3.1.3 Under WP/04, ECCAA provided an evaluation of the E/CAR AFS Network's performance in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) States/Territories, including Anguilla and Montserrat, over the past year. Key findings included:
 - a) **Performance Issues**: The network faced challenges in availability, reliability, and stability, with some airports experiencing prolonged outages, notably Maurice Bishop, Hewanorra, George Charles, and Osborne, due to equipment and circuit failures.
 - b) **Infrastructure Updates**: New node equipment is available at the affected airports, awaiting installation. Additionally, new Air Traffic Management (ATM) systems have been installed at Maurice Bishop and V.C. Bird airports, with plans to integrate them into the network.
- 3.1.4 ECCAA suggested analyzing failure reports for further improvement, taking appropriate actions based on these insights and reporting them to the next NTG/RD meeting.
- 3.1.5 Under WP/05, France outlined the status and improvement opportunities for the E/CAR/AFS network in French West Indies, focusing on Martinique and Guadeloupe. Key points included:
 - a) **Network Performance:** The E/CAR network meets operational needs with a dual connection setup for redundancy. However, intermittent issues with phone line availability and router resets are noted, particularly affecting Guadeloupe, where configuration adjustments have resolved some issues.
 - b) **Maintenance and Equipment:** Routine maintenance on E/CAR routers ceased in 2020, the need to resume these checks to ensure reliability was highlighted.
 - c) Future Upgrades: Planned upgrades in Martinique and Guadeloupe will begin in 2025, that will include new equipment and performance indicators to provide a more detailed overview of service availability.
- 3.1.6 France recommended resuming maintenance, improving router reset times, addressing telephony issues, and implementing performance indicators to improve monitoring and communication across the network. The Meeting took note of these recommendations.

3.2 E/CAR Network Interconnections and Integration

- 3.2.1 Under WP/06, the Secretariat outlined a proposal to interconnect the new Caribbean Air Navigation Services Network (CANSNET) with the Eastern Caribbean (E/CAR) telecommunications network. Key points include:
 - a) **Network Interconnection:** The proposed connection aims to enhance regional communication, availability, and security, using an automatic ring-down system connecting Sint Maarten with San Juan, Puerto Rico, and the E/CAR network.
 - b) **Cost Allocation:** CANSNET States will cover interconnection costs, while the E/CAR Network is expected to fund equipment.
 - c) **Next Steps:** An action plan and technical requirements are to be developed by 15 January 2024, with the goal of finalizing the connection proposal by February 2025

- 3.2.2 The Meeting approved these key points: (interconnection, establishment of an Ad hoc Group, and outline the technical requirements needed) as listed under paragraph 3.2.1
- 3.2.3 Under IP/02, United States updated the CANSNET, which is planned to replace the MEVA III telecommunications network. Key points included:
 - a) Network Replacement Goals: CANSNET will address increasing demands for Internet Protocol (IP) based communication to support automation, redundancy, and high bandwidth needs across the Caribbean.
 - b) **Development and Approval Process**: An Ad hoc Group established the network's technical and evaluation criteria, with Frequentis selected as the project provider. A proposed extension of the MEVA III contract until March 2026 allows time for CANSNET's full implementation.
 - c) Interconnections and Future Plans: CANSNET will interconnect with the South American REDDIG telecommunications network, potentially connecting to the E/CAR Network in Puerto Rico.
 - d) **Next Steps**: Member States must finalize and sign individual CANSNET contracts by 15 December 2024.
- 3.2.4 The Meeting identified the need to find mechanisms to help improve and establish backups for E/CAR communications, recognizing that the local telecommunication provider is a monopoly, which hinders continuous improvement. Based on previous discussions, and seeking ways to improve CAR communications, the States made the following conclusion:

CONCLUSION ANALYSIS TO INTEGRATE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND OTHER E/CAR/NTG/13 - E/CAR/RD/11 - 2 E/CAR/NTG MEMBERS INTO CANSNET COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK					
What:	Expected impact:				
That, the communication network provide and costs for Trinidad and Tobago or any or so requires to join the CANSNET communication in Eastern Caribbean by 30 January 2025.	ther E/CAR State that ⊠ Inter-regional whication network in ⊠ Economic				
Why: To maintain a strong communication infrastructure is important to ensure safety.					
When: 30 January 2025.	Status: ⊠ Valid / □ Superseded / □ Completed				
Status. So January 2023.					
Who: ☐ States ☐ ICAO ☒ Other:	Communication network provider				

3.3 Global Air Navigation Plan (ANP) Elements Implementation Group

- 3.3.1 Under IP/03, United States informed on their proposed voice interconnection between the FAA and the South American REDDIG network to replace the existing MEVA III link, set to expire in March 2025. Key points included:
 - a) Current Connection: United States uses two MEVA III satellite voice circuits from San Juan (CERAP) to Maiquetía, Venezuela, to support communication along the Flight Information Region (FIR) boundary.
 - b) **Replacement Plan**: With MEVA III's contract ending, the plan is to establish a CANSNET-REDDIG interface to maintain data and voice connections.
 - c) **Direct Connection as Backup**: To prevent delays in the CANSNET-REDDIG setup, United States is implementing a direct connection from San Juan to REDDIG to establish Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) links with Maiquetía.
- 3.3.2 This initiative seeks to ensure a seamless transition and enhance communication efficiency between United States and South America. The Meeting took note of this initiative

Agenda Item 4 Surveillance Sharing Activities

- 4.1 Under WP/07, France outlined the modernization of the French West Indies (FWI) ATM system, which includes replacing the current IRMA and SIGMA systems with ADACEL's Aurora system under the SEAFLIGHT project. Key points included:
 - a) **System Upgrade**: Martinique will operate the new system in 2024 and Guadeloupe in 2026. It features electronic flight strips and enhances automatic coordination capabilities.
 - b) **New Data Format**: By 2025, FWI radar data will shift to UDP/IP format, discontinuing the older MAC LLC format and affecting the IRMA systems in other E/CAR islands that rely on MAC LLC.
 - c) Automatic Coordination: Air Traffic Services Inter-facility Data Communication (AIDC) with nearby Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs) such as Barbados, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago and will be available starting in 2025.
- 4.2 France suggested considering the end of the IRMA and MAC LLC format, adopting the UDP/IP format, exploring AIDC with FWI, and updating the 2018 radar data agreement between Trinidad and Tobago Civil Aviation Authority (TTCAA) and SNA AG (France). The Meeting took note of further actions as needed.
- 4.3 Under WP/08, Antigua and Barbuda provided information about the ATM and surveillance system at V.C. Bird International Airport. Key points included:
 - a) **Project Milestones**: The installation of hardware and initial configurations was completed in April 2023, followed by technical and pre-Air Traffic Control (ATC) training in August 2023 and site acceptance tests in early September 2023.
 - b) Pending Connection: The ATM system's connection to the E/CAR Aeronautical Fixed Services (AFS) network for Air Traffic System (ATS) message exchange is awaiting completion by service providers.
 - c) Future Training: ATC training is scheduled to begin in December 2024.
- 4.4 The Meeting was encouraged to note the projected progress and to consider any additional necessary actions.
- 4.5 Under WP/09, Trinidad and Tobago provided an update on the Communication, Navigation, and Surveillance (CNS) projects by TTCAA in the Piarco Flight Information Region (FIR). Key points include:
 - a) ADS-B/MLAT Installation: The phased installation of ADS-B and MLAT systems across Antigua, Barbados, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago aims at being completed by September 2025, enhancing surveillance in regions where radar installation is challenging.
 - b) **AFS Network Upgrades**: The new AFS network installation began in May 2024, and the first node in Tobago was successfully tested. A revised plan for E/CAR States addressed delays due to IP circuit installations.

- c) VHF/AMS System Upgrades: The VHF/AMS upgrade is in two phases, converting circuits from analogue to IP and procuring new IP-compatible VHF radios, pending final approval.
- 4.6 Trinidad and Tobago informed on their progress, reviewing activities, and considering any further required actions.
- 4.7 The Meeting indicated the need to have information on the infrastructure and coverage of surveillance and air navigation data. As such, the Secretariat indicated that a project proposal is underway under the Multi-Regional Civil Aviation Assistance Programme (MCAAP) to ensure that air navigation information is available from all CAR States and to develop a Concept of Operations (CONOPS) based on this.
- 4.8 The Meeting made the following conclusion:

CONCLUSION					
E/CAR/NTG/13 - E/CAR/RD/11 - 3 UPDATE	TO E/CAR STATES CNS INFRASTRUCTURE				
INFORMATI	ON				
What:	Expected impact:				
That, the E/CAR/NTG and E/CAR/RD pres	ent at the next Political / Global				
E/CAR/CATWG meeting the status and inforn	nation of the ANS				
infrastructure to consider the strengths and v					
subregion and to identify short and	d medium-term 🛘 🗆 Environmental				
implementation needs.	☐ Operational/Technical				
	, , ,				
Why:					
Because it is important to have this information to support decision-making.					
When: Next ECAR/CATWG meeting 2025	Status: ⊠ Valid / ☐ Superseded / ☐ Completed				
Who: ⊠ States □ ICAO □ Other:	E/CAT/NTG and E/CAR/RD Task forces.				

Agenda Item 5 Transition from E/CAR/NTG and E/CAR/RD to ECAR/CATWG CNS Committee

5.1 After discussion, the Meeting indicated that the Groups would continue working as at present, due to the importance of their work for the needs of the E/CAR/CATG. However, it was agreed that the E/CAR/NTG and E/CAR/RD are part of the E/CAR/CATG and therefore they report to the NACC/WG Communications, Navigations and Surveillance (CNS) Task Force.

Agenda Item 6 Other Business

No other business was discussed during the meeting.

APPENDIX

Number	Draft Conclusions	What	When	Who	Status
E/CAR/NTG/12- E/CAR/RD/09/01	IMPROVE MAINTENANCE AND PERFORMANCE PROCESS IN THE ECAR COMMUNICATION NETWORK	That, as the quality of service provided to network users has decreased, causing a degradation of service that directly contributes to operational safety, Trinidad and Tobago: a) report all faults on TopDesk / CNS email (cnshelpdesk@caa.gov.tt)/ECAR	February 28th 2025	Trinidad and Tobago	Valid
		phone (1-868-724-6856) and communicate them to the TTCAA for resolution, b) coordinate with the network provider to improve service to users, c) implement improved fault monitoring and troubleshooting, and d) to perform a better control of the service provided by the supplier.			
E/CAR/NTG/12- E/CAR/RD/09/02	CREATION OF AN AD-HOC GROUP RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVELOPING A PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR A REGIONAL COVERAGE OF SURVEILLANCE DATA	That, a regional Ad hoc Group project, within the E/CAR NTG and RD group, be created to assess the elements in the implementation plan of the ADS-B/CNS initiatives on air navigation in the E/CAR, to help providing information on the current and future systems with	30 June 2025	E/CAR/States, NACC/WG/SURV and ICAO ECCAA Trevor Davis and Richard Fox	Valid

Number	Draft Conclusions	What	When	Who	Status
		technical and operational recommendations for the State's implementation development of a regional ADS-B project proposed for E/CAR. a) and to make aware the DCAs in the subregion of the concept of a regional project for future implementation by 30 June 2025.		Saint Lucia Lyden Leonce France (Martinique) Frederic Danloux, Francis Preux, Jacques Mainville and Katia Kergourlay Trinidad and Tobago Naresh Seeparsad United States Alejandro Rodriguez (proposed)	
E/CAR/NTG/12- E/CAR/RD/09/03	NEW E/CAR/NTG AND ECAR/RD RAPPORTEUR	That, due to the retirement of Mrs. Veronica Ramdath, the Meeting approved Mr. Steve Saroop as the new rapporteur of the E/CAR/ NTG and ECAR/RD.	,	Eastern Caribbean States	Completed
E/CAR/NTG/12- E/CAR/RD/09/04	IMPROVEMENT OF COMMUNICATION MECHANISM CONCERNING ICAO EVENT INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION TO	That, as the technical and operational points of contact, do not receive information on ICAO events, documents, and important meetings in which the Eastern Caribbean States need to participate:	2024	Eastern Caribbean States	Completed

Number	Draft Conclusions	What	When	Who	Status
	THE PoC OF THE E/CAR				
	STATES	a) each Eastern Caribbean State will			
		send			
		the information of the Official			
		Point of			
		Contact to ICAO by 29 February			
		2024; b) ICAO update the			
		communication			
		distribution list of the E/CAR			
		States.			