International Civil Aviation Organization
North American, Central American and Caribbean Office

WORKING PAPER

Ninth North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group Meeting (NACC/WG/09)
Mexico City, Mexico, 30 September to 04 October 2024

Agenda Item 4:   Follow-up to the NACC/WG 2023-2024 work plan

FOLLOW-UP ON CONCLUSIONS, DECISIONS AND ACTION PLAN OF PREVIOUS E/CAR/NTG/12 - E/CAR/RD/10 MEETINGS

(Presented by the E/CAR/NTG Rapporteur)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
This working paper will allow the evaluation of the conclusions, decisions and action plan of the E/CAR/NTG/12 and E/CAR/RD/10 Meetings.	
Action:	Suggested actions are presented in Section 3.
Strategic Objectives:	• Safety • Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency • Economic Development of Air Transport • Environmental Protection
References:	• E/CAR/NTG/12 - E/CAR/RD/10 Meetings, Miami, United States, 24 – 25th July 2023.

1.   Introduction

1.1   During 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, there were numerous discussions, which led to several decisions and conclusions being made. Accordingly, this working paper is intended to provide recommendations for pending actions by the Group and to update its status during the present NACC/WG/meeting.

1.2   Status of the decisions and conclusions reached were as follows:

Decisions and Conclusions

Number	Title	Status
ECARNTG12-ECARRD10/01	Improve maintenance and performance processes in the ECAR communication network.	Valid

Number	Title	Status
ECARNTG12–ECARRD10/02	Creation of an ad-hoc group responsible for developing a project proposal for regional coverage of surveillance data.	Valid
ECARNTG12–ECARRD10/03	New ECAR NTG and ECAR Rd rapporteur.	Completed
ECARNTG12–ECARRD10/04	Improvement of communication mechanism concerning ICAO event information and documentation of the PoC of the ECAR States.	Valid

2.   Discussion

2.1   The upcoming meeting will review and follow-up on the conclusions, decisions and action plan of the E/CAR/NTG/12 and E/CAR/RD/10 meetings, providing updates on the upgrade of the E/CAR/AFS Network and Piarco ADSB/MLAT Projects. Of the four (4) conclusions reviewed, one (1) is completed and three (3) remain valid with ongoing activities.

2.2   The decisions and conclusions reached were as follows:

2.2.1   Conclusion ECARNTG12-ECARRD10/01 *IMPROVE MAINTENANCE AND PERFORMANCE PROCESS IN THE ECAR COMMUNICATION NETWORK*

2.2.1.1   That, as the quality of service provided to network users has decreased, causing a degradation of service that directly contributes to operational safety, the following were agreed to:

a)   ECAR TMAs to report all faults on TopDesk/CNS email/ECAR phone and communicate them to the TTCAA for resolution,
b)   Trinidad and Tobago to coordinate with the network provider to improve service to users, the implementation of an improved fault monitoring and troubleshooting system,
c)   Trinidad and Tobago to increase the vigilance of the service provided by the supplier.

Number	Title	Status
ECARNTG12–ECARRD10/01	Improve maintenance and performance process in the ECAR communication network.	Valid

2.2.2   Conclusion ECARNTG12-ECARRD10/02 *CREATION OF AN AD-HOC GROUP RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVELOPING A PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR A REGIONAL COVERAGE OF SURVEILLANCE DATA*

2.2.2.1   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 technical and operational recommendations for the State's implementation development of a regional ADS-B project proposed for E/CAR.

a) to inform the DCAs in the subregion of the concept of a regional project for future implementation by 30 June 2024.

Number	Title	Status
ECARNTG12–ECARRD10/02	Creation of an ad-hoc group responsible for developing a project proposal for a regional coverage of surveillance data.	Valid

2.2.3   **Conclusion ECARNTG12-ECARRD10/03** *NEW E/CAR/NTG AND ECAR/RD RAPPORTEUR*

2.2.3.1   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.

Number	Title	Status
ECARNTG12–ECARRD10/03	New ECAR NTG and ECAR RD rapporteur.	Completed

2.2.4   **Conclusion ECARNTG12-ECARRD10/04** *IMPROVEMENT OF COMMUNICATION MECHANISM CONCERNING ICAO EVENT INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION TO THE PoC OF THE E/CAR STATES*

2.2.4.1   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:

a) each Eastern Caribbean State will send the information of the Official Point of Contact to ICAO by 29 February 2024;
b) b) ICAO update the communication distribution list of the ECAR States.

Number	Title	Status
ECARNTG12–ECARRD10/04	Improvement of communication mechanism concerning ICAO event information and documentation of the PoC of the ECAR States.	Completed

2.3   To support the regional action plans, the following approval is required for implementation:

a) all fault reports to be reported on a combination of TopDesk, TTCAA email cnshelpdesk@caa.gov.tt, and TTCAA's cell phone with WhatsApp capabilities;
b) to approve and support the persons identified for the regional task force of the ad-hoc group responsible for developing the ADS-B project proposal for regional coverage of surveillance data;
c) to update the current Point of Contacts list for each ECAR State both strategically (management and engineers) and operationally (supervisors and technicians) to resolve issues directly with management and operational staff;

d) to support the activities with the necessary resources, the implementation of work plans and to achieve the goals and objectives the regional group has set out; and

e) to approve the members of the ad-hoc group responsible for developing a project proposal for a regional coverage of surveillance data.

2.4   Updates on the Trinidad and Tobago Civil Aviation Authority's projects are as follows;

2.4.1   Aeronautical Fixed Services (AFS) Network Upgrade

2.4.1.1   The Aeronautical Fixed Services (AFS) Network installation commenced in May 2024. The network is Internet Protocol (IP) circuits and was upgraded to accommodate the new technologies offered by the manufacturer CISCO.

2.4.1.2   The installation of the first node was in Tobago. It was successfully implemented and tested over a three (3) month period. The project implementation plan for the installation of the other nodes throughout the ECAR States will be submitted to the States after it has been approved. The original plan was revised due to the delay of the IP circuits being installed by international telecommunications providers.

2.4.2   Automatic Dependent Surveillance – Broadcast and Wide Area Multi-lateration (ADS-B/WAM)

2.4.2.1   The installation of the Automatic Dependent Surveillance–Broadcast/ Multi-lateration (ADSB/MLAT) System within the Piarco FIR has commenced. Its scheduled to be completed in two (2) phases. In the first phase, the ADS-B/WAM System has been installed at two (2) of the six (6) sites in Trinidad, namely the Piarco Area Control Center (ACC) and the Piarco Tower. It is expected that the remaining sites of the first phase in Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago will be completed by December 2024.

2.4.2.2   The installation of the equipment for the second phase (Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Lucia) is expected to be completed by the second quarter of 2025 with the final testing, validation, and integration of all the sites to provide the surveillance coverage over the continental airspace.

2.4.2.3   The Surveillance Concept for the Piarco FIR will include the provision of ADS-B services to augment the existing Secondary surveillance radar (SSR) source of surveillance. The Piarco ACC shall be a repository for all the ADS-B/WAM data processing, where the data will be integrated into the Piarco ATM System and the Multi Radar Tracker (MRT). The combined data from all available surveillance sources will be available over the E/CAR AFS Network for distribution to the E/CAR States.

2.4.3   Very High Frequency/Aeronautical Mobile Services (VHF/AMS)

2.4.3.1   The upgrade of the VHF/AMS system has been scheduled to be completed in two (2) phases. Phase one (1) is the conversion of the communication link circuits from analogue to Internet Protocol (IP) with Phase two (2) being the procurement of a new VHF system.

2.4.3.2   Phase 1 is scheduled to be completed in October 2024 with Phase 2 of the project being finalized for final approval.

3. **Suggested actions**

3.1   The Meeting is invited to:

a) note the activities and progress of the E/CAR/NTG and E/CAR/RD groups;
b) review and update the information on the pending decisions and conclusions resulting from the previous meeting, mentioned in paragraph 1.2 of this working paper;
c) integrate the necessary activities into the ECAR NTG work and action plans according to the conclusions and decisions; and
d) agree to any other actions as deemed appropriate.

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