

AIRSPACE OPTIMIZATION TASK FORCE

Terms of Reference

1. Background

During the first ANI/WG meeting, a PBN Implementation Task Force was formed in order to streamline related air navigation implementation activities. This Task Force shall carry out specific studies to support Performance-Based Navigation (PBN) implementation in the NAM/CAR Regions in accordance with the NAM/CAR RPBANIP, as well as update and report progress to the ANI/WG based on the action plan for these tasks. During the Fourth ANI/WG meeting, a decision was taken to amend the Terms of Reference with the objective of increasing the effectiveness of the PBN Taskforce.

Subsequently, and following discussions held at the ANI/WG/5 meeting, Task Force Members considered that the scope of the activities undertaken should be expanded to cover the broader concept of airspace optimization. While the implementation of PBN remains a high priority, the taskforce will also pay attention to additional airspace considerations that contribute to the development of ASBU concepts such as improved operations through enhanced en-route trajectories (FRTO). Therefore, it was decided to change the name of the taskforce to Airspace Optimization Taskforce.

CIFRA (CADENA IATA Free Route Airspace) was established in February 2021 with CADENA and IATA working on route optimization. ICAO began an airspace optimization project in the July of 2021 and in September of 2021 the groups combined to create CIIFRA (CANSO IATA ICAO Free Route Airspace). As a part of the taskforce, CIIFRA will be working specifically on airspace optimization. The goal of this optimization is working towards regional Free Route Airspace.

2. Responsibilities

2.1 The Task Force is responsible for:

- a) Developing and implementing a Work Program, utilizing a performance based approach, to support the implementation of Free Route Airspace/airspace optimization and PBN implementation in the NAM/CAR Regions according with the GREPECAS eANP Vol III.
- b) In collaboration with the SAM region, develop a regional Free Route Airspace concept.
- c) Continued refinement and ongoing review of the NAM/CAR PBN Implementation Plan, monitoring, and reporting on its application in the Regions.
- d) Comply with and provide regional support for the completion of the GREPECAS Projects and related tasks.
- e) Propose to the NACC WG updates to the GREPECAS eANP Vol III related projects as required.

- f) Assisting States with the development of their airspace optimization plans, based on the PBN airspace concept and other related ASBU Modules, periodically monitor their progress and report to the NACC WG.
- g) Carrying out specific studies, developing guidance material and organizing workshops and seminars to assist States with Area Navigation/Required Navigation Performance (RNAV/RNP) implementation in the en-route, terminal, and approach flight phases, taking into account the Free Route Airspace concept according to the ICAO Strategic Objectives and Global Plan Initiatives (GPIs).
- h) Identifying deficiencies and constraints regarding airspace optimization and PBN implementation, and propose solutions that would facilitate resolution of such problems.
- i) The Task Force Rapporteur would be appointed through coordination between ICAO NACC Office and Member States.

2.2 Responsibilities of the members (POCs)

- a) Attend Task Force meetings and Teleconferences.
- b) Collaborate with the development and implementation of the Task Force work program.
- c) Comply with the agreed tasks and activities as assigned.
- d) Active Participation.
- e) Updating their ANSP of changes or requirements.

2.3 Responsibilities of the core members

- a) Attend Task Force meetings and Teleconferences.
- b) Assist the Secretariat and Rapporteur with the development and implementation of the Task Force work program.
- c) Complete tasks according to the work program.
- d) Coordinate directly with the POCs of the CAR Region States and provide feedback.
- e) Updating their ANSP of changes or requirements.

2.4 Responsibilities of the Rapporteur

- a) Lead the development and implementation of the Task Force Work Programme and activities.
- b) Follow up on the compliance with the GREPECAS eANP Vol III.
- c) Report to the NACC WG the compliance with the Task Force Work Programme and CAR/SAM eANP related tasks.
- d) In collaboration with the Secretariat, decide on Task Force activities, teleconferences and meetings

2.5 Responsibilities of the Secretariat

- a) The ICAO NACC ATM/SAR Regional Officer will serve as the Secretary of the Task Force.
- b) He/she is responsible to support the Task Force activities, providing guidance to the connection for the Task Force work program and the GREPECAS eANP Vol III.
- c) In coordination with the Rapporteur, develop and present to the members the annual programme of activities.
- d) In coordination with the Rapporteur, convene the Task Force activities, teleconferences and meetings.
- e) Maintain up to date the Task Force documentation, work programme and membership in the ANI/WG website information.
- f) Lead and coordinate CIIFRA activities related to taskforce objectives.

2.6 Responsibilities of the States

- a) Ensure commitment and active participation of its members, according to the role and responsibilities assigned.
- b) Provide resources (e.g. time/finances to attend meetings) to ensure that their representatives are able to contribute to the activities of the taskforce.
- c) Request accountability for the development and implementation of the Airspace Optimization work program in the NAM/CAR Region.
- d) Provide Points of Contact (POCs) to the Airspace Optimization Taskforce. The Taskforce will liaise with the POCs of each State regarding the activities of the work programme and it is expected that the POCs will then coordinate internally with the relevant persons within their organization.

2.7 Responsibilities of CIIFRA

- a) Provide leadership to move towards implementation of regional Free Route Airspace.
- b) Meet regularly to address airspace optimization requests from the carriers.
- c) Coordinate current and new activities with the taskforce.
- d) Update the taskforce on metrics surrounding optimization efforts.

3. Membership.

3.1 The Airspace Optimization Task Force consists of:

- i. Secretariat
- ii. Rapporteur
- iii. 10 core members that are subject matter experts
- iv. CIIFRA Team
- v. Points of Contact from each member states

3.2 The membership of the 10 Core members of the Taskforce should include:

- i At least one (1) representative from the following:

- a. The NAM Region
 - b. Central America Sub-region
 - c. Central Caribbean Sub-region
 - d. Eastern Caribbean Sub-region
 - e. IATA
 - f. CANSO
 - g. Airline operator
 - ii One (1) Procedure Designer
 - iii One (1) Airspace Designer
- 3.3 The taskforce may temporarily include other persons as required for specific tasks.

4. Working Methods

The Task Force will:

- a) Present its work programme containing activities in terms of objectives, responsibilities, deliverables and timelines.
- b) The Task Force Rapporteur and the Secretariat will coordinate an annual programme of activities to comply with the requirements of the approved work programme.
- c) Avoid duplicating work within the NACC WG and maintain close coordination among the existing entities to optimize use of available resources and experience.
- d) Designate, as necessary, Ad hoc Groups to work on specific topics and activities and organize clearly defined tasks and activities.
- e) Coordinate tasks to maximize efficiency and reduce costs via electronic means including emails, telephone and teleconference calls, and convene meetings as necessary.
- f) Report on and coordinate the progress of assigned tasks to the NACC WG.

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