Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the AFI Planning and Implementation Regional Group
(APIRG/24)
(Virtual – 2 to 4 November 2021)

Agenda Item 4: Other Air Navigation Initiatives
    4.1 Initiatives by States and Industry and other air navigation issues

Title: AFI Communication Strategy

(Presented by South Africa)

SUMMARY
This information paper presents a report related to the development of the AFI communication strategy and the issues relating to the development of the strategy. Action: As recommended in Par. 3

Strategic Objectives	Safety and Efficiency, Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency and Economic Development of Air Transport

1.   INTRODUCTION

1.1   During the APIRG Sub-Group on Infrastructure and Information Management (IIM / SG / 1) held in Nairobi, Kenya from 27 to 30 June 2017, the IIM SG Communication Project 3 was recommended as Communication project to assist with the implementation of Air/Ground communication aimed at ensuring Air Traffic Control within AFI region.

1.2   ICAO tasked the IIM SG Communication Project 3 with the development of AFI Communication Strategy. The IIM SG Communication Project 3 is led by South Africa, therefore, responsible for the successful delivery of the strategy.

1.3   The objective of AFI Communication strategy is to act as a link between the Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP) for ATM/CNS Systems (Doc. 9750), the Africa and Far East Indian Ocean (AFI) Air Navigation Plan and the individual states' strategy for the civil aviation communication applications.

1.4   It also describes the future evolution of the ATM communication infrastructure to support future ATM concepts and promote safety, security, interoperability and cost effectiveness of the infrastructure.

Moreover, the objective of the strategy is to ensure that there is adequate air traffic communication infrastructure that covers all the defined or determined areas within the AFI region and delegated airspace. Additionally, the strategy intends to ensure alignment in the AFI region.

2.   DISCUSSION

2.1.   Work Group

2.1.1. Since the establishment of the AFI Communication Strategy in March 2021, the AFI Communication Strategy team has met six times and the following activities have taken place:

- Project lead and team has been nominated and accepted to lead the development of the strategy.
- SWOT and PESTLE analysis are ongoing.
- Document framework in progress; and
- Current infrastructure review.

2.2.   AFI Communication Strategy

2.2.1. The AFI Communication Strategy will provide a harmonised and integrated common framework within the AFI region which will allow a cost-effective, user-centric evolution of communication systems.

2.2.2. The strategy will support all phases of flight including, en-route, terminal area, approach and landing as well as ground operations and procedures.

2.2.3. The strategy will cover the following topics at a minimum to ensure that it meets the intended objectives as discussed in the introduction:
- SWOT and PESTLE analysis
- Need and Gap Analysis;
- Current Communication Environment; and
- Future Air Communication Environment.

2.2.4. The SWOT analysis help identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats related to communication infrastructure. The PESTLE analysis will be incorporated as a strategic framework to evaluate the external environment of the AFI region by assessing the opportunities and risks due to the following factors:
- Political;
- Economic;
- Social;
- Technological;
- Environmental; and
- Legal factors.

2.2.5. The completion of the SWOT and PESTLE analysis will inform the operational needs and gaps in all phases of flight (terminal area, en-route and oceanic). Furthermore, this analysis will describe the technological needs in these areas.

2.2.6. A questionnaire has been sent out to the AFI states. The intention of the questionnaire is to determine the current communication environment. This questionnaire will inform a comprehensive SWOT and PESTLE analysis. At this stage only Seychelles, Ghana, SA, Kenya, Botswana, Togo and Cote d'ivoire have responded.

2.2.7. The future air communication environment will look at the ICAO plans in relation to the

AFI region.

2.3.   Conclusion

2.3.1.   The AFI Communication Strategy will be ensure the alignment between the AFI states and alignment with the ICAO and AFI Plan.

2.3.2.   To successfully develop the AFI Communication Strategy it is crucial that all the AFI states come together and contribute towards the strategy. This can be through, completion of the communication questionnaire, partaking in activities (e.g. document reviews) and meetings related to the development of the strategy.

3   ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1   The meeting is invited to take note of the information presented herein and encourage states to respond to the questionnaires.