



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

**AFI PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION REGIONAL GROUP
EIGHTEENTH MEETING (APIRG/18)
Kampala, Uganda (27 – 30 March 2012)**

Agenda Item 3.6: Aeronautical Meteorology

**SAFE SKIES FOR AFRICA TRAINING INITIATIVE IN AERONAUTICAL
METEOROLOGY**

(Presented by Secretariat)

SUMMARY
This paper outlines the initiative by Safe Skies for Africa (SSFA) programme in conjunction with Cooperative Programme for Operational Meteorology (COMET), both are programmes of the United States of America, aimed at providing customized distance learning curriculum for aeronautical meteorology training to interested AFI States
REFERENCE(S): -APIRG/17 Report
Related ICAO Strategic Objective(s): A,C

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Africa, a continent revitalized by change, is striving to become a full partner in the emerging global economy. Indications are that the African economy is becoming robust and energetic. In order to maintain this momentum and to be more integrated in the world economy, safe, secure and dependable air transportation is vital as it is a major driver in the economic development and well-being of any State or region including Africa. Equally important is the need to develop partnership and trade relationship with other regions and States. The United States of America has expressed willingness for such partnership.

1.2 The Safe Skies for Africa (SSFA) Program was formally announced by the United States in 1998. Its goals are to improve safety, security, and air navigation in sub-Saharan Africa. The Program facilitates increased trade, helps attract investment and supports a growing tourism industry. Whereas the Cooperative Programme for Operational Meteorology, Education and

Training (COMET), launched more than twenty years ago, was originally envisioned as a broad effort to effect meteorology education and training in the United States. However, the programme has recently been involved in activities to enhance meteorology education in universities and meteorological services throughout the world. It has been producing quality education material since 1989.

1.3 The two programmes, i.e. SSFA and COMET are teaming up to develop a comprehensive plan for training African aeronautical meteorological personnel in operational meteorology. This is a multi-year, multi-phase project that will provide free of charge a customized aeronautical meteorology distance-learning curriculum available to any Sub-Saharan African Aeronautical Meteorological services that are interested, and it will be available in both English and French. It is intended that the curriculum be delivered in various forms (Internet streaming or download, DVD, even via Smartphone).

1.4 States that could benefit from this assistance will have to be identified and the appropriate type of training specified. In this respect, ICAO in collaboration with SSFA, could provide assistance as required.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The need for adequate and highly trained meteorological personnel for efficient management of AFI aeronautical meteorological services has been emphasized in many APIRG meetings.

2.2 It will be recalled that APIRG/17 formulated conclusion 17/102 on the training of meteorological personnel for the implementation of Quality Management Systems and issuance of SIGMETs calling for high priority to be given to;

- a) Training of selected aeronautical MET personnel as trainers in Quality Management Systems (QMS)
- b) Meteorological Watch Offices (MWO) personnel to be provided with additional training in the preparation and issuance of SIGMETs.

2.3 It will be further recalled that one of the objectives of the CODEVMET WACAF Project, initially intended for Western and Central African Office (WACAF) States but later extended to include all interested AFI States, is to ensure that adequate number of suitably qualified and trained meteorological personnel are available in the participating States. They should also be provided with means to sustain and enhance their professional qualifications through recurrent and specialized training courses, workshops etc. Also, assisting States in developing Quality Management Systems in support of Safety Management Systems (SMS) for the provision of aeronautical meteorological services.

2.4 In view of the foregoing, the efforts of APIRG in training of MET personnel could be complemented with the SSFA initiative.

2.5 Considering that the delivery method, once the project is developed, will be by way of long distance learning through DVD or Internet, the financial implications to participating States will be minimal. Undoubtedly, it will be of much assistance in meeting some of the region's training needs that can contribute to safety enhancement. It will also mark the beginning of long term collaboration with the concerned partners. States should therefore be urged to take advantage of this initiative. The meeting may then wish to formulate the following conclusion:

DRAFT CONCLUSION 18/XX: STATES PARTICIPATION IN THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAMME FOR OPERATIONAL METEOROLOGY (COMET) THROUGH SAFE SKIES FOR AFRICA (SSFA) PROGRAMME

That:

States requiring aeronautical meteorology training material from SSFA in collaboration with COMET should contact the ICAO Regional Offices.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information in this working paper; and
- b) decide on the draft conclusion proposed for the group's consideration.

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