INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

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

Agenda Item 4.1: Review and update of the list of deficiencies in the Air Navigation Fields

EN-ROUTE AERONAUTICAL MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS IN AFI REGION SURVEY 2012

(Presented by IATA)

SUMMARY
This working paper provides the meeting with the preliminary results of the en-route Aeronautical Mobile Communications survey conducted by IATA in AFI Region between the 16th January and 5th of February 2012.   14 IATA member airlines and several States participated in the survey and provided data collected in 32 ATS units. In addition, 7 Airlines provided CPDLC data covering 17 ATS units, most of which have implemented ADS-C/CPDLC in their airspace.   In view of this, a preliminary report of the survey is presented to APIRG18 for consideration. IATA requests the meeting to recommend that States take decisive action to improve VHF and HF communications where deficiency has been noted. Also where both VHF and HF have been found wanting, ADS-C/CPDLC should be considered.
REFRENCE(S):   APIRG/16 Conclusion 16/21
Related ICAO Strategic Objective(s):

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1.   In 2007, APIRG/16 noted that AFI/7 Rec. 5/12 requires that VHF coverage is required along all ATS routes, and that remote VHF stations should be used where necessary. The meeting welcomed regional initiatives aimed at implementing, maintaining and monitoring remote VHF stations throughout the AFI Region, including VHF surveys.

1.2.   APIRG/16 also resolved, in conclusion 16/19, that that AFI States and Air Navigation Service Providers cooperate in addressing all aspects related to the implementation of VHF coverage facilities at FIR/airspace boundaries, including regulatory, environmental and

maintenance aspects, in compliance with AFI/7 Recommendation 5/12c and APIRG Conclusion 12/16.

1.3.   APIRG/16 resolved, in Decision 16/20, that the ICAO Regional Offices (Dakar and Nairobi) coordinate the conduct of regional surveys on AMS/VHF coverage by States and Organizations in order to ascertain that VHF frequencies are free of harmful interference and to initiate remedial action with States concerned as necessary.

1.4.   APIRG/16 meeting, paragraph 4.2.13, recognized the need for retaining reliable HF voice communications facilities, taking into consideration the impossibility to ensure total VHF coverage in some areas such as oceanic areas and remote continental areas.

1.5.   APIRG/16 Conclusion 16/21 states that States cooperate and provide their support to VHF coverage surveys to be carried out by IATA in the AFI Region, initially every 18 months.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1   This working paper provides the meeting with the results of the en-route Aeronautical Mobile Communications survey conducted by IATA in AFI Region between the 16th January and 5th of February 2012. Details of the outcome of the survey are contained in **Appendix A** to this working paper. In view of the foregoing, the meeting may wish to adopt the following Draft Conclusion:

DRAFT CONCLUSION 18/XX: EN-ROUTE AERONAUTICAL MOBILE COMMUNICATION IN AFI REGION - SURVEY 2012

That:

   a)   **Areas be reviewed where VHF and HF coverage is deficient and analyze the causes of these deficiencies;**
   b)   **VHF coverage is available along all ATS routes and the regional initiatives aimed at implementing, maintaining and monitoring remote VHF stations throughout the AFI Region are comp**lete; and

   c)   Implement ADS-C/CPDLC as the alternative to areas where it is impossible to ensure total VHF coverage and where reliable HF voice communications facilities is not available (in oceanic areas and remote continental areas), especially in areas identified by this report.

3. ACTION BY THE APIRG

3.1   The meeting is invited to:

   a)   Request States concerned to address the communications deficiencies shown at Appendix A to this Working Paper; and
   b)   Ensure that VHF coverage is available along all ATS routes and where it is not possible consideration should be on implementation of ADS-C/CPDLC.