INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION



AFI PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION REGIONAL GROUP (APIRG)

REPORT OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE METEOROLOGY SUB-GROUP (MET/SG/8)

(Nairobi, Kenya, 25-27 June 2007)

Prepared by the Secretary of MET/SG

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PART 1 - HISTORY OF THE MEETING

1.1 Date and Site of the Meeting

1.1.1 The Eighth Meeting of the Meteorology Sub-group (MET/SG/8) was held at the ICAO Eastern and Southern African Office (ESAF) Nairobi, Kenya, located within the United Nations Office in Nairobi, Kenya, from 25 to 27 June 2007.

1.2 Officers and Secretariat

- 1.2.1 Mr. G. Moshabesha, Regional Director of the Eastern and Southern African Office opened the meeting. He expressed his appreciation to the participants attending this eighth meeting of the MET/SG, and highlighted the tasks to be accomplished during the meeting.
- 1.2.2 Mr. Moshabesha informed the meeting that the ICAO Council and the Air Navigation Commission have over the last few years expressed concern with the rate and level of implementation of the AFI Air Navigation Plan. Deficiencies identified by the Group and APIRG remain unresolved for a long time. He requested the Sub-Group to give the matter special attention during their deliberations. Participants were informed about the Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Africa that is been developed by ICAO. States and other interested stakeholders are expected to provide the necessary inputs and support for the plan. A meeting of high level Governments representatives from Africa to discuss the draft plan will be held on 17 September 2007 just a day before the 36th Session of the ICAO Assembly (18-28september, 2007).
- 1.2.3 The Meeting was also addressed by Mr. S. Sillayo, Scientifi Officer, WMO Aeronautical Meteorology Unit and the representative of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). He informed the meeting of the outcome of the 15th WMO Congress which was held recently and in particular the support extended to the aeronautical meteorology programme. Cost recovery for aeronautical meteorology and quality management system were given a high profile in order to provide a high quality and sustainable service, he informed the Meeting. Mr. Sillayo alluded to the good collaboration and coordination between ICAO and WMO.
- 1.2.4 The meeting was chaired by Ms. G.E. Khambule, Senior Manager, Aviation Weather Centre, South African Weather Service. Mr. B. M. Sekwati, Regional Officer, Aeronautical Meteorology of the ICAO Eastern and Southern African Office, Nairobi, Kenya served as the Secretary and was assisted by Mr. Benoit Okossi, Regional Officer Aeronautical Meteorology, ICAO Western and Central Africa Office, Dakar, Senegal.

1.3 Attendance

- 1.3.1 The meeting was attended by twenty-seven (27(participants from fifteen (14) States and three (3) international Organizations.
- 1.3.2 The list of participants is at **Appendix A**.

1.4 Working Languages

1.4.1 The discussions were conducted in English and French and the documentation was issued in both languages. The interpretation services were provided by two freelance interpreters.

1.5 Agenda

1.5.1 The following Agenda was adopted:

Agenda Item 1: Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Sub-Group

Agenda Item 2: Review of APIRG Conclusions and Decisions

Agenda Item 3: WAFS in the AFI Region

Agenda Item 4: AFI Meteorological Bulletins Exchange (AMBEX) Scheme

Agenda Item 5: Provision of tropical cyclone and volcanic ash advisories for the AFI Region

Agenda Item 6: Deficiencies in the MET Field

Agenda Item 7: New Challenges facing AFI Meteorological Services

Agenda Item 8: Regional meteorological procedures

Agenda Item 9: Terms of reference, work programme and composition of the MET/SG

Agenda Item 10: Any other business

1.6 Draft Conclusions and Decisions

1.6.1 The MET/SG recorded its action in the form of draft conclusions, draft decisions, with the following significance.

1.6.2 Draft Conclusions

1.6.2.1 Draft Conclusions, when approved by the APIRG, deal with matters which in accordance with the APIRG Terms of Reference, merit the attention of States or on which further action will be initiated by ICAO in accordance with established procedures.

1.6.3 **Draft Decisions**

1.6.3.1 Draft Decisions, when approved by APIRG, deal with matters of concern only to the APIRG and its contributory bodies.

1.6.4 MET/SG Decisions

1.6.4.1 Decisions dealing with matters of concern only to the MET/SG.

PART II - REPORT ON THE AGENDA

Agenda Item 1: Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Subgroup

1.1 In accordance with the relevant provisions contained in the APIRG Procedural Handbook, the Sub-group elected its Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. Ms. G.E. Khambule, Senior Manager, Aviation Weather Services, South African Weather Service and Mr. Zoa Etundi Englebert, Inspector No.2 Services, Cameroon Civil Aviation Authority, were elected Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson respectively.

Agenda Item 2: Review of APIRG Conclusions and Decisions

- 2.1 The Sub-Group made an in-depth review of Conclusions and Decisions formulated by previous MET/SG meetings and which were adopted by the APIRG. It noted action taken and progress made so far on the implementation of these conclusions and decisions listed in **Appendix B**.
- 2.2 The meeting also noted the efforts made by States to implement the Decisions and Conclusions of the MET/SG adopted by the APIRG in particular by ASECNA Member States. However there was great concern that many States did not respond to the State letters from ICAO AFI Regional Offices on follow-up on the status of implementation of these conclusions and decisions and other matters of implementation of the AFI Air Navigation Plan. States were urged to respond promptly to ICAO State letters as this would facilitate good planning and decision making for the AFI Region.

Conclusion 8/1: Response by the States to ICAO Regional Offices State letters

That, States respond promptly to ICAO Regional Offices State letters soliciting information on the status of implementation of the relevant Decisions of the MET/SG and the MET related Conclusions and Decisions of APIRG and other implementation issues in the MET field.

Agenda Item 3: WAFS in the AFI Region

- 3.1 The meeting reviewed the status of the implementation of the World Area Forecast System (WAFS) in the AFI Region on the basis of the reports from the WAFS Operations Group (WAFSOPSG) and the Satellite Distribution System (SADIS) Operations Group (SADISOPSG) provided by the United Kingdom as an integral part of the ICAO aeronautical fixed service (AFS). The meeting also reviewed the detailed information provided by the World Area Forecast Centre (WAFC) London on the recent and forthcoming developments in the WAFS and SADIS.
- 3.2 In this regard, the meeting noted the draft amendment to WAFS regional procedures and to FASID Tables MET 5, MET 6 (**Appendix I-1**) and MET 7 in **Appendix C** to this report and included the proposed Tables together with the regional procedures related to WAFS in the next amendment to AFI ANP/FASID.
- 3.3 Within the framework of the development of the WAFS, the Sub-Group noted the trial forecasts of icing, turbulence and convective clouds being generated routinely in GRIB2 code form at the WAFCs that should be evaluated by the users through a formal feedback mechanism. To encourage the appropriate use of these new forecasts in GRIB2 code form, it was considered desirable to convene regional training seminars.

Conclusion 8/2: Training seminar on the use of icing, turbulence and convective clouds forecasts in GRIB2 code form

That the WAFC London Provider State be invited, in coordination with ICAO and WMO, to provide training seminars on the use of icing, turbulence and convective clouds forecasts in GRIB2 code form, to AFI States;

Note. - It is suggested that a seminar be convened in 2009 to be conducted in French and that another seminar be organized in 2010 to be conducted in English.

The group agreed that the implementation of the SADIS second generation VSAT (SADIS 2G) should be included in the list of the status of implementation of SADIS in the amended FASID Table MET 7 accordingly as given in the **Appendix C** to this report. In this respect, the MET/SG amended the FASID AFI MET 7 Table by formulating the following decision:

Decision 8/3: Indication of the type of VSAT in the FASID Tables MET 7: Implementation of SADIS in the AFI Region

That, information related to the type of the VSAT station be included in the FASID Table MET 7 of the AFI plan as given in Appendix C to this report.

- 3.5 The meeting was informed by ASECNA on the implementation of SADIS Second Generation VSATs (SADIS 2G) and SADIS FTP together with the SADIS workstation software in its 17 Member States by December 2007. The Sub-Group noted with satisfaction efforts made by ASECNA in the implementation of the WAFS in the AFI Region.
- 3.6 The MET/SG noted that the SADIS FTP service operationally launched in July 2005, offers approved SADIS users with an alternative, high-quality internet based solution for receiving WAFS and OPMET data. The SADIS FTP service is an ICAO-approved distribution system and an integral part of the SADIS service, complementing, and providing backup for the SADIS 1G and 2G satellite services. To assist users intending to access this service, the meeting formulated the following conclusion:

Conclusion 8/4: SADIS FTP Accounts

That approved SADIS users in the AFI Region who have internet capabilities and do not have an active SADIS FTP account write to SADIS provider State to have an access account.

3.7 To improve the availability on SADIS, of ASHTAMs and NOTAMs related to volcanic ash (VA), the MET/SG formulated the following conclusion:

Conclusion 8/5: Availability on SADIS, of ASHTAM and NOTAM related to volcanic ash (VA)

That, in order to improve the availability on SADIS, of ASHTAMs and NOTAMs related to VA, the ICAO Offices in the AFI Region remind States, of the requirement to transmit all ASHTAM and NOTAMs related to VA to the AFTN address EGZZVANW.

3.8 The meeting reviewed the SADIS Strategic Assessment Tables as given at **Appendix D** with entries regarding the current and projected data volumes for the period 2007-2011. The meeting agreed on the proposed tables and formulated the following conclusion:

Conclusion 8/6: SADIS Strategic Assessment Tables

That, the AFI SADIS Strategic Assessment Tables, as given in Appendix D to this report, be adopted and forwarded to the SADISOPSG for planning the future SADIS bandwidth requirements.

Agenda Item 4: AFI Meteorological Bulletins Exchange (AMBEX) Scheme

OPMET Exchange Management

- 4.1 The meeting noted that the AMBEX scheme was introduced several years ago and has been operational ever since. The scheme is operating sufficiently well in certain areas but telecommunications circuit performance and adherence by States to procedures is still a challenge in some areas. Initially, there were monitoring periods of data availability and quality. For several years now, there has been no regular monitoring. Other regions like EUR, ASIA/PAC and now MIDANPIRG have established OPMET exchange management Groups. The Group agreed that there was merit to establish a similar Group in the AFI Region to ensure sustained availability of high quality OPMET information to users.
- The meeting recalled that APIRG through Decision 12/66 and Conclusion 15/89, called for the establishment of OPMET databanks at Dakar, Senegal and Pretoria, South Africa. The databanks have been established and are operational. These OPMET databanks have the capacity to undertake systematic monitoring of the availability and regularity of OPMET data. The monitoring should be best conducted by the OPMET databanks. The AFI Region could benefit from monitoring procedures for the regular OPMET exchange (METAR and TAF) which have been developed in the EUR and ASIA/PAC Regions. These procedures include performance indicators (PIs) for compliance, availability and regularity of the scheduled, routine OPMET information (METAR (SA) and TAF (FT)).
- 4.3 With the aim of improving data availability and quality and to put in place objective monitoring procedures, the Sub-Group agreed to establish an AFI OPMET Management Task Force (AFI OPMET/M TF) with proposed terms of reference and work programme at **Appendix** E.

Conclusion 8/7: AFI OPMET Management Task Force (AFI OPMET/M TF)

That, an AFI OPMET Management Task Force with the terms of reference at the Appendix F be established.

Amendment of the AMBEX Handbook

- 4.4 The meeting agreed that since Regional OPMET Data Banks (RODBs) have been established it is important to reflect their role in the exchange of OPMET information in the AMBEX Handbook.
- 4.5 Equally important is the need to reflect how SIGMET information is exchanged in the region. It is recalled that SIGMET information is critical weather information for aircraft in flight and such it should be distributed to other ICAO regions and made available to Inter-regional

OPMET Gateway, Toulouse for uplink through the SADIS.

4.6 The meeting agreed to amend the Handbook to reflect the responsibilities of the recently established RODBs and the SIGMET requirements. The Sub-group then formulated the following decision.

Decision 8/8: Inclusion of Regional OPMET Data Banks and SIGMET requirements in the AMBEX Handbook

That, the operations of the AFI Regional OPMET Data Banks and SIGMET requirements be reflected in the AMBEX Handbook as per the text at **Appendix F.**

Agenda Item 5: Provision of tropical cyclones and volcanic ash advisories for the AFI Region

Volcanic Ash Advisories

- The meeting discussed the issuance of volcanic ash advisories by Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre (VAAC), Toulouse and the SIGMETs to be issued by the associated meteorological watch offices (MWOs) and the need for routine volcanic ash tests. The Group recalled APIRG Conclusion 15/90 on the need to carry out such tests. The requirement for such tests is due to the fact that occurrence of volcanic ash events are irregular and operational personnel involved in procedures used in area control centers (ACCs), meteorological watch offices (MWOs), volcanic ash advisory centers (VAACs) may not be able to participate in real events for many years.
- The meeting was informed that due to incomplete addresses to be used for the distribution of volcanic advisories in the AFI region and the addresses to be used by MWOs for the distribution of the related SIGMET, tests carried out in 2006 were not successful. The meeting felt that urgent action has to be taken to address the issue. The Group agreed that the ICAO Regional Offices in the AFI Region were better placed to undertake the task. The meeting emphasized the importance of training and urged that WMO in coordination with ICAO and VAAC Toulouse Provider State arrange for a training workshop on VA SIGMETs. The meeting then formulated the following conclusions:

Conclusion 8/9: Adoption of procedures for conducting VA SIGMET tests for the AFI Region

That:

- 1) the ICAO Regional Offices in the AFI Region:
 - a) assume the responsibility for the development of addressees related to the volcanic ash advisories (VAA) coming from the Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre (VAAC), Toulouse and intended for the AFI Region;
 - b) make available to Inter-Regional OPMET Gateway (IROG), Toulouse ,WMO Headers that would facilitate the establishment of reception tests for volcanic ash advisories (VAA) within reasonable time limits;
 - c) request those States maintaining meteorological watch offices (MWOs) in the AFI Region to implement WMO headings for volcanic ash SIGMET and transmitted by those MWOs and make them available to IROG Toulouse; and

2) the procedures at the **Appendix G** be adopted for use in SIGMETs tests in the AFI Region after action had been completed on items a) to c).

Conclusion 8/10: SIGMET Workshops

That WMO in coordination with ICAO and VAAC Toulouse Provider State conduct two training workshops on SIGMET during 2008; one in English and another in French for the AFI Region.

Note: The workshops would address all types of SIGMET, including those related to VA and TC.

Agenda Item 6: Deficiencies in the MET field

- The meeting reviewed and updated the list of deficiencies based on the uniform methodology approved by Council for identification, assessing, tracking and reporting of deficiencies of air navigation systems. The review also took into account the remedial action from States concerned and inclusion of additional deficiencies identified since APIRG/15 meeting. The updated list of deficiencies in the meteorology field is at **Appendix H**.
- 6.2 To take further actions on long lasting deficiencies, the meeting formulated the following conclusion and decision:

Conclusion 8/11: Elimination of deficiencies

That States take urgent action to address long outstanding deficiencies in MET field.

Decision 8/12: Follow-up on MET deficiencies

That Regional Offices continue to monitor efforts made by States and report progress to APIRG.

Agenda Item 7: New challenges facing AFI Meteorological Services

Cost recovery for aeronautical meteorological services

- 7.1 The meeting recalled that the AFI Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG) at its fourteenth meeting under Conclusions 14/37 and 14/38 called for the need to implement cost recovery for aeronautical meteorological by States including the conduct of seminars by WMO in coordination with ICAO. WMO in coordination with ICAO has conducted a series of seminars in cost recovery for aeronautical meteorological services since 1999 in English and French. The Sub-Group expressed its appreciation to the support provided by ICAO and WMO to participants at these seminars.
- 7.2 The Sub-Group further noted that ASECNA States have been implementing air navigation charges for aeronautical meteorology for several years. However, implementation in some States has been low, rendering the provision of aeronautical meteorological services unsustainable. One area where most aeronautical meteorological services faced impediment is on the legal aspects of undertaking cost recovery without an appropriate legal instrument establishing the aeronautical meteorology entity or cost recovery. The meeting agreed that the situation is far from satisfactory. Following the discussions the Sub-Group then formulated the following conclusion.

Conclusion 8/13: Legal framework for Aeronautical Meteorological Services

That States in implementing cost recovery for aeronautical meteorological services in accordance with APIRG Conclusions 14/37 and 14/38 put in place a national legal framework for aeronautical meteorological services which include cost recovery arrangements.

Quality Management System

- 7.3 The Sub-group recalled that quality assurance-related standards and recommended practices were first introduced in ICAO Annex 15, to the Convention on International Civil Aviation Aeronautical Information Services which became applicable on 6 November 1997. Amendment 72 to ICAO Annex 3 to the Chicago Convention Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation became applicable on 1 November 2001. It introduced Recommended Practices concerning quality control and management of meteorological information supplied to users and in the training of meteorological personnel. The provisions recommend conformity with the ISO 9000 series of quality assurance standards. While the ISO 9000 series of quality assurance standards provides a basic framework for the development of a quality assurance programme, the details of such programme have to be formulated by each contracting State.
- 7.4 The meeting took note of the action taken by APIRG at its fourteenth meeting (APIRG/14) under conclusion 14/40 cognizance of the new requirements of Annex 3, requested the

States in the AFI Region to give priority to the implementation of quality management systems (ISO 9000 series of standards).

7.5 The Sub-Group also noted with appreciation that WMO in collaboration with ICAO conducted a Special Implementation Project (SIP) workshop on quality management for aeronautical meteorological services in Nairobi in May 2006 in English. The workshop was well attended. The Sub-Group discussed the recommendations of the workshop and agreed that they will assist the States in their efforts to introduce quality management systems. The WMO representative made a presentation on the subject and it was appreciated by the participants. The Sub-Group then formulated the following conclusion.

Conclusion 8/14: Support to States to implement quality management systems (OMS)

hat: WMO in coordination with ICAO continue to assist States in implementing QMS in the form of:

- 1) Seminars on QMS for the Chief Executives of Meteorological Authorities (CEOs) as a priority and request them (CEOs) to report on status of implementation on QMS in their services on a regular basis;
- 2) Support for more detailed training for personnel who would act as a core group in the region (training of trainers);
- 3) Attachments of staff from the region to States that have already adopted QMS through VCP or otherwise; and
- 4) Financial resources for engaging consultancy services during the initial stages of implementation.

Agenda Item 8: Review of Regional Meteorological Procedures in AFI ANP/FASID

Changes introduced due to Amendment 74 to Annex 3 and WAFSOPSG/3 and IAVWOPSG/3 meetings

A review of AFI ANP/FASID regional procedures was made as result of Amendment 74 to Annex 3 and the changes introduced by the third meeting of the World Area Forecast Operations Group (WAFSOPSG/3) and the third meeting of the International Airways Volcano Watch Operations Group (IAVWOPSG/3). The Group endorsed all the amendments for implementation except for the introduction of the 30-hour TAF which the meeting felt would require an assessment on whether all aerodromes would be affected or a selected few. The Sub-Group agreed that input from IATA is required. IATA was not able to attend the meeting. The Sub-Group agreed to form an Ad Hoc Working Group which would work by correspondence to address the issue and report on their assessment by 30 September, 2007. The Secretariat would then document the results for APIRG/16. The Sub-Group then formulated the following conclusion and decision.

Conclusion 8/15: Regional Meteorological Procedures

That the Regional Meteorological Procedures given at Appendix I to the report replace the existing regional procedures of the AFI ANP/FASID (Doc 7474).

Decision 8/16: Ad Hoc Working Group on introduction of 30-hour TAF in the AFI Region

That an Ad Hoc Working Group on the introduction of issuance of 30-hour TAF in the AFI Region be established to advise on whether to issue it for all aerodromes or selected aerodromes. The Group will have members from ASECNA, IATA, IFALPA, Kenya, South Africa and Tanzania.

Note 1: The Group's recommendation should be available to the Secretariat by 30September 2007.

Note 2: The Ad Hoc Group will work by correspondence.

Review and up dating of FASID Table MET 1A (TAF and TREND)

8.2 The meeting recalled that the SADISOPSG had formulated conclusion 11/9 calling for the secretariat to consider developing a database-oriented version of global FASID Table MET 1A. The database is considered necessary in order to maintain the currency of the database-oriented Annex 1 to the SADIS User Guide which contained the requirements for TAF and which should be, by definition, be consistent with all FASID Table MET 1A. The Sub-Group agreed

that in order to avoid redundancy and possible misleading information, it is proposed that FASID Table MET 1A should be replaced by simple link (i.e. a URL address) to global database under the heading FASID Table MET 1A. The meeting was also informed that in the long term this would be applicable to all regional ANPs. The Regional Offices will update the table on annual basis and in consultation with States users (IATA, IFALPA) and the MET/SG as appropriate.

8.3 The meeting also agreed that in order to simplify FASID Table MET 1A, column 6 ("area of coverage of charts") and column 7 ("AFTN routing areas"), should be deleted since they do not reflect a RAN Agreement. The Group then developed the following conclusion.

Conclusion 8/17: Review and updating of FASID Table MET 1A

That:

- a) FASID Table MET 1A be replaced by single link (i.e. a URL address) to the global database to be developed by the Secretariat in line with SADISOPSG Conclusion 11/9; and
- b) Columns 6 and 7 in FASID Table MET 1A (the database to be re-named "Forecasts (TAF and TREND) to be issued for international aerodromes") be deleted.

FASID Table MET 2B

- The Sub-Group discussed the usefulness of FASID Table MET 2B SIGMET requirements and these are not listed in Annex 1 to the SADIS User Guide. However, in accordance with Annex 3, Appendix 6, 1.2.2 SIGMET was required to be disseminated to meteorological watch offices (MWOs) and to the SADIS uplink station. The meeting agreed that if fully implemented, it could be postulated that all States receive the global set of SIGMET. The RAN agreement called for by Appendix 6, 1.2.2 is reflected in:
 - a) the Basic Operational Requirements and Planning Criteria (BORPC) covering the needs by ATS Units and;
 - b) the Regional MET provision calling for each MWO to arrange for the transmission to all aerodrome meteorological offices with its associated FIR of its own SIGMET and relevant SIGMET messages for other FIRs, as required for briefing and, where appropriate, for flight documentation.
- 8.5 Under the circumstances it was agreed that if the above are retained in the ICAO ANP for the AFI Region, there is no requirement for FASID Table MET 2B and should be deleted. The Sub-Group then formulated the following conclusion.

Conclusion 8/18: Deletion of FASID Table MET 2B

That FASID Table MET 2B be deleted from the ICAO AFI FASID since the requirements for SIGMET are covered in the ANP Basic (BORPC and regional meteorological procedures).

Agenda Item 9: Terms of reference, Work programme and composition of the MET/SG

9.1 The meeting noted that the work programme has been subject to revision and consolidation in accordance with the ICAO Business Plan and to better reflect the work that is being undertaken by the MET/SG, and reviewed the terms of Reference, the Work Programme and composition of the MET/SG as given at **Appendix J** accordingly. The meeting then endorsed the changes proposed and formulate the following decision:

Decision 8/19: Future work programme of the MET/SG

That, the work programme of the MET/SG be updated as shown in Appendix J.

Agenda Item 10: Any other business

10.1 The WMO Representative Mr. Sillayo informed the Meeting that the Fifteenth Congress when discussing regional issues on aeronautical meteorology advocated for the establishment of regional groups under the WMO who would collaborate and cooperate with ICAO Planning and Implementation Regional Groups (PIRGs). The Sub-Group welcomed this development and agreed that it would be beneficial for the development of aeronautical meteorology in the region. The Group then formulated the following decision:

Decision 8/20: Coordination between WMO Regional Association 1 (Africa) and APRIG on Aeronautical Meteorology

That, the Chairperson of the Meteorology Sub-Group liaise with the WMO Rapporteur for Aeronautical Meteorology Programme for Regional Association1(Africa) on matters of common interest when required.