

**INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION**



**AFI PLANNING  
AND IMPLEMENTATION REGIONAL GROUP (APIRG)**

**REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE  
AFI OPMET MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE (AFI MTF/3)**

*(Dakar, Senegal, 27- 28 June 2011)*

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## **PART 1 - HISTORY OF THE MEETING**

### **1.1 Date and Venue of the Meeting**

1.1.1 The Third Meeting of the AFI OPMET Management Task Force (MTF/3) was held from 27 to 28 June 2011 at the new premises of the ICAO Western and Central African (WACAF) Regional Office located at Leopold Sedar Senghor International Airport, Dakar, Senegal.

### **1.2 Officers and Secretariat**

1.2.1 Mr. Gngang Evalou, Acting ICAO Regional Director, WACAF Office, Dakar, opened the meeting. In his remarks, he welcomed all the participants on behalf of the Dakar Regional Director Mr. Mam Sait Jallow, for the Third AFI OPMET Management Task Force Meeting (OPMET MTF/3) being organized under the aegis of ICAO. He expressed his appreciation to the participants attending the third meeting of the MTF, and highlighted the tasks to be accomplished during the meeting.

1.2.2 Mr. Gngang recalled that the OPMET MTF was established by APIRG during its 16<sup>th</sup> meeting with the objective to enhance operational meteorological (OPMET) information exchange in the AFI region and adjacent regions by regularly reviewing the OPMET exchange scheme and developing proposals for their optimization, developing monitoring and management procedures related to the AFI MET Bulletin Exchange (AMBEX) scheme and other exchange of OPMET information, and updating the regional guidance material related to OPMET exchange, in the interest of safety, efficiency and economy of civil aviation.

1.2.3 He stated that he was convinced that this Task Force would provide substantial material for the Tenth Meeting of the Meteorology Sub-Group (MET/SG/10) which would be held back to back with the MTF/3 Meeting.

1.2.4 The MTF/3 meeting was chaired by Mr Rakotoriamna Nirison, Director General of the Civil Aviation Authority of Madagascar. The secretary of the Meeting was Mr. Okossi A. Benoit, Regional Officer, Aeronautical Meteorology for the ICAO Western and Central African (WACAF) Office, Dakar, Senegal, assisted by Mr. Vitalis Ahago, Regional Officer, Aeronautical Meteorology for Eastern and Southern African (ESAF) Office, Nairobi and Mrs Diagne Coumba, Assistant to RO/MET, WACAF.

### **1.3 Attendance**

1.3.1 The meeting was attended by Twenty Two (22) participants from Eight (8) Member States/Organisations including DMG and ASECNA.

1.3.2 The list of participants is at [Appendix A](#).

### **1.4 Working Languages**

1.4.1 The discussions were conducted in the English language only as per APIRG procedures concerning the Task Force.

## 1.5 Agenda

1.5.1 The following Agenda was adopted:

Agenda Item 1: Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Task Force and Adoption of the Agenda

Agenda Item 2: Review of MTF/2 Recommendations, MET/SG/9 and APIRG/17 Conclusions and Decisions related to OPMET

Agenda Item 3: Review of regional material on OPMET Exchange

- a) AFI Regional SIGMET Guide
- b) AMBEX Handbook
- c) AFI ICD
- d) OPMET related FASID Tables

Agenda Item 4: Future Developments with regards to OPMET Information

Agenda Item 5: Terms of reference, work programme and composition of the AFI OPMET MTF

Agenda Item 6 : Any other business

## 1.6 Documentation and Working Language

1.6.1 The working language of the Meeting as well as all documentation were in English.

1.6.2 Eighteen (18) Working Papers and three (3) Information Papers were presented at the Meeting. The List of Papers is included at **Appendix B** to this Report.

## 1.7 Recommendations

1.7.1 The OPMET MTF recorded its action in the form of recommendations and decisions, with the following significance:

- Decisions deal with matters of concern only to the OPMET MTF;
- Recommendations, when reviewed by the MET/SG, became Draft Conclusions for 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, or Draft Decisions, when approved by MET/SG, deal with matters of concern only to the MET/SG.



**PART II REPORT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

**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. Mr. RAKATORIMANA Nirison, Director General Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), Madagascar and Mr. Gicheru Winstone Njugunan Chief Aeromet Inspector, Kenya, were elected Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson respectively.

1.2 The meeting congratulated Mr RAKATORIMANA Nirison for having been appointed the new Director General of the Madagascar CAA.

**Agenda Item 2: Review of MTF/2 Recommendations, MET/SG/9 and APIRG/17 Conclusions and Decisions related to OPMET**

2.1 The meeting recalled that the AFI OPMET MTF/2 held its second Meeting at the premises of the South African Weather Service at Tambo Aviation Weather Centre, Boardroom, Johannesburg, South Africa, from 6 to 7 September 2010. A number of Recommendations and Decisions adopted by MTF/2 were presented and reviewed by the meeting.

2.2 The AFI OPMET MTF/3 meeting adopted a total of seven Decisions and eleven Recommendations. Decisions deal with matters of concern only to the OPMET MTF; the Recommendations, when adopted by the MET/SG, became Draft Conclusions for 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, or Draft Decisions, when approved by MET/SG, deal with matters of concern only to the MET/SG.

2.3 The meeting noted with satisfaction the progress made so far in implementing the decisions and recommendations made by MTF/2 and APIRG/ 17 as shown in the **Appendix C** to this report and formulated the following decision:

**Decision 3/1 Status of Implementation of OPMET related Recommendations, Decisions and Conclusions**

**That, the Task Force continue updating its work program by considering the status of implementation of OPMET related Recommendations, Decisions and Conclusions of MTF, MET/SG and APIRG given in Appendix C to this report.**

**Agenda Item 3a): Review of AFI Regional SIGMET Guide**

3.1 In reporting on the SIGMET implementation status report, the meeting was informed by the Dakar RODB on the following actions taken by ASECNA in implementing the issuance of SIGMET in ASECNA Flight Information Regions ( FIRs):

- a) further to Decision 2/18 of the MTF/2 meeting on the awareness of MWO to issue SIGMET, ASECNA had implemented practical arrangements for the transfer of responsibilities between two MWOs covered by two ASECNA FIRs. Regarding non-ASECNA MWOs, ASECNA was willing to consider the feasibility of transferring responsibility from MWO that were no longer able to perform their obligations for any reason to an ASECNA MWO for a defined period, at the request of the States;
- b) In implementing Conclusion 17/74 of the APIRG/17 Meeting, in May 2011 ASECNA conducted a survey to update the SADIS 2G software for all its MWOs to take into account the advisory SIGMET tests in text format, received from Toulouse or Johannesburg;
- c) AFI SIGMET test results were automatically saved following Appendix J SIGMET Guide as per Recommendation 2/3 of the MTF/2 Meeting.

3.2 In reporting on the SIGMET implementation status report, the meeting was informed by the Pretoria RODB that the catalogues had also been updated to include non-scheduled data types WC, WS and WV SIGMET information as per Appendix 3.5C to the APIRG/17 Report.

3.3 The meeting was informed that South Africa as one of the hosts of the Regional SIGMET Advisory Centre (RSAC) for the period of the trial had invested in a tool, **Geocentric Information Briefing (GIB)** which could generate the SIGMET advisories in both text and graphical format. The tool was capable of generating advisory messages for the entire AFI Region.

3.4 The meeting noted that the tool could be used to assist the region during WS SIGMET tests by issuing the SIGMET advisories to AFI MWOs. The tool is capable of generating and disseminating advisories for any other weather phenomenon other than volcanic ash and tropical cyclone. The advisories generated using GIB could be disseminated through AFTN, SADIS and Internet. In this regard, the meeting formulated the following recommendation:

**Recommendation 3/2 Provision of WS SIGMET advisory information by Pretoria RODB during AFI SIGMET tests**

**That, the facilities made available by Pretoria RODB Provider State for the on-going SIGMET advisory trials, could be utilized during AFI SIGMET tests to assist the AFI region with the provision of SIGMET advisory information for any other weather phenomenon other than tropical cyclone and volcanic ash.**

*Note: France who also provided such facility during SIGMET advisory trial may also propose such assistance for test purposes.*

3.5 The meeting recalled that Conclusion 17/61 d) of APIRG/17 urged ICAO regional offices of Dakar and Nairobi to update the AFI SIGMET guide for additional details of VA and TC test procedures. In addition, Decision 2/16 of AFI OPMET MTF/2 recommended that Appendix J to the AFI SIGMET Guide be updated.

3.6 In accordance with the above information, the AFI Regional SIGMET Guide 7<sup>th</sup> Edition given in **Appendix D** to this report was amended to include additional details of VA and TC test procedures and the tools provided by South Africa. In this regard, the meeting formulated the following recommendation:

**Recommendation 3/3: Amendment to the AFI Regional SIGMET Guide**

**That, the amendment to the SIGMET Guide given in Appendix D to this report, be endorsed as the AFI Regional SIGMET Guide Ninth Edition, Amendment 2.**

**Agenda Item 3 b): Review of the AMBEX Handbook**

3.7 The Task Force recalled that in OPMET MTF/2 meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa called for a number of Recommendations and Decisions on the AMBEX scheme to be implemented by AFI RODBs. In addition, the APIRG/17 meeting also called for OPMET related Conclusions to be implemented by AFI RODBs. In this regard Dakar RODB presented the AMBEX implementation status report at Dakar RODB including MTF/2 Recommendations 2/3, 2/7, 2/8, 2/15, Decisions 2/6, 2/10, 1/18, APIRG/17 Conclusions 17/74, 17/75, 17/77, 17/78 and other implementations.

3.8 The summary of the implementation status is given in **Appendix E** to this report. Dakar RODB suggested a proposal to implement Recommended 2/7 of the MTF/2 Meeting related to the RODBs backup procedures. In this regard, the meeting formulated the following conclusion:

**Recommendation 3/4: Implementation of a AFTN Circuit between Dakar and Pretoria RODB**

**That, Dakar and Pretoria RODBs investigate the best possible way to implement a backup circuit between the two RODBs for the implementation of the backup procedures between the RODBs, on time for the MTF/4 meeting.**

3.9 The meeting was presented with the AMBEX implementation status report at Pretoria RODB from Pretoria RODB including MTF/2 Recommendations 2/3, 2/7, 2/8, 2/15, Decisions 2/6, 2/10, 1/18, APIRG/17 Conclusions 17/74, 17/75, 17/77, 17/78. As a result, the meeting was informed on the following:

- a. The monitoring system was fully automated and captures the needed statistic on the first Wednesday of each month. This activity started in January 2010 as per recommendation 2/3 of the AFI MTF/2 report.
- b. Pretoria RODB had since implemented the recently published AFI ICD procedures and has updated the catalogues accordingly. Further to this, the catalogues have been aligned with the latest version of the FASID MET2A and 2B, updated on 04/05/2011. The catalogues (OPMET and Bulletin) had also been updated to include non-scheduled data types WC, WS and WV SIGMET information as per Appendix 3.5C to the APIRG/17 Report.
- c. The bulletins are not received from other regions according to Appendix C to the AMBEX Handbook, 7th Edition.
- d. Pretoria RODB had implemented both AFTN and internet request reply service.

3.10 In accordance with the above information the meeting formulated the following decisions:

**Decision 3/5- Compilation and Distribution of Bulletins as per Appendix C to the AMBEX Handbook**

That, the secretariat of the AFI OPMET MTF be invited to:

- a) assist by contacting AFI States and request them to compile bulletins according to the AMBEX Plan, and
- b) contact other ICAO regions and invite adjacent IROGs to disseminate only those bulletins.

#### Decision 3/6- Updating of the AFI Interface Control Document

That, the URL: <http://aviation.weathersa.co.za/#showopmetdatabank?action=rqm> be published in the AFI Interface Control Document (AFI ICD).

3.11 The Task Force recalled that Decision 2/4 of MTF/2 calls for a development by Dakar and Pretoria RODB Managers of a draft OPMET time validation criteria for reception of data in the AMBEX Handbook. The results of this development were presented under the AMBEX scheme implementation reports; MTF/2 Decision 2/6 refers. In addition, the Task Force urged the Secretariat to update the AMBEX Handbook as per Recommendations 2/11, 2/12 and 2/13 of the MTF/2.

3.12 In this regard, the AMBEX Handbook given in **Appendix F** of this report had been updated. The meeting agreed that any amendments to the handbook should be submitted to the MET/SG for further review. The meeting then formulated the following recommendation:

#### **Recommendation 3/7 Amendment Proposals to the AMBEX HANDBOOK**

**That, the amendment to the AMBEX Handbook given in Appendix F to this report, be endorsed as the AMBEX Handbook Seven Edition, Amendment 2.**

3.13 The meeting recalled that the AFI RODB provider States were prompted to consider the need for backup procedures to be developed during MTF/2 meeting. In their effort to perform this task, the AFI RODBs informed the meeting that the development of backup procedures for Dakar and Pretoria RODB would require the synchronization of the databanks. Before this could be done the following needs to be investigated or put in place:

- a) Development of a common catalogue, based on FASID Tables MET 2A, for RODB Dakar and Pretoria
- b) The catalogues needs to be based on the AFI OPMET Interface Control Document (ICD)
- c) Once a common catalogue is developed and implemented, the analysis of how much volume of data will be required to be exchanged
- d) The knowledge of how much data will be exchanged between the two RODBs will inform a decision on infrastructure requirements i.e. data line capacity
- e) The RODBs are currently connected via a 19200kps ASCENIA VSAT-link. The capacity of this line will have to be investigated if it will be sufficient to handle extra data traffic
- f) Regional Meteorological Data Communication Network (RMDCN) may be used as an alternative should the current ASCENIA VSAT-link not have sufficient capacity

- g) An investigation into the current capacity at RODBs to handle extra data volumes needs to be investigated.

3.14 In this regard, the RODBs found that there was still a lot of work to be done with regard to the development of backup procedures. The meeting was therefore invited to propose a new date for the conclusion of this massive task as well as to designate the coordinator for the core team of experts. The meeting then formulated the following decision:

**Decision 3/8– Designating a Coordinator and setting up of the due date**

**That the RODB Managers be invited to designate a coordinator for the Core Team and provide implementation status report on time for the MTF/4 meeting.**

3.15 The meeting recalled that the APIRG/16 Decision 16/54 called for the AFI OPMET MTF to keep the AMBEX Scheme and other OPMET exchange procedures under constant review and prepare proposals for the optimization of the schemes.

3.16 The meeting further recalled that the APIRG/17 conclusion 17/75 called for IROG Pretoria to distribute bulletins to IROG Toulouse, Bangkok, Jeddah and Rio de Janeiro. In reviewing the AMBEX handbook, it was noted that the AFTN addresses for these places with the exception of IROG Toulouse were not listed in Appendices A and B of the AMBEX Handbook. The meeting agreed to submit the following recommendation to the MET/SG meeting for further action. The Task Force then formulated the following decision:

**Decision 3/9: AFTN Addresses of adjacent IROG in the AMBEX Handbook**

**That, Appendix A and B to the AFI AMBEX Handbook be updated by the MET/SG to reflect AFTN addresses for the IROG's Bangkok, Jeddah and Rio de Janeiro.**

3.17 The meeting was informed that ROC Toulouse exchanges OPMET data, required globally, with the national centres in its Area of Responsibility (AoR), with the two other EUR ROCs (London and Vienna) and with the AFI region (Dakar and Pretoria IROGs). The meeting was further informed that ROC Toulouse was also the portal for VAAC Toulouse and was one of the three EUR databanks (Toulouse LFPWZYX). Two times a year, a monitoring of non-regular data is undertaken in the EUR region, in September and February (1<sup>st</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> of the month). The WS-Monitoring is conducted on the first Wednesday of those months whereas the WV-Monitoring is on the first Thursday the months, preceded by a test VAA, to verify the good reception of VAA in the EUR region. All EUR national centres participate to these monitoring, and actions are undertaken to improve the data exchange where necessary after analysis of the monitoring results. Some centres outside the EUR region are also invited to verify the good reception of SIGMET and VAA. In this regard, the meeting formulated the following recommendation:

**Recommendation 3/10: EUR SIGMET monitoring**

**That, the two AFI RODBs be invited to monitor the reception of SIGMET during the regular EUR SIGMET test and report.**

3.18 It was proposed that the two AFI IROGs send to Toulouse the bulletin headers and/or data they wish to receive. On reception of the requested data, ROC Toulouse would send the final routing table to the IROGs, so that they have a monitoring basis and may adapt the routing to AFI addresses, following the arrangements in their AoR.

3.19 It was also proposed that the two AFI IROGs send their routing table to the EUR addresses. It is therefore anticipated that this would provide (if necessary after multiple passes) a better situation where each IROG and ROC Toulouse would disseminate to and from their AoR, according to their regional air navigation plans. In this regard, the meeting formulated the following recommendation:

**Recommendation 3/11: Exchanging Routing Tables between AFI IROG and ROC Toulouse**

**That, the two AFI IROGs and ROC Toulouse exchange their routing tables and verify their coherency.**

3.20 It was proposed that a review be done by the two AFI IROGs to analyse received OPMET report/bulletins, verify that the routing is in place and to send the data to ROC Toulouse by using the AFTN address LFZZMAFI, and any GTS links to secure the data exchange. The meeting then formulated the following recommendation:

**Recommendation 3/12: Review of the OPMET routing by the AFI IROGs**

**That,**

- a) **the AFI IROGs be invited to review their current routing tables, the OPMET status of reception, and if necessary, update the routing tables; and**
- b) **ICAO invites AFI States to solve OPMET production and routing issues.**

**Agenda Item 3 c): AFI Interface Contrôle Document**

3.21 The meeting recalled that AFI OPMET Database Catalogue shall consist of lists of OPMET products that are required to be available in the AFI OPMET Databases, following the requirements by the AFI ANP. The proposed procedures and catalogue of OPMET bulletins at Dakar and Pretoria RODBs are provided in the **Appendix G** of this report as the AFI OPMET Database Catalogue.

3.22 The meeting agreed for the proposed data catalogue to be finalized and implemented by the RODBs. The meeting then formulated the following recommendation:

**Recommendation 3/13 AFI OPMET data catalogue**

**That, the proposed data catalogue given in the Appendix G to this report be finalized by the RODB Managers and implemented by the RODB Provider States as the requirements for the AFI OPMET data catalogue.**

3.23 The meeting recalled that the two RODBs were requested to jointly develop a draft time validation criteria for reception of data for inclusion in the AFI AMBEX Handbook. In addition, the monitoring statistics since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011 were to be presented at this meeting.

3.24 Time validation criteria for data reception had been implemented by the two RODBs. The validation criteria implemented by Pretoria RODB was based on the criteria developed by the DMG for the EUR. The meeting noted that although the validation was done by both RODBs, the criteria used may not have been the same.

3.25 The meeting was informed that the validation criteria developed by the DMG were designed for EUR region. In order to develop the AFI validation criteria for inclusion in the AFI AMBEX Handbook, it would not be necessary to re-invent the wheel but to modify the provided criteria to meet the needs of AFI Region, then adapt it. The meeting then formulated the following recommendation:

**Recommendation 3/14- Adaptation of the DMG Time Validation Criteria**

**That the time validation criteria developed by the DMG for the EUR be adapted to align it with the Air Navigation Plan (ANP) for the AFI Region and included in the AFI AMBEX Handbook for implemented by both Dakar and Pretoria.**

**Agenda Item 3 d) : OPMET Requirements**

3.26 The meeting was informed that SADIOSPG/16 meeting held in Paris from 23 to 25 May 2011 provided information on OPMET included in Annex 1 to SADIS User Guide (SUG). The annex included OPMET information from both aerodrome operational planning (AOP) (i.e. aerodromes included in the AOP tables of the regional air navigation plans) and non-AOP aerodromes.

3.27 With regard to non-AOP aerodromes, the Sub-group was informed that non-availability of OPMET information from aerodromes listed in Annex 1, when notified by users, had been systematically brought to the attention of the States concerned by the appropriate ICAO regional office which had kept on monitoring such deficiencies until their resolution. The meeting was formed that such a real-time approach had turned out to be efficient and had led, in most cases, to the timely resolution of the deficiencies identified.

3.28 The Sub-group is informed that SADISOPSG Secretariat was requested to seek agreement from the States concerned to provide OPMET information from some 500 non-AOP aerodromes, in response to a request formulated by the International Air Transport Association (IATA). The Sub-Group was informed that the results of the study revealed that States agreed to provide OPMET information from only 25 aerodromes while the provision of OPMET information from six aerodromes had been discontinued. The Sub-group was then informed that, based on requests by IATA, long lists of additional requirements for OPMET information from non-AOP aerodromes had been included in State letters, year after year, and that as a result, normally only a small number of States had *formally* concurred with such requirements. The meeting was informed that repetitive State letters sent annually to the same States with an identical request could be counterproductive, in particular if the State has already clearly indicated their reluctance to provide OPMET information from the non-AOP aerodromes concerned. Under these circumstances, the Sub-group was informed that the time had come to keep track on the requests made and to ensure that a State that had refused the provision of OPMET information from their non-AOP aerodromes not be approached before three years had elapsed.

3.29 The Sub-group was informed that the proposal above attempted to render the requirements in line with OPMET data that was actually made available by States. In this regard, the Sub-group was informed that any proposed deletions could be undertaken by ICAO without the need for consulting the States concerned while any proposed additions would have to be endorsed by them. It was noted that only those aerodromes with location indicators included in the *Location Indicators* (Doc 7910) could be included in Annex 1 to the SUG.

3.30 In view of the above, the meeting agreed to formulate the following recommendation.

**Recommendation 3/15: Revision of OPMET Data Requirements****That:**

- a) **information related to the requirements of OPMET data from non-AOP aerodromes as given in Appendix H, be submitted by ICAO Regional Offices to the concerned States for approval, before amending the AFI FASID MET Table 2A and Annex 1 to the SADIS User Guide (SUG);**

- b) the aerodromes as listed in Appendix I to this report, be deleted from AFI FASID MET Table 2A.

**Agenda Item 4 : Future Developments with regard to OPMET Information**

4.1 The meeting recalled that in Task 6 (*Prepare regional plan for the transition to XML coded OPMET information in coordination with the relevant APIRG contributing bodies*) of the MTF work programme, the MTF/3 Meeting was urged to draft the AFI regional plan for the transition to XML coded OPMET information. The meeting was briefed on the on-going action undertaken in different WMO and ICAO groups.

4.2 In this regard, the meeting was informed of the following milestones envisaged by ICAO:

- a) **In 2013:** replacement of the BUFR code form by XML as far as the bilateral use of table-driven codes for METAR, SPECI and TAF are concerned;
- b) **In 2014:** endorsement of the future use of WXXM by the planned conjoint ICAO/WMO MET/AIM Divisional Meeting;
- c) **In 2016:** start of implementation of WXXM; and
- d) **In 2019/2022:** completion of implementation.

4.3 In view of the above, in the short term, (2010-2013), ICAO is planning for the introduction of *enabling clauses* in Annex 3 to use XML for OPMET (METAR, SPECI and TAF), and also for tropical cyclone and volcanic ash advisories and SIGMET in graphical format. This will have little impact on telecommunications facilities since the XML-code form will be used on a bilateral basis only (most likely exchanged over the internet). Consequently, planning for the implementation of the use of XML for OPMET at this stage was considered to be too premature, and should therefore not be initiated before the planned MET/AIM Divisional Meeting in 2014 – which is expected to endorse the transition plan which would have its first milestone in 2016 (Amendment 77 to Annex 3). It was noted that there would be ample time after the Divisional Meeting to undertake the necessary regional planning.

4.4 With regard to the information provided above, the meeting considers that planning for the implementation of the use of XML for OPMET at this stage was too premature. The Task Force then formulated the following recommendation:

**Recommendation 3/16: Preparation of AFI XML Transition Plan**

**That, the preparation of the AFI XML Transition Plan be postponed until the decision on the implementation of the use of XML for OPMET and the necessary XML code tables has been completed by the MET/AIM Divisional Meeting planned for 2014.**

**Agenda Item 5 : Terms of Reference, Compositions and Future Work Programme**

5.1 The meeting recalled that the AFI OPMET MTF was established by Conclusion 16/54 of APIRG/16 meeting with terms of reference and composition as given in the **Appendix J** to this report. The Task Force held its first Meeting in Dakar, Senegal, in October 2009 and its second meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa, in September 2010.

5.2 The Task Force noted that the composition of the MTF and its Terms of Reference shown in **Appendix J** was as described by APIRG during the establishment of the AFI OPMET MTF. The Task Force recalled that the Terms of Reference reflect the overall tasks of the MTF and need to be revised only when major changes are introduced to the MTF programme. Furthermore, any change would have to be subject to a draft conclusion to be endorsed by APIRG. The meeting agreed that there was no need to amend the terms of reference at this meeting.

5.3 The meeting recalled that in accordance in with its Decision 2/1, “ *two successive absences without a written apology to the chairman by a member will automatically cause them to cease to be member*”, In this respect, four members; Ethiopia, Egypt, UK and Liberia ceased to be members of the AFI OPMET MTF. The meeting formulated the following decision in this regard:

**Decision 10/17: Composition of the AFI OPMET MTF**

**That, in accordance with Decision 2/1 of the MTF/2 meeting, Ethiopia, Egypt UK and Liberia have ceased to be members of the AFI OPMET MTF.**

5.4 The Task Force reviewed its work programme as shown in **Appendix K** to report taking into account the following elements:

- a) future work programme for 2012 to 2016; and
- b) executive summaries for each recurrent task.

5.5 It was noted that the work programme would be subjected to revision and consolidation in order to align it with the ICAO Business Plan and to better reflect the work that is being undertaken by the AFI OPMET MTF. The meeting then formulated the following decision:

**Decision 3/18 — Future work programme of the MTF**

**That, the work programme of the AFI OPMET MTF be updated as shown in Appendix K.**

**Agenda Item 6: Any other business**

6.1 The Task Force recognized the continuous necessity to schedule annual meetings of the MTF for the foreseeable future. Regarding the venue for the next meeting in 2012, it was noted that the task Force had just held its third meeting in Dakar, Senegal. In accordance with APIRG/17 Decision 17/80, the next meeting would be held in the Pretoria RODB Provider State.

6.2 The meeting agreed on the proposal that the AFI OPMET MTF/4 Meeting should be convened in South Africa.