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14 February 2008

To :

- The Director-General, Agency for the Safety of Aerial Navigation in Africa and Madagascar (ASECNA)
- The Director-General, Ghana Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA)
- The Director-General, Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA)
- The Managing Director, Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA)
- The Secretary General, Roberts Flight Information Region (Roberts FIR)

Subject: High-level Coordination Meeting of AFISNET Satellite Network Management Committee (SNMC), Dakar, Senegal, 26 March 2008

Sir,

I wish to refer to SNMC Conclusions 16/07 and 16/08 related to a technical evaluation to be conducted on the AFISNET network in view of its re-engineering. These conclusions read as follows :

Conclusion 16/07: AFISNET technical evaluation and re-engineering project

That AFISNET member Administrations and Organizations undertake to implement a joint technical evaluation of the network in view of its re-engineering, in accordance with SNMC Conclusion 15/06. In this connection :

1) AFISNET member Administrations and Organizations should implement a joint technical evaluation of the network. In so doing, they should establish a team of qualified experts to:

- a) conduct a comprehensive assessment of the network potential for current and future requirements and applications;
- b) identify technical and operational deficiencies of the current network and propose short term solutions for their mitigation;
- c) develop user requirements and basic specifications for the re-engineering of the network, to be submitted for formal approval by members;
- d) participate in the request for proposals (RFP) process referred to in 2) hereunder;
and
- e) prepare a report for consideration by the next SNMC meeting;

2) a request for proposals (RFP) for upgrading/re-engineering of AFISNET, including technical, operational, financial and institutional aspects should be initiated through the ICAO technical cooperation mechanism based on a comprehensive assessment of current and future requirements and applications to be supported by the network ; and

3) the ICAO Regional Office should propose the timescales for the RFP process and related steps based on 1) here above for consideration by the next SNMC meeting.

Conclusion 16/08: Designation of project focal points of contact

That AFISNET Administrations and Organizations should designate their project focal points of contact responsible for coordinating the activities related to the implementation of SNMC Conclusion 16/07 - Technical evaluation and re-engineering of AFISNET network.

As a follow-up to the above conclusions, the ICAO Western and Central African Office plans to organize a high-level coordination meeting of AFISNET Satellite Network Management Committee (SNMC) in Dakar, on 26 March 2008, to which your Administration/Organization is invited to participate. The proposed coordination meeting will address practical issues related to the conduct of a joint technical evaluation of AFISNET network, such as working arrangements for the established team of experts, action plan, project requirements, members' initiatives, financial support from AFISNET members, etc.

Kindly inform this Office, at your earliest convenience but in any case not later than 10 March 2008, whether your Administration/Organization intends to participate in the SNMC coordination meeting to be held in Dakar on 26 March 2008, providing the name(s) and official designation(s) of your representative(s).

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A.O. Guitteye,
ICAO Regional Director
for Western and Central Africa