



International Civil Aviation Organization

Western and Central African Office

**Second Meeting of the AFI Frequency Management Group
(AFI/FMG/2)**

Dakar, Senegal, 18-19 April 2011

Agenda Item 3: Follow up on APIRG/17 outcomes pertaining to Frequency Management

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper reviews the status of implementation of ICAO Special RAN/08 and APIRG relevant recommendation, conclusions and decisions, and proposes further action to be taken in order to increase efficiency in frequency management and preparations for the ITU World Radiocommunication Conference of 2012 (WRC-12) by AFI States.

Action by the meeting is at Paragraph 3.

REFERENCES:

- [1] Report of the Third Meeting of APIRG Communications, Navigation, Surveillance Sub Group (CNSG/3).
- [2] Report of the Seventeenth Meeting of APIRG (APIRG/17).

*ICAO Strategic Objectives: A (Safety) and C (Sustainable Development of Air Transport)
ICAO Global Plan Initiative: GPI-23 Aeronautical Spectrum.*

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The AFI Frequency Management Group (AFI/FMG) was established by APIRG/16 Meeting (Rubavu, Rwanda, November 2007) under its Conclusion 16/32, with the objective in order to address issues of common interest related to aeronautical spectrum management and control under the coordination of the ICAO Regional Offices, including the development of a common strategy for an optimum and secured utilization of the aeronautical frequency spectrum, as well suitable tools in order to facilitate its protection, thus supporting ICAO relevant policies.

1.2 APIRG/17 Meeting (Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, August 2010) defined the terms of reference of AFI/FMG as discussed under *Agenda Item 1* of this meeting (*WP/03A refers*), and adopted five (05) conclusions pertaining to the protection and optimum usage of the aeronautical.

1.3 This paper reviews the follow-up action taken by the ICAO Secretariat and States on these conclusions.

2. DISCUSSION

ICAO SP AFI RAN/08

2.1 The ICAO SP AFI RAN/08 noted the difficulties encountered by the AFI Region in its preparations for World Radio Conference (WRC) meetings and the vital role that regional coordination played in this respect. Given the importance and value of frequency protection and considering the safety aspects in the aeronautical realm, it agreed that preparatory activity should continue for the upcoming WRC-2012 and that regional considerations should be coordinated with ICAO Headquarters for their consideration in developing the ICAO position. The following recommendation was formulated:

Recommendation 6/21 — Frequency Spectrum

That:

- a) AFI States provide support to the activities of the frequency management group formed by APRIG/16;
- b) ICAO Headquarters support several meetings and one seminar in the AFI Region prior to World Radio Conference 2012 (WRC-2012);
- c) States and other international organizations support attendance by regional offices at International Telecommunications Union (ITU) preparatory events for WRC-2012;
- d) AFI States' civil aviation authorities request their regulatory authorities to assign aviation experts to participate in their national delegations at ITU Conferences in order to brief the delegations at those conferences on the ICAO position and to support that position; and
- e) a regional coordination meeting be held to develop a harmonized position prior to WRC 2012.

2.2 As a follow up to the above recommendation, ICAO has implemented in December 2010 a Special Implementation Project (SIP) in the form of a Regional Workshop on Frequency Management and Development of Training Aid (WP/6A refers), and AFI States and the Secretariat have been attending key meetings such as the ATU Preparatory meeting (Abuja, 1-3 February 2011), ITU CPM/2 (Geneva, 14-25 February 2011) and ACP Working Group F/24 (Paris, 21-24 February 2011), as well as the Second AFI Frequency Management Group Meeting (AFI/FMG/2) and WRC-2012 Regional Preparatory Meeting (Dakar, 18-22 April 2012).

APIRG/17 MEETING

Use of the Aviation Frequency Spectrum and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC)

2.3 APIRG/17 noted the efforts of ICAO by having a strategy for establishing and promoting the aviation position at future ITU conferences with the aim to protect the aeronautical frequency spectrum. The meeting agreed that States in AFI region should support the ICAO position at the ITU WRC-12 Meeting.

2.4 The meeting was provided with the *ICAO position for WRC-2012* which has been developed by Working Group F of the Aeronautical Communication Panel (ACP) and the Navigation Systems Panel (NSP). The meeting's attention was drawn to the successful outcome from the ITU WRC-07 as a result of direct participation of African Aviation Community.

2.5 States were urged to participate in national and regional WRC preparatory meetings and those of the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) in order for ICAO's position to be reflected in their submissions to the ITU. The following conclusion was formulated:

Conclusion 17/34: ICAO Position for the ITU WRC-2012

That, States and Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs):

- a) Continue their efforts on implementation of the relevant elements of ICAO Assembly Resolution A32-13 and in particular, participate in the preparatory work of the ITU and the ATU for WRC; and
- b) Continue to assign high priority to the tasks relating to the protection and availability of Radio frequency spectrum allocated to aeronautical services and in particular, actively participate in the relevant activities of the ITU-R and ATU.

Deletion of footnotes

2.6 Under Agenda Item 1.1 of WRC-12, the following States were urged to delete footnote 5.330: Angola, Cameroon, Chad, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania and Togo, due to the effect it might have on PBN implementation. The following States were also urged to delete the footnotes 5.362B and 5.362C: Algeria, Benin, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria, Senegal, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Chad, Congo, Egypt, Somalia, Sudan and Togo, in order to give protection to aeronautical radio navigation services from disabling interference, and allow the implementation of ADS-B and improvement of safety of aircraft operations. The following conclusion was formulated:

Conclusion 17/35: Deletion of Footnotes 5.330, 5.362B and 5.362C

That, States with footnotes at 5.330, 5.362B and 5.362C be urged to contact their spectrum regulators to delete these footnotes.

Registration of operational frequencies

2.7 APIRG/17 urged States to formally register their aviation frequencies with their telecommunication regulatory authorities, and accordingly adopted the following conclusion:

Conclusion 17/36: Registration of Operational Frequencies

That, States which have not formally registered their operational frequencies take the necessary steps to register their operational frequencies with their Telecommunication Regulatory Authorities.

AFI Position on WRC-12 Agenda Items 1.3, 1.4 and 1.7

2.8 APIRG/17 noted the assignment, by the CNS Sub- Group, of WRC-12 agenda items to South Africa, Kenya and Ghana to work on and develop Africa position to be discussed at the next AFI/FMG meeting and submitted to ICAO Aeronautical Communication Panel Working Group F (ACP/WG/F) and African Telecommunication Union (ATU) Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM) respectively. The following decision was formulated:

Decision 17/37: Follow –Up of AFI/FMG Action Plan

That:

- a) The following States should follow up on ITU WRC-12 Agenda items and report to AFI/FMG:
 - Ghana: Agenda item 1.3;
 - Kenya: Agenda item 1.4; and
 - South Africa: Agenda item 1.7.
- b) The AFI/FMG Rapporteur (ASECNA) *should* coordinate and follow up on the *implementation of* AFI/FMG action plan and report to the CNS Sub-group.

Non-Application of Charges for the Utilization of Aeronautical Frequency Spectrum

2.9 APIRG/17 expressed concern on the fact that some national Radio Regulators were considering the application of charges for the use of aeronautical frequencies in the provision of air navigation services, including aeronautical communications supported by VSAT stations, in the interest of public safety. The following conclusion was formulated:

Conclusion 17/38: Non-Application of Charges for the Utilization of Aeronautical Frequency Spectrum

That, AFI States (*Radio Regulators*) refrain from subjecting Air Navigation Service Providers to charges for the utilization of Aeronautical Frequency Spectrum, including aeronautical communications supported by VSAT stations.

2.10 **Appendix** to this working paper provides the follow up action taken by the Secretariat. States participating in this meeting are expected to update AFI FMG/2 on progress made in implementing the above referred ICAO SP AFI RAN/08 Recommendation 6/18 and APIRG Conclusions 17/34, 17/35, 17/36 and 17/38 and Decision 17/37.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- 1) Take note of the information provided in this working paper;
- 2) Discuss and provide updated information on progress made in implementing:
 - a. ICAO SP AFI RAN/08 Recommendation 6/18 (*Frequency Spectrum*); and
 - b. APIRG Conclusions
 - i. 17/34 (*ICAO Position for the ITU WRC-2012*)
 - ii. 17/35 (*Deletion of Footnotes 5.330, 5.362B and 5.362C*)
 - iii. 17/36 (*Registration of Operational Frequencies*)
 - iv. 17/38 (*Non-Application of Charges for the Utilization of Aeronautical Frequency Spectrum*); and
 - c. APIRG Decision 17/37 (*Follow –Up of AFI/FMG Action Plan*); and
- 3) Exchange views and make proposals concerning further action to be taken to achieve full implementation.
