

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION
**Fourth Meeting of the APIRG Infrastructure and Information Management Sub Group (IIM/SG/3)
(Virtual Meeting, 31 August-03 September 2021)**
Agenda Item 6: Air Navigation Deficiencies
WP6.1 - Unavailability of OPMET Data in the FAI Region
(Presented by Secretariat)

SUMMARY
<p>This paper presents the outcomes of the AFI workshop conducted on 21 June 2021 on OPMET missing data. It proposes measures to resolve the unavailability of OPMET data in the AFI Region.</p> <p>Action by the meeting is in paragraph 3</p>
<p>REFERENCE(S):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Annex 3 — Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation ▪ Doc 9750, <i>Global Air Navigation Plan</i> ▪ The Regional Air Navigation Plan (ANP), Part III — Communications, Navigation and Surveillance and Part V — Meteorology
<p>Related ICAO Strategic Objective (s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A – Aviation Safety, B – Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency. <p>Related ASBU KPIs & B0/1 Modules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Related ASBU KPIs : All applicable to MET

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Aeronautical meteorological information is provided to the users in support of flexible airspace management, improved situational awareness, collaborative decision-making and dynamically optimized flight trajectory planning. It consists of operational meteorological (OPMET) information and the World Area Forecast System (WAFS) upper wind, humidity and temperature and significant weather forecasts and alphanumeric messages.
- 1.2 The OPMET messages consist of tropical cyclone advisories, volcanic ash advisories, aerodrome routine meteorological reports (METAR), aerodrome special meteorological reports (SPECI), special air-reports (AIREP), aerodrome forecasts (TAF), GAMET area forecasts, and SIGMET and AIRMET information.

- 1.3 In accordance with Annex 3 — *Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation* and the regional air navigation plan (ANP), Part III — *Communications, Navigation and Surveillance* and Part V — *Meteorology*, the telecommunication facilities used for the international exchange of OPMET information should be Aeronautical Fixed Service (AFS).

2. DISCUSSION

- 2.1 Safety issues for airspace users arise when there is lack of provision of OPMET information to users as required by the ICAO SARPs and the provisions of AFI eANP.
- 2.2 In the AFI Region, reports received by the Secretariat from the two Regional OPMET Data Banks (RODBs) Dakar and Pretoria have shown a high level of unavailability of OPMET data. In this regards, over the years, various APIRG Conclusions were formulated to address this challenge. These include:
- Conclusion 20/43: *Action plan to remove air navigation deficiencies in the MET field; and*
 - Conclusion 21/24: *Availability of OPMET Data at AFI OPMET Data Banks*
- 2.3 Consistent with the Conclusions above, the Secretariat on 21 June 2021, conducted a virtual workshop on improving the availability of OPMET data in the AFI Region. The workshop discussed issues related to the loss of OPMET data in the AFI region and allowed participants to share information and experiences. In addition, participants identified gaps related to the loss of OPMET data in the AFI region and the development of a remediation action plan.
- 2.4 Experts from Kenya, ASECNA and South Africa developed the Action Plan, (provided in Appendix A to this Paper. Updating the AFI MET Bulletins Exchange (AMBEX) Handbook is amongst the proposed measures. The meeting is invited to review and approve the measures that have been proposed in this Action Plan.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

- 3.1 The meeting is invited to:
- a) Note the information in this paper;
 - b) Consider and endorse the measures contained in Appendix A to resolve the unavailability of OPMET data in the AFI Region.
- 3.2 **Draft Conclusion 4/xx: Measures to improve the availability of OPMET data in the AFI Region**
That; in view of the safety issues that arise due to the unavailability of OPMET data,
- a) **States/Organizations, implement the measures provided in the OPMET availability Action Plan as contained in Appendix A and report quarterly to the Secretariat;**
 - b) **The Secretariat to coordinate the implementation of the OPMET availability Action Plan and provide support where necessary.**

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