

AFRICAN CONFERENCE ON METEOROLOGY FOR AVIATION (ACMA-2018)**Dakar, Senegal, 28-30 November 2018****CONCEPT NOTE****OUTLINE:**

- Background
 - ICAO Meteorology Divisional Meeting (MET/14) held in 2014 conjointly with fifteenth session of WMO Commission for Aeronautical Meteorology (CAeM-15)
 - Sixteenth session of the WMO Regional Association I (Africa) (RA I-16) held in 2015
- Objective
 - Raise awareness and strengthen mutual understanding of global and regional developments
 - Promote appropriate regional cooperation mechanisms and coordinated approaches
 - Identify opportunities and risks for NMHSs and seek ways to resolve known deficiencies
 - Focus on business models and related governance
- Stakeholders/Partners:
 - WMO RA I and CAeM
 - ICAO
 - ASECNA
 - AMCOMET
 - Users – IATA, IFALPA, other user organizations
 - Industry (e.g. MFI, ...)
 - ICAO/WMO centres: WAFC London, VAAC Toulouse, TCAC La Réunion
- Format and outcomes

1. Background

1.1. At its sixteenth session held in Praia, Cabo Verde in February 2015, WMO Regional Association I (Africa) considered the need to raise the awareness that the coming changes in the global and regional air traffic management (ATM) and the related changes in meteorological (MET) service provision would have a major impact on the provision of MET services as part of the air navigation services by most RA I Members. Among those was an increasing pressure for more competitive and commercial MET service provision. The Association underlined that these trends need to be carefully monitored and discussed, given the importance of assuring aviation safety and service quality, and sustaining fair and equitable cost recovery mechanisms

1.2. The Association agreed on the need to gain a greater understanding of these issues to better inform future discussions and requested the WMO Secretariat to

organize a regional conference that would also build on the outcomes of the 2014 ICAO Meteorology Divisional Meeting (MET/14) held conjointly with the fifteenth session of the WMO Commission for Aeronautical Meteorology (CAeM-15). The Association accordingly adopted Resolution 2 (RA I-16) – Future development of meteorological service provision to civil aviation in Region I (Africa).

1.3. MET/14 was an important milestone in the development of the aeronautical MET service. It gave clear directions for the future in particular the need for full integration of the MET information and services in the global framework presented in the ICAO Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP) and its aviation system block upgrades (ASBU) methodology. MET/14 adopted 29 recommendations which marked the future performance improvements of the MET services throughout the time horizon of the GANP/ASBU blocks – currently 2030 and beyond. WMO is a key stakeholder in the coordinated follow up action on the MET/14 recommendations, in particular in providing the necessary scientific and technical methods and practices for those improvements. Africa is an arena of vigorous development of the new ATM environment, both in technology and regulations. Therefore, ACMA-2018 will be an opportunity to coordinate the African response to the outcomes of the MET/14 and other relevant events that have followed such as the CAeM-16 and TECO in 2018, and to promote a regional coordinated approach.

2. Objectives

2.1. To raise awareness among RA I Members concerning:

- Current and future developments in Africa towards more efficient organization of the air traffic in the Region I and related institutional and technological changes with impacts on the provision of meteorological service.
- Major outcomes of MET/14 related to the GANP and ASBU that would require adjustment of existing or new business models for service delivery, including the shift from “product-centric” to “data-centric” information services, regionalization and globalization.
- New technology to achieve performance improvements in the light of SESAR, NextGen and other such ATM modernization programmes, new concepts and systems (e.g., system-wide information management or SWIM).

2.2. To promote the development of a coordinated approach among the RA I Members in addressing the numerous organizational, regulatory and operational issues related to the MET service provision in the African ATM environment and enhance regional coordination and cooperation.

2.3. Strengthen the mutual understanding with ATM stakeholders.

3. Stakeholders/Partners

3.1. ACMA-2018 will be organized under the aegis of WMO Regional Association I (Africa) and under the patronage of the RA I President. It will be intended mostly for the RA I Members Directors and senior management of the NMHSs and other providers of aeronautical meteorological services. Partnership and coordination with sub-regional bodies like ASECNA is highly desirable.

3.2. The event will be supported thematically by the WMO Commission for Aeronautical Meteorology (CAeM) in view of the global character of the discussed issues. In this regard, the experience of a similar European conference held in RA VI (Europe) in 2015 will be utilized.

3.3. Participation of representatives of the ATM community from different segments (airlines, ANS providers, airport management, etc.) will be crucial for building common awareness and understanding. Primary partners in organizing the event will be ICAO and ASECNA, while other partners such as IATA, IFALPA, CANSO and other relevant organizations (e.g. world area forecast centres, volcanic ash advisory centres and tropical cyclone advisory centres providing service for Africa) will be contacted and strongly encouraged to participate and present their point of view.

4. Format and outcomes

4.1. ACMA-2018 will be organized under an agenda encompassing institutional and technological aspects of the future MET services for ATM with a strong focus on African developments.

4.2. The sessions will include keynote presentations by relevant stakeholders outlining the major drivers for change. The keynotes will be followed by presentations of existing best practices and planning examples, including relevant ongoing research and development efforts.

4.3. Breakout groups (on sub-regional basis) will explore specific topics.

4.4. A panel session will be held to formulate conference recommendations and to prepare a general statement of the conference for adoption immediately prior to the closure of the conference.

4.5. An organizing committee will be responsible for the planning, preparing and conducting the conference in coordination with the local organizers.

4.6. The outcomes of the conference (recommendations and statement) will be reported to the seventeenth session of WMO Regional Association I (RA I-17) with a view to assisting in the formulation of regional follow-up activities. Other bodies such as the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET) and Commission for Aeronautical Meteorology (CAeM) will also be kept informed.
