



ICAO

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North American, Central American and Caribbean Office

WORKING PAPER

AIM/TF/7 — WP/13  
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**Seventh North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group (NACC/WG) Aeronautical Information Management Implementation Task Force Meeting  
(AIM/TF/7)  
(Willemstad, Curaçao, 30 July – 2 August 2024)**

- Agenda Item 8: Development of specific AIM topics:**  
**b. Airspace Optimization; Centralized Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP) of the Region**

**AIRSPACE OPTIMIZATION TASK FORCE (AO/TF) AND AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION PUBLICATION CONSISTENCY**

(Presented by the AO/TF Rapporteur)

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This working paper requests collaboration between the AIM Taskforce and the Airspace Optimization Taskforce with the CANSO-IATA-ICAO Free Route Airspace (CIIFRA) Team to develop a process aimed at harmonizing the publication and accessibility of Aeronautical Information Publications (AIPs) within the region to improve safety and efficiency

<b>Action:</b>	Suggested actions are presented in Section 4.
<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Objective 1 – Safety</li> <li>• Strategic Objective 2 – Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency</li> </ul>
<i>Reference</i>	-----

**1. Introduction**

1.1 During the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Meeting of Rapporteurs of the NACC/WG/RAP/02, it was agreed that the various NACC WG Taskforces would align their work programmes to support the initiatives aimed at optimizing the airspace of the CAR Region. In this regard, the Airspace Optimization Task Force (AO TF) is requesting the assistance of the AIM TF to work on issues related to the publication and access of AIPs.

1.2 The optimization of the airspace in the region depends on harmonized, timely and accurate publication of new optimized routes in the AIPs of the States/Territories/Organizations involved. Another key to the success of airspace optimization is the airspace users' easy access to the most up-to-date AIPs. Streamlining AIP publication and improving user access will lead to airspace users being able to file the new routes resulting in less fuel consumption, reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and reduced operating costs.

## 2. Discussion

2.1 The AO TF is proposing to schedule quarterly virtual meetings with the AIM TF to collaborate and develop the steps needed to harmonize the publication process of AIPs in the region and improve airspace user accessibility to the publications.

2.2 There is a disparity in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Region regarding the methodology in place to access AIP information. The process in some instances is very complex which leads to issues for the airspace users and may even discourage some of them from obtaining the information from the “official” source. This may lead to inefficiencies for airspace users and introduces an element of risk in terms of misinformation or, in some cases, lack of safety-critical information. The meeting is asked to discuss the development of a process to harmonize AIP publication and improve accessibility throughout the Region. This process should include the publication of and accessibility to the States’ AIPs in each State’s language and in English.

2.3 There are several ways to improve airspace user accessibility to the various States’ AIPs. The two primary methods, or some variance from these methods, should be discussed and a determination made on which method to use regionally through collaboration among the LAC States/Territories/Organizations. One way is to have a single website with links to all the LAC Region States/Territories/Organizations’ AIPs. See section 2.5 for an example of ICAO’s website with links to regional AIPs. This method requires all States/Territories/Organizations to keep their AIP websites up to date and ensure the links on the website with all the regional AIP links are correct and functioning. Another way to improve airspace user accessibility to the various States’ AIPs is to have a regional repository for the AIPs of all States/Territories/Organizations in the LAC Region. The single repository idea would require a regional State or organization (e.g., CANSO, ICAO, a LAC Region State, etc.) to house and maintain the repository. This method is more advanced and would require a regional process for States to notify the repository holder of any changes to AIPs.

2.4 Some States/Territories/Organizations have a cost associated with access to their AIP and it is recognized that there is a difference in the cost across the Region for access. In some instances, even the method of payment is complicated. While it is acknowledged that there is a cost associated with the production and publication of AIP information, the risk of some airspace users being unable to access safety-related information should be considered. Safety and efficiency require that all airspace users have access to current and accurate information for decision-making. The meeting is asked to discuss the eradication of direct fees for AIP access in the Region or to incorporate them into user charges to eliminate the complex payment processes currently utilized by some States/Territories/Organizations.

2.5 The following page on the NACC website provides a list of links to access the AIP information of NACC States/Territories/Organizations:

<https://www.icao.int/NACC/Documents/COVID19/eAIPwebsitesAll.pdf>

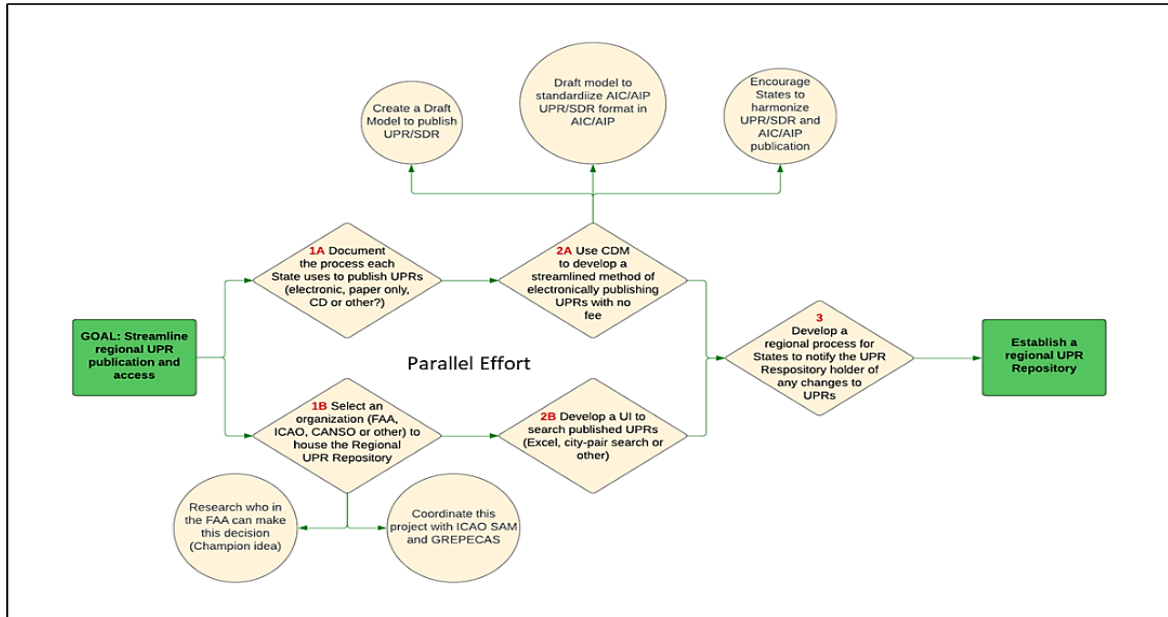
2.6 Airspace users have provided feedback that there are several links that need to be updated. Thus, the States/Territories/Organizations are asked to review and update their links to the NACC website.

### 3. Methodology

3.1 The proposed process captured in the flow chart below can serve as an initial guide for discussions (Note: the flow chart below assumes a regional repository for AIPs although the decision may be made not to have a regional repository).

3.2 Below is a tentative timeline which can be updated by the AO TF and AIM TF as the project develops:

Task	Start	End	Comments
Online meetings between AO and AIM TFs	September 2024	Continuous	Scheduled quarterly or as required
Gather information from ANSPs on their AIC/AIP publication process	September 2024	December 2024	AO and Aim TF gather each LAC State's AIC/AIP publication methodology (e.g., electronic, mail etc.) and fee information.
Through the CDM process, the LAC Region discusses and selects the method of user access to Regional AIPs (see section 2.3 of this document)	December 2024	April 2025	Use existing ICAO website with links to all the States's AIC/AIP websites or create a regional AIC/AIP repository.
AO and AIM TF draft a high-level proposal for a streamlined process for AIC/AIP publication in the LAC Region	April 2025	August 2025	This proposal could be used as a starting point of regional CDM discussions
Implementation of first phase of new process	August 2025	December 2025	



**4. Suggested actions**

4.1 The meeting is invited to harmonize the AIP publication system in the region through:

- a) review the information provided in this WP and support the drive for the harmonization of AIP accessibility in the region to enhance safety and efficiency;
- b) agree to the proposal for scheduled quarterly, virtual meetings between the AO TF and AIM TF;
- c) discuss the development of a process to harmonize AIP accessibility across the region and work with the AO TF to achieve the objective within calendar year 2025;
- d) discuss the possibility of eliminating the direct fees associated with accessing AIP information;
- e) collaborate with the AO TF and suggest any amendment to the proposed process and timeline outlined in Section 3 of this paper;
- f) update the webpage on the NACC website that provides a link to States/Territories eAIP information; and
- g) take any other action that it deems necessary.

— END —