



ICAO

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North American, Central American and Caribbean Office

WORKING PAPER

E/CAR/NTG/13 & E/CAR/RD/11 — WP/03  
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**Thirteenth Eastern Caribbean Network Technical Group (E/CAR/NTG/13), Eleventh Eastern Caribbean Radar Data Sharing Ad hoc Group (E/CAR/RD/11) Meetings**  
(Miami, United States, 21 October 2024)

**Agenda Item 3: Operation and Performance of the E/CAR Aeronautical Fixed Services (AFS) Network**

**NACC/WG/FREQ Task Force Update**

(Presented by the NACC/WG/FREQ Rapporteur)

<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	
This working paper summarizes the activities of the Frequencies Task Force (NACC/WG/FREQ), part of the NACC/WG development in the region to support protection for frequencies that carry out aeronautical services.	
<b>Action:</b>	Suggested actions are presented in Section 4.
<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Safety</li><li>• Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency</li><li>• Economic Development of Air Transport</li></ul>
<i>References:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eighth North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group Meeting (NACC/WG/8), Mexico City, Mexico, 29 August to 1 September 2023.</li><li>• Twenty-first Meeting of the CAR/SAM Regional Planning and Implementation Group (GREPECAS/21), Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 15 November to 17 November 2023.</li><li>• World Radiocommunication Conference (ITU WRC-23) 20 November to 15 December 2023, Dubai, UAE.</li><li>• First North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group (NACC/WG) Frequency Task Force (FREQ/TF/01) Meeting. Online, 22 May 2024</li></ul>

**1. Introduction**

1.1 For the 2023-2024 period, the NACC FREQ Task Force focused on elaborating the project by reinforcing the following essential activities to be implemented:

- a) Carry out the necessary activities for the establishment of the Project at the regional level.
- b) Update the information on aeronautical frequency assignment in the CAR/SAM Regions by November 2023.
- c) Establish/update the regional frequency assignment procedure.
- d) Propose a regional training programme on aeronautical frequencies management
- e) Establish follow-up and evaluation mechanisms for ITU WRC topics.

1.2 The GREPECAS/21 meeting published two important conclusions related to the reinforcement of the measures to be taken to create awareness and improve the management of the aeronautical spectrum within the Civil Aviation community through the member states by allocating the necessary resources.

## **2. Discussion**

2.1 The FREQ TF through the work done with several states of the NACC region was able to finalize the update of ICAO COM Lists 2 and 3 and they are published on the ICAO NACC website.

2.2 Most of the States being part of the MEVA III network designated their point of contact for the management of their aeronautical frequency spectrum. The FREQ/TF rapporteur has suggested to the NACC regional office to extend this PoC list to the other countries of the region figuring on the COM lists for a better harmonization of the work to be done.

2.3 On 22 May 2024, The FREQ Task force had its first official meeting online (FREQ/TF/01). The Meeting was attended by 29 delegates from 11 States/Territories. Its purpose was, mainly, to follow up on the results of the 23rd World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-23) and discuss the TF work plan activities toward the provisional agenda of WRC-27.

2.4 The meeting presented the outcomes of the ITU WRC-23 for the civil aviation industry. As a reminder, Aviation had 6 Agenda Items addressing issues that were seeking action by the WRC-23; and 14 Agenda Items with potential impact on the aviation spectrum use, required scrutiny of the industry over studies to prevent such impact. It is important to note that those recommendations are part of the “ICAO Position for ITU-WRC” document, which is initially developed, after each conference based on the next WRC Agenda, with the assistance of the Frequency Spectrum Management Panel (FSMP) and reviewed by the Air Navigation Commission of ICAO.

2.5 During this meeting it was suggested to the member states of the region to start working closely with their respective spectrum Authority to prepare the next WRC-27 so that Aviation could have a stronger presence and to ensure aeronautical access to appropriately protected spectrum for radiocommunication and radionavigation systems that support current and future safety-of-flight applications. It was indicated by the rapporteur of the FREQ TF that the FSMP already issued a draft of the ICAO Position for WRC-27 which will go through revisions before the final release close to the WRC.

2.6 One of the essential activities of the FREQ TF will be to inform and guide the region member states through the WRC-27 preparation process which is composed of four essential steps after the agenda was submitted by the WRC-23:

- The two CPM (Conference Preparatory Meeting):
  - The 1<sup>st</sup> session CPM27-1 occurred right after the WRC-23 on December 18<sup>th</sup> 2023.
  - The 2<sup>nd</sup> session CPM27-2 to be determine.
- The ITU-R studies period which will take place during the next two years following the CPM27-1.
- Final meetings of regional groups, preparation of proposals, which will need to take place between the CPM27-2 and the actual WRC-27 venue.

2.7 It was acknowledged during the meeting that the Frequency Finder was a very useful tool with a very good database that needs to be maintained, but it also presents some limitations. It was recommended the study for a new software that will consider all the parameters needed for a better assignment and management of the aeronautical frequencies for each state. This work should follow a cleanup on the frequency spectrum frequencies for the different aeronautical services, essentially for the AOC frequencies which are the most difficult to regulate. Meanwhile, it was asked to the Task force to work on the possibility to have more trainings on the Frequency Finder for the member states.

2.8 In addition, the FREQ TF proposed the meeting to create an ad hoc group to assess Annex 10 vol. VI, which talk about the Communication Systems and procedures relating to Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems C2 Link; and evaluate its impact on current and short-term aeronautical operations. The meeting was not able to designate any volunteer for that task.

### **3. Action Plan**

3.1 The Action Plan of the FREQ/TF for the year 2024-2025:

- Finalize the FREQ/TF Terms of Reference (TOR)
- Follow-up with the Ad-hoc group to work on the Frequency Finder
- Plan more trainings with the Regional Office for the Frequency Finder
- Follow-up with member States on the preparation for WRC-27
- Follow-up with the Ad-hoc group to assess Annex 10 Vol VI

### **4. Suggested actions**

4.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information provided in this working paper;
- b) integrate ECAR States in the action plan of the FREQ Task Force;
- c) update list of frequencies of ECAR States; and
- d) recommend any additional action deemed necessary