



ICAO

International Civil Aviation Organization
North American, Central American and Caribbean Office

First North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group (NACC/WG) Frequency Task Force (FREQ/TF/01) Meeting
On-line, 22 May 2024

Summary of Discussions

Date 22 May 2024
Location On-line
Participants The Meeting was attended by 29 delegates from 11 States/Territories. The list of participants is shown in **Appendix A**. The agenda is attached in **Appendix B**.

1. Objectives

1.1 The meeting's purpose was, mainly, to follow up on the results of the 23th World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-23) and discuss the Task Force (TF) work plan activities toward the provisional agenda of WRC-27.

2. Discussion

2.1 The meeting started with the Rapporteur presenting the outcomes of the International Telecommunication Union (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 on 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.

2.2 Outcomes from the WRC-23 related to the main Agenda Items were displayed on a table during the presentation. All the Agenda Items requiring actions were assessed; some were approved for deletion with no further actions. The aviation industry also got allocation of new frequencies for aeronautical mobile-satellite services (117.975-137 MHz) to enhance bidirectional communication via geostationary satellite orbit (non-GSO) satellite systems for pilots and air traffic controllers everywhere, especially over oceanic and remote areas. Bahamas commented that they will be interested in the applications of these new Very High Frequency (VHF) allocations over satellite to implement new communication services.

2.3 All the review and revision of existing Resolutions and Recommendations and the adoption of various new Resolutions are contained in a document titled “World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23) Final Acts”. It is stipulated in this document that the majority of the provisions revised by WRC-23 shall enter into force as from 1 January 2025. The Final Acts are at the link: <https://www.itu.int/pub/R-ACT-WRC.16-2024>

2.4 On the second agenda item, the next ITU-WRC meeting which will be the WRC-27, will be discussed. A preliminary agenda was presented with the essential Items that would require follow-up by the Civil Aviation Industry. It was indicated by the Rapporteur 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.

2.5 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.

2.6 The WRC-27 preparation process will run through four essential steps after the Agenda was submitted by the WRC-23:

- The two Conference Preparatory Meetings (CPM):
 - The 1st session CPM27-1 occurred right after the WRC-23 on December 18th 2023.
 - The 2nd 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 Everything related to the ITU WRC-27 preparatory meetings and studies can be found in the following link: <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/study-groups/rcpm/Pages/cpm-27.aspx>

2.8 Agenda item 3 of the meeting dealt with important decisions and conclusions formulated during the GREPECAS/21 meeting 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.

2.9 The two conclusions are presented in the tables below; one specifying the need of a study to implement a software appropriate for the region to be used as a tool to better assign and manage frequencies. The second conclusions specify that the NAM/CAR Regions use for now the Frequency Finder application as the main tool for the management of the frequencies.

CONCLUSION GREPECAS/21/10		STRENGTHENING OF FREQUENCY MANAGEMENT FOR THE USE OF AIR NAVIGATION SERVICES	
What: That, to increase States' support to the activities of the Aeronautical Frequency Management Project; and expand the Project scope with the activity on specifying an application (software) for technical/operational management and planning of the assignment of aeronautical frequencies for the CAR/SAM Regions; the GREPECAS Aeronautical Frequency Management Project amend its scope to include the study for alternatives, evaluation of costs, and proposing the minimum software implementation requirements, for its presentation at the GREPECAS/22 meeting.		Expected impact: <input type="checkbox"/> Political / Global <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inter-regional <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Operational/Technical	
Why: To strengthen the importance of aeronautical frequency management and for CAR/SAM States to have standardized and regionally harmonized management mechanisms			
When: GREPECAS/23		Status: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Valid / <input type="checkbox"/> Superseded / <input type="checkbox"/> Completed	
Who: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> States <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICAO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:		GREPECAS Aeronautical FREQ Management Project	

CONCLUSION GREPECAS/21/12		USE OF THE FREQUENCY FINDER 2023 APPLICATION AS A MANAGEMENT TOOL FOR VHF NAV AND VHF COM FREQUENCIES USED IN THE AERONAUTICAL CONTEXT	
What: That States/Territories, a) transition the Frequency Finder 2023 runtime application (or subsequent versions) as the basic tool for the management of VHF NAV and VHF COM frequencies in the aeronautical context. b) assign "FF Focal Points" to coordinate internally the updating of information to subsequently submit these updates to the corresponding Regional Offices; and c) forward any proposed changes, via e-mail, by March 2024 to the ICAO ROs, who will upload it to the global database.		Expected impact: <input type="checkbox"/> Political / Global <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interregional <input type="checkbox"/> Economic <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Technical/Operational	
Why: To have a more efficient management of the frequencies used in the aeronautical context, using an updated computerized tool, more effective than the methods previously used (COM2 and COM 3 Lists).			
When: All for March 2024		Status: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Valid / <input type="checkbox"/> Not valid / <input type="checkbox"/> Completed	
Who: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> States <input type="checkbox"/> ICAO <input type="checkbox"/> Other:			

2.10 Dominican Republic commented that as the Frequency Finder application is a very useful tool with a very good database that needs to be maintained, it also presents some limitations. Therefore, the State recommended the study for a new software that will take into account all the parameters needed for a better assignment and management of the aeronautical frequencies for each State. It was also suggested that a cleanup must be done on the frequency spectrum to better allocate the frequencies for the different aeronautical services in each State. It was indicated that the Aeronautical Operational Communications (AOC) frequencies are the most difficult to regulate. Mexico confirmed that it had been working on a regulation for the AOC frequencies, which requires first a change in the country's regulation because the aeronautical spectrum is protected. Mexico proposed to share his work with the group so that it could be a template for other countries in the region facing the same issues.

2.11 The Task force will work on the possibility to have other trainings on the Frequency Finder for the member states.

2.12 The next agenda discussed about the review of the ICAO Annex 10 Vol. VI which talk about the Communication Systems and procedures relating to Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems C2 Link. It is necessary for the region to analyse the information proposed in the new version of Annex 10, Volume VI, since unmanned aircraft will be increasingly integrated into current operations in the short term and it is necessary to identify the regional projects needed to achieve the integration of these operations in a harmonized manner, adopting the necessary operational safety requirements.

2.13 The Task Force proposed to create an Ad hoc Group to to assess Annex 10 vol. VI and evaluate its:

- Safety implications
- Economic impact
- Impact on aviation safety
- Environmental impacts
- Efficiency impact

2.14 The Meeting was not able to designate any volunteer for that task. The Rapporteur will send a draft of Annex 10 Vol. VI document to all the participants and also define the scope of the work that this Ad hoc Group will undertake. It is important to note that this document will be applicable as of 26 November 2026; therefore, all related work should be completed prior to this timeline.

2.15 For the agenda item 5, the TF Rapporteur emphasized the fact that the FREQ/TF, as part of the North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group (NACC/WG) now, needed to update its Points of Contact (PoC) list. For that to be possible the States participating in the meeting needed to designate an expert responsible for the management of the aeronautical spectrum in their country. This list, which previously contained the MEVA members PoCs, needs to be extended to all the countries in the NAM/CAR Regions. The FREQ/TF also required the States to send the name of their respective Spectrum Authority. The table below is a template of the information registered so far:

STATE	Organisation	POC	email	Spectrum Authority	COM list 1	COM List 2	COM List 3
Aruba	ANSA	Joselito Correia de Andrade	Joselito.correiaeandrade@ansa.aw		N/A	Updated	Updated
Cayman	Cayman Islands Airport Authority	Cleavy A. Scott	Cleavy.Scott@caymanairports.com		Updated	Updated	Updated
COCESNA	COCESNA	Manuel Flores	manuel.flores@cocesna.org		Updated	Updated	Updated
El Salvador	COCESNA	Miguel Angel Ramos Suria	mramos@aac.gob.sv	SIGET			
Cuba	IACC	Lizet Toirac González	lizet.toirac@iacc.avianet.cu	MINCOM	Updated	Updated	Updated
Curacao	DC-ANSP	Stephen (Steve) Hunt	s.hunt@dc-ansp.org		No Changes	No Changes	Updated
Dom Rep	IDAC	Elvis A. Collado	ecollado@idac.gov.do	INDOTEL	No changes	No changes	Updated
Freeport	BANSA	Calvin McIntosh	calvin.mcintosh@bansabahamas.com	URCA	Updated	Updated	Updated
Haiti	OFNAC	Nadia Leopold	nleopold@hotmail.com	CONATEL	N/A	Updated	Updated
Jamaica	JCAA	Derrick Grant	derrick.grant@jcaa.gov.jm		Updated	Updated	Updated
Mexico	SENEAM	Daniel Castañeda Cruz	daniel.castaneda.seneam@gmail.com		Updated	Updated	Updated
Nassau	BANSA	Earl A. Rahming Elton Joseph	earl.rahming@bansabahamas.com elton.joseph@bansabahamas.com	URCA	Updated	Updated	Updated
Panama	AACP	Daniel De Avila	daniel.deavila@aeronautica.gob.pa	ASEP			Updated
Puerto Rico	FAA						
St Maarten	SXM	Richard Hazel	rhazel@sxmairport.com		N/A	Updated	Updated

2.16 In other business, the TF Rapporteur highlighted a new concept which is part of the ICAO Frequency Spectrum Strategy promoting a high level vision on existing and future spectrum requirements in support of the evolving Communications, Navigation and Surveillance (CNS) systems and infrastructure requirements. The Integrated CNS and Spectrum (ICNSS) Project goal is to support the medium and long-term evolution of CNS systems by providing an overall systems improvement thus continuing to serve aviation with the high uptime and resilience necessary to maintain aviation's stringent safety record while remaining a responsible user of the spectrum resource.

2.17 The meeting was invited to consult the ICNSS Project document on the link below:
https://www.icao.int/Meetings/a41/Documents/WP/wp_058_en.pdf

3. Outcomes

3.1 The meeting agreed to create an Ad hoc Group that will have as principal task to assess the Frequency Finder application and specify the requirements for an updated, more powerful version of the Frequency Finder or a new software for a better allocation and management of the aeronautical frequencies spectrum. This Ad hoc Group has proposed also to work on a framework to regulate the allocation of the AOC frequencies and will be led by the Dominican Republic and supported by Mexico. Other states will join as the Ad Hoc action plan will be clearly defined.

4. Workshop Schedule and Activities

4.1 The workshop webpage is located at <https://www.icao.int/NACC/Pages/meetings-2024-frequtf.aspx>



North American, Central American and Caribbean Office (NACC)
Oficina para Norteamérica, Centroamérica y Caribe (NACC)

**First North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group (NACC/WG)
Frequency Task Force Meeting
Primera Reunión del Grupo de tarea de Frecuencias del Grupo de Trabajo de Norteamérica,
Centroamérica y Caribe (NACC/WG)
(FREQ/TF/01)**

Online, 22 May 2024 / En línea, 22 de mayo de 2024

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS / LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES

BAHAMAS

1. Elton Joseph
2. Calvin McIntosh
3. Earl Rahming
4. Sheano Dorsett

COSTA RICA

5. Warren Quiros

CUBA

6. Carlos Albert

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC / REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA

7. Elvis Collado

EL SALVADOR

8. Miguel Ramos

HAITI / HAITÍ

9. Emmanuel Jacques
10. Naida Leopold

MEXICO/MÉXICO

11. Tonatiuh Vieyra
12. Miranda Hernández Pérez
13. Daniel Conrado Castañeda Cruz
14. Jaime Guillermo Lozano Robledo
15. Deivit Andrade
16. Esthephanie Álvarez

17. Lesly Victoria

18. Amalia Castro
19. Stephanie Rico
20. Tania Villa
21. Hector García
22. Javier Amado
23. José Luis Hernández Lara

PANAMA/PANAMÁ

24. Daniel De Avila

SINT-MAARTEN

25. Richard Hazel

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO/TRINIDAD Y TOBAGO

26. Naresh Seeparsad
27. Rupnarine Baboolal

UNITED STATES/ESTADOS UNIDOS

28. Rudolph Lawrence

ICAO/OACI

29. Mayda Ávila



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**APPENDIX
PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

- Agenda Item 1:** Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Schedule
- Agenda Item 2:** Review of the Status of the results of the WRC-23 and the agenda for the WRC-27
- Agenda Item 3:** Status of the Activities of the NACC/WG/FREQ Task Force and update of the 2024 work plan
- Agenda Item 4:** Other Business

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA
EXPLANATORY NOTES**

Agenda Item 1: Adoption of the Provisional Agenda

Under this agenda item, the Meeting will review and adopt the agenda. The objectives and general expectations of the meeting will be presented.

Agenda Item 2: Review of the Status of the results of the WRC-23 and the agenda for the WRC-27

Under this agenda item, the Group's rapporteur will cover topics related to the world radio frequency conferences WRC-23 and WRC-27.

Agenda Item 3: Status of the Activities of the NACC/WG/FREQ Task Force and update of the 2024 work plan

The rapporteur will present a summary of the activities developed within the Group, in the same way the 2024 action plan of the Task Group will be updated.

Agenda Item 4: Other Business.

Under this agenda item, the Meeting will review other relevant and/or pertinent matters.