



ICAO

**Twenty-Second Meeting of the AFI Planning and Implementation Regional Group
(APIRG/22)
(Accra, Ghana, 29 July – 2 August 2019)**

Agenda Item 4: Other Air Navigation Issues

4.1 Air Navigation Deficiencies

OPMET DATA QUALITY AND AVAILABILITY IN THE AFI REGION

(Presented by South Africa)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the status of OPMET data quality and availability in the AFI Region and highlight factors impacting on data quality and availability in a broader context. Furthermore, the paper presents the role played by regional OPMET Databanks Dakar and Pretoria to enhance data availability and data exchange in the region and beyond.

The meeting is invited to:

- (a) note the information contained in this paper;
- (b) urge States to contribute to OPMET availability by ensuring that messages are quality controlled prior to disseminating them; and
- (c) urge the States to use relevant, applicable guidelines provided by ICAO for the correct formatting of messages.

<i>Strategic Objectives</i>	Related ICAO Strategic Objective(s): Safety (A) and Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency (B)
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Several factors continue to impact on the quality and availability of OPMET data in the AFI Region. These factors are systematic in nature and require drastic measures by all relevant stakeholders to address them.

1.2 The roles and responsibilities of AFI RODBs with respect to OPMET Data in the AFI Region are prescribed in the AMBEX Handbook and further clarified through various APIRG Conclusions and Decisions.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Dakar and South Africa are two host States of AFI Regional OPMET Data Banks namely; Dakar and Pretoria RODBs respectively. The roles and responsibilities of the two RODBs include the collection, storage and exchange of OPMET data within the AFI Region and exchange of such data with other Regions of ICAO in accordance with the AMBEX scheme. In addition, RODBs are expected to play a significant role in OPMET data exchange under the System Wide Information management (SWIM).

2.2 In fulfilling the above, AFI RODBs must implement the required capabilities inter alia bandwidth and data control capabilities to ensure effective collection, storage, quality control and exchange of OPMET Data within the AFI Region and beyond. Furthermore, APIRG Conclusion 20/23 (c) calls for the AFI RODBs to conduct regular monitoring of OPMET data and present quarterly statistics reports in accordance with the reporting formats prescribed in AFI AMBEX Handbook (i.e. regularity, availability and compliance indices). The RODBs are also expected to provide support to States in the AFI Region to build the necessary capacity required for the exchange of OPMET data in new formats (IWXXM) introduced through a series of amendments to ICAO Annex 3 notably amendment 76-78.

2.3 The validation of OPMET Data is one of the key capabilities that exist at Pretoria RODB. It enables the detection and isolation of OPMET Data which does not conform to the set standards as prescribed in the AMBEX Handbook. Pretoria RODB has also implemented several measures to assist in increasing OPMET data quality and availability in the region including ongoing interacting with ICAO ESAF office, IROG Toulouse and States to address identified issues relating to OPMET data such as incorrect headers line, coding and lack of adherence to bulletin transmission times. This is in addition to regular interaction with users through an established user consultative forum which has led to a better understanding of user perception and perspective about challenges associated with the quality and availability of OPMET Data in the AFI Region.

2.4 The impact of poor quality OPMET data is significant to the safety of air navigation in the region. It also impacts on the accuracy of numerical prediction models and subsequent products provided to support the safety of flight operations. Several contributing factors may be responsible for poor quality and availability of OPMET data in the AFI region. Some of these challenges are inherent in the overall system and may require structural changes including changes in Government policy to alleviate them.

2.5 The lack of implementation of relevant APIRG Resolutions is also a major contributing factor and so is the lack of a collective effort amongst States at regional and sub-regional level to confront challenges together in the spirit of No Country Left Behind.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- (a) note the information contained in this paper;
- (b) urge States to contribute to OPMET availability by ensuring that messages are quality controlled prior to disseminating them; and
- (c) urge the States to use relevant, applicable guidelines provided by ICAO for the correct formatting of messages.