



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

Seventh Meeting of the APIRG Infrastructure and Information Management Sub-Group
(IIM/SG7)

Dakar, Senegal, 5 - 8 August 2024

Agenda Item 5: Implementation challenges of the Sub-group

WP5.1 Challenges faced by the IIM/SG in the implementation of projects

(Presented by the Chairperson of IIM/SG)

SUMMARY
This working paper outlines challenges faced by the IIM/SG in the implementation of its related projects and activities by IIM Project Teams fulfilling their mandate Action by the meeting in paragraph 3
REFERENCE(S): <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ APIRG/23 Report▪ APIRG/24 Report▪ Terms of Reference of the IIM/SG▪ APIRG procedural Handbook
This working paper relates to ICAO Strategic Objectives: A – Safety, B – Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The mandate of the IIM/SG established by APIRG is to support the implementation of ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and carry out specific activities aimed to enable APIRG to discharge its functions and responsibilities in the areas of CNS, AIM and MET.

1.2. The key functions of IIM/SG include:

- a) to foster the implementation of relevant modules of the ICAO Aviation System Block Upgrades (ASBUs) adopted by APIRG.
- b) to develop implementation projects related to the areas of MET, AIM and CNS in accordance with the ASBUs methodology and as guided by the regional performance objectives, and provide support to States in the implementation of SARPs and regional air navigation plan (ANP) requirements.

- c) to take necessary action to enable coherent planning and implementation of MET, AIM and CNS programmes in the AFI Region, to facilitate the objective of achieving seamlessness in the air navigation system, interoperability and harmonization within the Region and with other Regions.

2. DISCUSSIONS

- 2.1. The IIM/SG is facing several challenges that prevent it from fully supporting States.
- 2.2. The APIRG/24 meeting approved the alignment of IIM project activities with the provisions of the GANP and the with the agreed regional performance targets to achieve the following:
- the completion of Volume III of the AFI eANP ;
 - States of the AFI region to effectively implement the ASBU modules identified as applicable to the region;
 - the region to report to the ICAO Council on the status of implementation of applicable ASBU elements.
- 2.3. Project documents have been amended to reflect the GANP provisions. However, despite consistent guidance on the development of project costs provided to PTCs to help them assess the costs of their projects, the sub-group has not been able to submit them to APCC for validation and APIRG for approval.
- 2.4. This situation hinders the effective implementation of project activities (assistance to States, organization of training and/or awareness seminars/workshops) and, as a result, distances the sub-group from its objective.
- 2.5. Another issue with project costing is that AAO and IIM sub-groups are required to submit their project costings at the same time, which poses the risk of late submission in the event that one of the sub-groups is not ready to do so.
- 2.6. The lack of participation by State-appointed experts remains an issue. To overcome this problem, the amended IIM ToR no longer requires a quorum for progress meetings. PTCs and the secretariat must take steps to ensure that they have up-to-date lists of active team members for all projects.
- 2.7. Some PTCs require training in new technical and technological issues that are essential to enable them to develop up-to-date deliverables that will provide guidance to states.
- 2.8. Facilitators are sometimes not available to lend their expertise to the team of technical experts when needed.
- 2.9. The AIM/4 and AIM/5 projects approved by APIRG/25 are still not operational due to the lack of qualified experts to coordinate project activities.
- 2.10. Language barrier as the agreed language is English for the meetings. This becomes a challenge for non-English speaking technical experts.
- 2.11. As the way forward, the meeting may wish to consider the following recommendations:

- a) The IIM team should take all necessary steps to assist projects that have not yet submitted their project costs to do so. This will enable IIM/SG to submit all project costs to the next APIRG meeting for approval.
- b) IIM Bureau should coordinate with AAO Bureau at the next IIM-AAO coordination meeting for the timely submission of projects costings to the next APIRG.
- c) The PTCs, in collaboration with the facilitators, should organize progress meetings (no quorum is required) in accordance with the project documents and at the specified frequency. They must also ensure that tasks assigned to team members are completed between meetings, in order to maintain progress towards set objectives.
- d) PTCs should attend coordination meetings and, if they are not available, to designate team members to represent them.
- e) In collaboration with the secretariat, PTCs should revise project team lists to reflect active participants and consider adding qualified experts.
- f) The secretariat should send official letters of designation to the administration of selected SMEs to facilitate their participation in project activities.
- g) The secretariat should continue to support project activities and accelerate the identification of experts to coordinate the AIM4 and AIM5 projects.
- h) The secretariat should periodically sensitize project teams to new technologies in order to properly align projects.

3. ACTIONS BY THE MEETING

3.1. The meeting is invited to items:

- a) Take note of the information presented in this working document, highlighting the challenges for APIRG IIM/SG.
- b) Discuss and agree on the recommendations formulated in paragraph 2.11 above as the way forward to address the reported challenges.

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