

## Third Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-3)

20-24 July 2015  
Nuku'alofa  
The Kingdom of Tonga

### Agenda Item 12.2: Cost Recovery for Aviation Weather Services

#### Purpose

1. The purpose of the document is to highlight specific issues related to the cost-recovery (or their lack of) for the provision of aeronautical meteorological service by the Pacific Islands Countries and Territories (PICTs). The paper proposes innovative approach and cooperative effort aimed at developing proposals for cost recovery (and other funding) mechanisms, based on relevant International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and WMO guidance. The cost-recovery principles of fairness, transparency and equitability should be duly observed in the PICTs deliberations on cost recovery.

#### Background

2. Implementing an effective cost-recovery mechanism aligned with the ICAO and WMO guidance (summarized in the WMO-No. 904, Guide to aeronautical meteorological services cost recovery: principles and guidance, available online at: <http://www.wmo.int/aemp/regulations>) is crucial for ensuring the provision of high quality and sustainable aeronautical meteorological service by the Members of WMO. It is recognized that most of the members of PMC are lacking such cost-recovery mechanism(s) which results in systematic underfunding of the aeronautical meteorological services and related deficiencies in service provision. In addition, lack of funding prevents the uptake of advanced technology for monitoring and forecasting of aviation weather hazards with overall negative impact on safety, efficiency and regularity of the aviation operations.

3. The Sixteenth Session of WMO Regional Association V (South-West Pacific) in May 2014 noted the existing arrangements for the delegation of certain meteorological services, e.g., the issuance of TAF and SIGMET for some airports and flight information regions by Fiji, and considered such delegation of service as an efficient sub-regional approach. However, the Session stressed that the capacities for the provision of the requisite basic services should continue to be developed and enhanced at national level. Development of an appropriate cost-recovery mechanism for the PICTs, with due consideration of the specifics of the flight operations, should be considered. In this regard, the Session urged its Members to strengthen the cooperation between the Meteorological Authorities (MAs) and Aeronautical Meteorological Services Providers (AMSPs) and the respective Civil Aviation Administrations (CAAs) to ensure that requisite services, such as meteorological observations and reports at aerodromes, are adequately resourced for continuous operations.

Resolution 2 (RA V-16) also requested the Secretary-General to provide further guidance and assistance to Members of the Regional Association V (South-West Pacific) on the practical implementation of cost-recovery for aeronautical meteorological services at the national and subregional levels, in coordination with ICAO.

4. The recent Seventeenth World Meteorological Congress (Cg-17) also recognized that “Development of an appropriate cost recovery mechanism for those Members (of WMO) with low traffic volumes (i.e., the SIDS), with due consideration of the specifics of the flight operations, should also be considered”.

5. The Conjoint ICAO/WMO Meteorology Divisional Meeting (July 2014, Montreal, Canada) also discussed the need for enhanced cost-recovery arrangements and respective guidance, in particular, with regard to the foreseen “regionalization” of some service, such as SIGMET. To address such crucial governance issue, both ICAO and WMO established relevant expert bodies, i.e., the WMO CAeM Expert Team on Governance (ET-GOV), and the Meteorological Cost Recovery Guidance and Governance Team under the ICAO MET Panel. It is therefore recommended that the specific cost-recovery issues for the PICTs should be addressed to those bodies for development of respective proposals and guidance.

6. In addition to the need for guidance from ICAO and WMO, it should be fully understood that the effective implementation of a cost-recovery mechanism at national level is not possible without full cooperation between all relevant stakeholders: the AMSPs (i.e, the NMHSs), the CAAs, airline and airport operators, and government department related to finance and taxation (the treasury). It is therefore essential that the Minister responsible for meteorology should strongly support the cost-recovery and coordinate with his/her colleagues at government level.

7. In the case of delegated service provision, where one country provides service on behalf of one or more other countries, the cost-recovery issues should be negotiated and resolved in a fully transparent and equitable manner. Noting that the PICTs region already has a regionalized service delivery, it would be desirable to establish a task team or a focal point to deal with the cost-recovery issues. Such task team or focal point should coordinate with relevant ICAO and WMO groups to establish a proposed business model that would allow all PICTs participating in the service provision to benefit from the air navigation service charges attributed to meteorological services.

## Recommendations

8. The Meeting is invited to:

➤ **Note** the importance of implementing adequate funding mechanisms for the provision of aeronautical meteorological services, including cost-recovery at national and regional level, to ensure the quality, sustainability and fitness for purpose of these services in accordance with the evolving user requirements;

➤ **Recommends:**

- (a) To establish a regional task team or focal point on cost-recovery, to liaise with relevant ICAO and WMO groups to ensure that specific issues of PICTs are properly addressed,
- (b) To establish a pilot project on cost recovery with one or more PICTs in order to test possible solutions and business models (note: such pilot project could be a work package of a larger scale regional project funded through various mechanisms),

- (c) To send a formal request to the CAeM ET-ETC, the ICAO MET Panel, and to WMO and ICAO Secretariats, raising the cost recovery for PICTs countries as a specific issue that needs special attention;
  - **Endorses** a regional target or dateline for development of specific guidance and proposed business models for cost-recovery in the PICTs region.
- 

**Attachments**

Nil

18 July 2015