Annex 3

Overview of ICAO Meteorology Panel (METP) and key outcomes from the second meeting of the METP in 2016

1. About the ICAO Meteorology Panel (METP)

1.1. METP was established to define and elaborate concepts and to develop ICAO provisions for aeronautical meteorological (MET) services consistent with operational improvements envisioned by the Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP, Doc 9750) and in keeping with the working arrangements between ICAO and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

1.2. The METP shall collaboratively determine operational requirements for aeronautical MET service provision as an enabling function for a future globally interoperable air traffic management system and identify solutions, in coordination with WMO, to effectively and efficiently fulfil the requirements through sound scientific and/or technological capabilities.

1.3. The first meeting of the Meteorology Panel (METP/1) was convened in Montréal, Canada, 20 – 24 April 2015. This inaugural meeting was intended to primarily address administrative issues, such as the work programme and structure of the Meteorology Panel and its coordination with other bodies.

1.4. The second meeting, METP/2, was also held in Montréal, Canada, from 17 to 21 October 2016. METP/2 addressed a number of agenda items, including:

- The METP work programme
- Development of meteorology requirements to support trajectory-based operations
- Development of ASBU-MET modules
- Development of PANS-MET
- Development of meteorological information service including: radioactive material in the atmosphere, space weather, volcanic ash, regional hazardous weather advisories and the world area forecast system
- Development of meteorological information exchange
- Development of cost recovery guidance and governance

2. Outcomes from METP/2

2.1. METP/2 formulated a total of twenty-seven (27) Recommendations and thirteen (13) Decisions, discussed further, below.

2.2. METP/2 agreed that the *Concept for the Integration of Meteorological Information for ATM* should be published as soon as possible (Decision 3/1 — *Publication of the document Concept for the Integration of Meteorological Information for ATM*, refers).

2.3. METP/2 formulated a recommendation for a proposal to amend Annex 3, Appendix 6, Table A6-1A, to allow the use of a circle (cylinder) for any SIGMET message as well as a note to address the issuance of a RDOACT CLD SIGMET when detailed information on the release is not available (Recommendation 4/1 refers).

2.4. METP/2 formulated a recommendation for proposals to amend Annex 3 to introduce the provision of space weather service information and consequential proposals for amendments to Annex 15

– *Aeronautical Information Services*, Procedures for Air Navigation Services – *ICAO Abbreviations and Codes* (PANS-ABC, Doc 8400), Procedures for Air Navigation Services – *Air Traffic Management* (PANS-ATM, Doc 4444), and the *Manual on Coordination between Air Traffic Services, Aeronautical Information Services and Aeronautical Meteorological Services* (Doc 9377) (Recommendation 4/3 refers).

2.5. To assist in the process of selection of space weather information providers, METP/2 recommended that the ICAO Air Navigation Commission (ANC) endorse the guidance developed on the process for establishing the global space weather information capability, including the schedule to complete the said process (Recommendation 4/4 refers).

2.6. Related to the above, METP/2 recommended that WMO be formally requested to undertake site assessments and audits of prospective space weather information providers in accordance with the timeline above (Recommendation 4/5 refers).

2.7. The Panel formulated a recommendation for a proposal to amend Annex 3 to add a note at Chapter 3, Paragraph 3.4.1 on guidance to meteorological watch offices (MWO) regarding bilateral and multi-lateral cooperation and coordination of SIGMET information messages (Recommendation 4/9 refers).

2.8. With respect to enabling additional parameters and meteorological information within the ICAO Meteorological Information Exchange Model (IWXXM), METP/2 recommended that the ANC endorse a set of specific principles and actions enabling standardized extensions within IWXXM Schema (Recommendation 5/1 refers).

2.9. In order to allow adequate time (for States) to develop, test and implement the tools needed to support amendments to IWXXM, METP/2 formulated a recommendation that a standing working practice be introduced requiring that the applicability date should not be sooner than eighteen months following publication of the amendment to Annex 3 (Recommendation 5/4 refers).

2.10. METP/2 formulated a recommendation that the guidance document *Guidelines for the Implementation of OPMET data exchange using IWXXM* be endorsed and recommended as guidance for ICAO Planning and Implementation Regional Groups (PIRGs) (Recommendation 5/5 refers).

2.11. Given the important nature of tropical cyclone and volcanic ash advisory information and SIGMET information, and their regular distribution as TEST or EXERCISE messages, METP/2 formulated a recommendation for a proposal to amend Annex 3, Table A2-1, Table A2-2 and A6-1A, to include additional fields to indicate the operational status (TEST or EXERCISE) (Recommendation 5/6 refers).

2.12. With respect to Annex 3 Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) concerning IWXXM, METP/2 agreed that the best option would be that IWXXM be introduced as a standard (for METAR/SPECI, TAF, SIGMET, AIRMET, volcanic ash advisory information and tropical cyclone advisory information) in Annex 3 in 2018, but that the applicability date be delayed until 2020 to allow for a 30-month lead time for the notification to States that IWXXM will become a standard, thus allowing for better planning and budgeting for the implementation phase (Recommendation 5/8 refers).

2.13. METP/2 formulated a decision to endorse updates developed to the regional SIGMET guide template to align with Amendment 77 to Annex 3 (Decision 6/1 refers).

2.14. METP/2 agreed that the term 'APRX' should be removed from the regional SIGMET guide template and not recommended for use (Decision 8/3 refers).

2.15. METP/2 formulated a recommendation for a proposal to amend Annex 3, Tables A2-2 and A6-1A, with respect to the advisory number, observed position and observed CB cloud in the template for advisory message for tropical cyclones (Table A2-2) and the TC Centre in the SIGMET template (Table A6-1A) (Recommendation 8/2 refers).

2.16. METP/2 formulated a recommendation for a proposal to amend Annex 3 to include WMO requirements with respect to qualifications and competencies, education and training of meteorological personnel (Recommendation 8/3 refers).

Note: the METP/2 recommendations for proposals to amend Annex 3 discussed above were promulgated to member States in the ICAO State letter, Proposals for the amendment of Annex 3*, Ref.: AN 10/1-17/41, dated 7 April 2017.*