



Our ref.: 04210/2019/OBS/OSD/AMDAR-TF

27 February 2019

Subject: 2019 Contribution to the AMDAR Panel Trust Fund

Dear Sir/Madam,

You will recall that the Aircraft Meteorological Data Relay (AMDAR) observing system is now a fully operational component of the Global Observing System of the WMO World Weather Watch Programme. Following Decision 37 of the seventieth session of the Executive Council (EC-70), the Commission for Basic Systems (CBS) Inter-Programme Expert Team on Aircraft-Based Observing Systems (IPET-ABO) has WMO programmatic responsibility for ongoing maintenance and development of AMDAR and the Aircraft-Based Observations Programme (ABOP). This team and its work programme and activities will continue to be supported by the AMDAR Trust Fund under agreed and approved Terms of Reference<sup>1</sup>. A comprehensive strategy, work plan and budget<sup>2</sup> have been developed for the ABOP that are based on the actions relevant to aircraft-based observations and AMDAR from the CBS Implementation Plan for Evolution of the Global Observing System (GOS)<sup>3</sup>.

A major development within the programme is the move to establish a collaborative arrangement between WMO and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) on the future operation of the AMDAR programme. This has been initiated based on a Working Arrangement between the two organizations established in July 2017 following Decision 60 of the sixty-ninth session of EC (EC-69). This collaboration is expected to facilitate greater cooperation from the aviation industry in the future expansion and enhancement of the AMDAR observing system.

Over 2018, the ABOP coordinated and completed work towards the following activities and outcomes, among others:

- (a) Continued contribution to the development of the Terms of Reference, Concept of Operations and Implementation Plan for the WMO-IATA Collaborative AMDAR Programme (WICAP) to be submitted to the eighteenth World Meteorological Congress (Cg-18) in June 2019;
- (b) Analysis and provision of a study on WMO AMDAR Programme Coverage Status and Potential Extension;

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/GOS/ABO/documents/AMDAR\\_TF\\_ToR\\_Jan2013\\_Approved.pdf](http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/GOS/ABO/documents/AMDAR_TF_ToR_Jan2013_Approved.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/GOS/ABO/ABO\\_Work\\_Program.html](http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/GOS/ABO/ABO_Work_Program.html)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/GOS/ABO/ABOP\\_Long-term\\_Work\\_Plan.html](http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/GOS/ABO/ABOP_Long-term_Work_Plan.html)

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO

cc: President of CBS  
President of CIMO  
Chairperson CBS/ET-ABO  
Chairperson CIMO/ET-AO

- (c) Conducted two regional workshops on AMDAR, the first in Hong Kong, China (May 2018), and the second in Buenos Aires, Argentina, (December 2018); and
- (d) Completed the establishment of a pilot project to derive aircraft-based observations over the South-west Pacific and the Caribbean.

In line with Resolution 22 of the seventeenth World Meteorological Congress (Cg-17), you are invited to make a contribution to the AMDAR Trust Fund in 2019 to support technical developments and capacity-building related to the following very important ongoing activities associated with the Aircraft-Based Observations Programme:

- (a) Consultancy for further development and technical coordination supporting the implementation of the WMO-IATA Collaborative AMDAR Programme;
- (b) Consultancy and support for aircraft-based observations outreach and capacity development activities, including a major IATA and WMO conference on aircraft-based observations (October 2019) and a workshop on the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) for provision of upper-air observations;
- (c) Provision of aircraft-based observations over upper-air data sparse areas, including Africa and the tropics;
- (d) Attendance at aviation standards forums and other meetings;
- (e) Development of the aircraft-based observations metadata repository within Observing Systems Capability Analysis and Review (OSCAR)/Surface; and
- (f) Holding of technical workshops, seminars and meetings supporting national and regional AMDAR development.

Alternatively, you may wish to consider providing support for specific ongoing activities in the Aircraft-Based Observations work programme.

I would also request that you please review the status of your organization's WMO Focal Point on AMDAR and advise of any changes in this regard. The current list of national focal points is available from the WMO Country Profile Database here:

[https://www.wmo.int/cpdb/workgroups/view/crm\\_FP%20AMDAR](https://www.wmo.int/cpdb/workgroups/view/crm_FP%20AMDAR)

I would be most grateful for an indication of whether your country will contribute to the AMDAR Trust Fund for the period 2019 in support of Aircraft-Based Observations Programme activities and the related projects and initiatives. In the affirmative, an early indication of the amount that you may be able to contribute to the AMDAR Trust Fund or other support that you are prepared to offer, would also be appreciated.

Yours faithfully,



(W. Zhang)  
for the Secretary-General