

**WMO OMM**

World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale
Organización Meteorológica Mundial
Всемирная метеорологическая организация
المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية
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Ref.: 05759/2021-17/ONM

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23 March 2021

Subject: 2021 Contribution to the AMDAR Operating Fund

Action required: Indication of your financial contribution to the AMDAR Operating Fund, and national focal point update

Dear Sir/Madam,

You will recall that the Aircraft Meteorological Data Relay (AMDAR) observing system is now a fully operational component of the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS). Under the Commission for Observation, Infrastructure and Information Systems (INFCOM), the Joint Expert Team on Aircraft-Based Observing Systems (JET-ABO) has WMO programmatic responsibility for ongoing maintenance and development of AMDAR and other aircraft-based observing systems. This team and its work programme and activities are supported by the AMDAR Operating Fund under the agreed and approved [Terms of Reference](#).

A comprehensive strategy, [work plan and budget](#) have been developed for the Aircraft-Based Observations Programme (ABOP) based on the relevant actions of the Implementation Plan for Evolution of global observing systems under WIGOS.

A major development within the programme is the establishment of the collaborative arrangement between WMO and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) on the future operation of the AMDAR programme following [Resolution 39 \(Cg-18\)](#) - Establishment of collaboration between the International Air Transport Association and WMO on the development and operation of the Aircraft Meteorological Data Relay Programme.

Over the course of 2020, the ABOP coordinated and completed work towards the following activities and outcomes, among others:

- (a) Establishment of an updated Working Arrangement between IATA and WMO on the Establishment and Operation of the WMO-IATA Collaborative AMDAR Programme (WICAP) in October 2020;
- (b) Support for a temporary position in the Secretariat to support the role of Oversight Planning and Coordination Team of the WICAP;
- (c) Establishment of the WICAP governing and legal frameworks including its Data Policy and Governing Board, for which the inaugural meeting was held in January 2021;
- (d) In collaboration with the Member Services Regional Offices conducted meetings and activities towards the establishment of regional AMDAR programmes under WICAP;
- (e) Developed two online webinars on WICAP and its benefits to aviation;

To: Permanent Representatives of Members with WMO

cc: President of INFCOM, Chairperson JET-ABO

- (f) Coordinated and completed an update to the publication entitled *The Benefits of Aircraft-based Observations and AMDAR to Meteorology and Aviation* (now published as *WIGOS Technical Report, 2021-01* (WMO/TR-No. 2021));
- (g) Continued to support optimization and enhancement of the AMDAR system and other aircraft-based observing systems, including collaborating with Members and private agencies to provide supplementary data to offset losses due to the COVID-19 crisis; and
- (h) Coordinated activities towards the operational establishment of Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS) as a component system of WIGOS.

In line with [Resolution 22 \(Cg-17\)](#) - Global Observing System, you are invited to make a contribution to the AMDAR Operating Fund in 2021 to support technical developments and capacity-building related to the following very important ongoing activities associated with the ABOP:

- (a) Consultancy for further development and technical coordination supporting the regional implementation of the WICAP;
- (b) Consultancy and support for aircraft-based observations outreach and capacity development activities, including WICAP regional workshops and seminars;
- (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) Ongoing development of the aircraft-based observations metadata repository aligned with OSCAR/Surface; and
- (f) Activities relating to the operational establishment of Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS) as a component system of WIGOS.

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

I would request therefore that you please:

- (1) Review the status of your organization's WMO National Focal Point on aircraft-based observations and advise of any changes in this regard. The current list of national focal points is available from the [WMO Community Platform](#).
- (2) Provide an indication of whether your country will contribute to the AMDAR Operating Fund for the period 2021 and, in the affirmative, an early indication of the amount that you will contribute or other support to the programme that you might offer, would be appreciated.

I wish to thank you for your continued support to the WMO activities.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Wenjian Zhang
for the Secretary-General