



Our ref.: 03106/2023/1/ONM

20 February 2023

Subject: Contribution to the AMDAR Operating Fund 2023

- Action required:
- (1) Update your National Focal Point on Aircraft-Based Observations if required
 - (2) Indicate your financial contribution to the AMDAR Operating Fund

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, its work programme and its 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 priorities and actions of the work plans of the overseeing INFCOM Standing Committee on Earth Observing Systems and Monitoring Networks ([SC-ON](#)) and the Standing Committee on Measurements, Instrumentation and Traceability ([SC-MINT](#)).

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 AMDAR 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 2022, ABOP coordinated and completed work towards the following activities and outcomes:

- (a) The further development of the WMO-IATA Collaborative AMDAR Programme (WICAP), including the establishment of regional programmes, the development of regional and global implementation plans and of promotional and business case materials;
- (b) Continuing support for a temporary position in the Secretariat within the Oversight Planning and Coordination Team of WICAP;
- (c) Oversight of development under contract of the Aircraft-based Observations Metadata Repository as a component of OSCAR/Surface;
- (d) Continued support for the optimization and enhancement of the aircraft-based and AMDAR observing systems, including the provision of supplementary AMDAR data over Africa; and

To: Permanent Representatives of Members with WMO

cc: Hydrological Advisers

- (e) Continued development of the concept and plans for the [WMO Uncrewed Aircraft Systems \(UAS\) Demonstration Campaign](#).

In line with [Resolution 22 \(Cg-17\)](#) - Global Observing System, you are invited to make a contribution to the AMDAR Operating Fund in 2023 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 WICAP;
- (b) Consultancy and support for aircraft-based observations outreach and capacity development activities, including WICAP regional workshops and a workshop on water vapour measurement;
- (c) Continued provision of aircraft-based observations over upper-air data sparse areas, including Africa and the tropics;
- (d) Ongoing development of the aircraft-based observations metadata repository aligned with OSCAR/Surface; and
- (e) 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 work programme.

I would kindly request therefore that you:

- (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 2023 and, in the affirmative, an early indication of the amount that you wish to contribute. Any other support that you might wish to offer to the programme would also be very much appreciated.

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

Yours faithfully,



Dr Wenjian Zhang
for the Secretary-General