

**Cooperative Aviation Security Programme Middle East (CASP-MID)****Report of the Third Meeting of the Executive Steering Committee (ESC)****3 November 2015**

The Third Executive Steering Committee Meeting for CASP-MID was held at Bahrain Civil Aviation Affairs, Al Shaheen Conference Room, Manama Bahrain on Tuesday, 3 November 2015. In attendance were representatives of four States; Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Sudan. The attendance list is an addendum to this report.

The meeting followed a provisional agenda which began with registration and a welcome address by Mr. Hussain A. Al-Shuail, Assistant Undersecretary for Safety and Security, Bahrain Civil Aviation Affairs. Mr. Al-Shuail thanked all for their attendance and spoke of the positive success of the CASP-MID programme in the Middle East Region as Participating States focus on the creation of robust and sustainable aviation security systems. Mr. Mohamed Khonji, Regional Director, ICAO Middle East Regional Office, also provided opening remarks and thanked Bahrain for hosting the programme over the last 3 years. Mr. Khonji emphasized the importance of the Executive Steering Committee to provide oversight of the CASP-MID programme and make important decisions on the years ahead.

Adoption of the Provisional Agenda

At the conclusion of the opening remarks, the participants reviewed and approved the Provisional Agenda. Mr. Hussain A. Al-Shuail and Mr. Mohamed Khonji presided over the Meeting. Mr. David W. Tiedge, CASP-MID Programme Coordinator, acted as the Secretary for the Meeting. After the introduction of all participants, the Secretary reviewed the goals of the Executive Steering Committee and outlined the proposed outcomes of the meeting.

Status of the CASP-MID Programme

The Meeting began with the Secretary reviewing the CASP-MID timeline to provide background to all participants on the evolution of the Programme and the current status:

- 11 April 2012, Joint Statement of the Regional Conference on Aviation Security
- 27-28 June 2012, Preparatory Meeting for the Establishment of the Cooperative Aviation Security Programme
- 29-30 August 2012, Organizational Steering Committee Meeting
- 12 December 2012, CASP-MID Project Document sent to all 13 States
- 19 January 2013, CASP-MID opens office in Bahrain with an Interim Programme Coordinator
- 23-24 April 2013, Inaugural Meeting of the CASP-MID Experts Working Group

- 16 May 2013, revised Project Document and invoice sent to 6 States
- 15 July 2013, Interim Programme Coordinator departs Bahrain and replaced by Chief, Implementation Support and Development Section for 6 months
- 11 September 2013, Inaugural Meeting of the Executive Steering Committee
- 3-4 December 2013, Second Meeting of the CASP-MID Experts Working Group
- 1 February 2014, Permanent CASP-MID Programme Coordinator in place
- 10-11 June 2014, Third Meeting of the CASP-MID Experts Working Group
- 5 November 2014, Second Meeting of the CASP-MID Executive Steering Committee
- 24-25 February 2015, Fourth Meeting of the CASP-MID Experts Working Group
- 8-9 September 2015, Fifth Meeting of the CASP-MID Experts Working Group

The Secretary also provided details of the CASP-MID technical visit to the United States which was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Transportation Security Administration (TSA). The trip included visits to TSA headquarters and operational facilities, as well as visits to both Reagan National Airport and Dulles International Airport. The Secretary announced a similar invitation from the United Kingdom Department for Transport (UK DfT) for CASP-MID States to visit the United Kingdom (UK). Members of the Executive Steering Committee agreed to the visit and suggested it occur in the late summer 2016. The Secretary will coordinate with the UK DfT on the specific dates and logistics for the visit.

CASP-MID Experts Working Group

The Chairman of the Experts Working Group, Abdulrahman Al-Balwi , Assistant Vice President, Aviation Security, Fire and Facilitation, General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) provided a synopsis of the recent Experts Working Group meeting held in September. He emphasized that during the meeting, EWG members focused on the need for CASP-MID involvement in States preparation for future ICAO aviation security audits under the ICAO Universal Security Audit Programme Continuous Monitoring Approach. A proposal was made to create a Continuous Monitoring Approach Preparation Advisory Team (CMAPAT) for the CASP-MID Programme. To implement this programme, CASP-MID would establish a cadre of trained auditors to visit CASP-MID States to review the current aviation security posture and help address key issues prior to an ICAO audit. All members of the Executive Steering Committee wholeheartedly agreed to this proposal and encouraged a 2 day organizational meeting be held in the near future to include representatives from CASP-MID States to establish the foundation for the programme. Prior to the meeting, the Secretary will coordinate with the ICAO AVSEC Branch Audit Section to discuss the feasibility of implementing the programme.

The Chairman recognized the successful CASP-MID Aviation Security Risk Management Workshop which was held 19-22 October 2015 at the headquarters of GACA in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. A total of 28 participants from GACA, the Ministry of Interior, and other aviation security stakeholders attended the training.

The Experts Working Group identified a need for a future Facilitation course to assist CASP-MID States. The group was advised that the International Air Transport Association (IATA) conducts Facilitation training and could possibly provide this course. After discussion on the issue, Committee members agreed that IATA should be invited to attend a future a meeting of the Experts Working Group as an observer, as appropriate.

CASP-MID Trust Fund and Participant Contributions

The Secretary took the lead in reviewing the financial status of the programme with the Committee. The CASP-MID Statement of Estimated Fund Balance was provided which identified the estimated funds available as 158,000 USD.

As CASP-MID participating States pay their annual participant contributions, the programme should continue throughout the third year of the programme and allow for expenditures for training courses, technical assistance, and the establishment of the CMAPAT programme . Mr. Khonji encouraged States to pay their annual participant contributions as soon as practicable to ensure the continuation of the full CASP-MID programme for 2016.

The Committee again encouraged donations to CASP-MID from States both within and outside of the Middle East Region. These funds would be used to provide sponsorships for Middle East States, or other CASP-MID related activities. Monetary contributions have already been received from the United Kingdom and Canada. Saudi Arabia, through Saudi Arabian Airlines, has donated complimentary business class travel for participants to travel to CASP-MID meetings and activities.

Approval of the CASP-MID Work Programme for the next 12 months

The Secretary provided the draft 2015-2016 Annual Work Plan for CASP-MID to the participants. The Committee reviewed the Plan and made a few alterations to the details of some of the activities. The key points of the discussion were as follows:

- Aviation Security training will continue to be a critical component of CASP-MID activities. The Committee agreed to move forward with planned Aviation Security Risk Management Workshops in Kuwait City, Kuwait (23-26 November 2015), Khartoum, Sudan (14-17 December 2015), Manama, Bahrain (4-7 January 2016) and Amman, Jordan (March 2016) . The Programme will also offer courses and workshops to all CASP-MID participating States with course participants representing Civil Aviation Authorities and other aviation security stakeholders including Ministry of Interior agencies. It was agreed the Secretary will create a form to send to all CASP-MID States to determine specific training needs for each State. CASP-MID training courses will continue to be provided with no tuition costs to participating States.
- Also discussed was the proposed Aviation Security Technical Seminar for Middle East States. The objective of this seminar is the sharing of aviation security information and practices with experts as it relates to Threat Assessment, Risk Based Security, MANPADS, Capacity Development, Technology, and Air Cargo Security. The seminar would be

conducted in collaboration with TSA, UK DfT, and ICAO CASP-MID to provide information to States concerning the critical importance of aviation security in the Middle East Region. The Committee made the decision to limit participation in the seminar to CASP-MID States. With the concurrence of the U.S. and the U.K., the Committee recommended two Aviation Security Technical Seminars for 25-30 participants from CASP-MID States should be held in 2016. Jeddah, Saudi Arabia and Khartoum, Sudan were the recommended locations for the seminars. The Secretary will coordinate with the U.S. and the U.K. to determine the dates and feasibility of conducting these seminars.

- The Committee again recommended a closer link with the Cooperative Aviation Security Programme Asia Pacific (CASP-AP). A suggestion was made for the CASP-AP Programme Coordinator to attend the next meeting of the CASP-MID Experts Working Group.

The updated and approved 2015-2016 Annual Work Plan of CASP-MID is included as an addendum to this report.

Any other Business

Prior to the conclusion of the meeting, the Committee set the timeframe for future meetings of the Experts Working Groups for February 2016 in Manama Bahrain and September 2016 in Khartoum Sudan. The Executive Steering Committee will be held in Manama Bahrain in November 2016.