



International Civil Aviation Organization

**Summary of Discussion
Third Middle East AIM Focal Points Teleconference/Meeting**

(10 August 2020, from 10:00 to 11:30 UTC)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Third Middle East AIM FPs Meeting/Teleconference was held on Monday 10 August 2020 from 10:00 to 11:30 UTC, using MS Team facility.

1.2 The meeting/teleconference was attended by a total of Twenty-two (22) participants from seven (7) States (Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Oman, Saudi Arabia and UAE,) and two (2) Organizations (AACO and IATA). The list of participants is at **Attachment 1**.

1.3 The Agenda included the following items:

- a) briefing on the ICAO GIR including the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Implementation Centre (CRRIC) and ICAO MID regional implementation roadmap;
- b) NOTAM Analysis and recommendations;
- c) round table discussion to share information on operations restart related issues;
- d) AoB and closing.

2. OPENING

2.1 Mr. Aissaoui Radhouan, MID Regional Officer Information Management, welcomed all participants and thanked them for accepting the invitation to join the teleconference. He highlighted that this is an informal teleconference to share information, insights, best practices on the way forward for a smooth and orderly return to normal.

3. DISCUSSIONS

3.1 The SoD of the second teleconference/meeting held on 30 June 2020 was accepted with minor changes submitted by GCAA UAE.

3.2 Agenda item 1: Global Developments and Updates Related to COVID-19

3.2.1. Mr. Walid Elhoss, AACO Manager - Economics, delivered a presentation covering the latest developments related to COVID-19 at global level. He highlighted that the Global Implementation Roadmap (GIR) encompasses ICAO's priority activities and initiatives in an outcome-driven format, with the objective to contribute to the restart and recovery of the civil aviation system, by establishing an enabling framework for the CART guidelines, and a capability to follow up globally to assess their implementation status and address the challenges being faced by States and industry. The GIR is a living document, which will be continuously updated upon need.

3.2.2. In addition, Mr. Walid Elhoss, outlined that in order to support States in implementing the measures and recommendations contained in the CART Report, and to help monitor progress in implementation by States, a 'COVID-19 Response and Recovery Implementation Center' was created. The CRRIC will facilitate the sharing of information and experience among States and should facilitate the identification of gaps and needed support. Through this information, ICAO will be able to provide appropriate, targeted and timely guidance, training and assistance to Member States, mainly by means of implementation packages, for the

effective implementation of measures outlined in the CART report.

3.2.3. Mr. Aissaoui Radhouan, MID Regional Officer Information Management, presented a briefing on the contents of the Regional Implementation Roadmap (RIR) and regional plan supporting the CART recommendations and guidance implementation. He underlined that ICAO MID regional Roadmap was developed and it is under continuous update that supporting the implementation of the recommendations and guidance of the Council Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART) for the restart, recovery and resilience of civil aviation following the COVID-19 Outbreak at regional level. It is noted that the roadmap is the documented activities and initiatives undertaken by ICAO MID in term of:

- a) the implementation support activities focus on providing guidance, training tools and expert assistance to States
- b) the coordination activities aiming to enhance cooperation and synergies between ICAO, States, regional organizations and commissions, industry stakeholders and the World Health Organization (WHO) and other United Nations (UN) entities to avoid duplication of efforts in implementing the CART recommendations and guidance.
- c) the monitoring and reporting activities are facilitated through multi-functional interactive tools available in the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Implementation Centre (CRRIC),

3.2.4. A live-demo feature was also provided on the Regional Online Roadmap (RIR) listing the various initiatives undertaken by ICAO MID in support of the implementation of the CART recommendations in the MID region.

3.3 Agenda item 2: NOTAM Analysis and recommendations

3.3.1 Ms Lindi-Lee Kirkman, IATA Manager Safety & Flight Operations ATM Infrastructure provided a presentation covering the COVID-19 challenges and highlights on:

- The non-use of NOTAM abbreviations as contained in PANS-ABC which of course puts a certain ambiguity and leads to mis-interpretation by data users,
- Lack of standardization in the publication of NOTAM, in particular the non-use of header COVID-19 followed by specific subject (flight restrictions, passenger restrictions, crew's/passengers requirements and information) in order to facilitate the search, readability and reduce potential interpretation differences,
- Some of the issued NOTAMs included fragmented sentences , punctuation is applied haphazardly, and ambiguities and errors occur which may lead to mis-interpretation by data users.
- The use of question mark instead of full stop in some NOTAMS,
- Multiple subjects are promulgated in single NOTAM such as flight restrictions with crew restrictions and passenger restrictions,
- Contradictory NOTAM content in more than one NOTAM,
- No positive confirmation of business restart in some States,
- Referring to other NOTAM in text is not good practice in particular when updating the referenced NOTAM,
- The NOTAM template developed and issued in the document 'Aeronautical Information Publication Guidance and NOTAM Templates' was not used by some States.

3.3.2 The following recommendations were made:

- Use ONLY ICAO abbreviations contained in PANS-ABC Doc 8400,
- Use the NOTAM templates,
- Reach out to the RPFT WS4 AIM team for assistance, if needed.

3.3.3 The meeting was updated on the AIM communication plan including the completed

and Ongoing / Outstanding Activities.

3.3.4 The meeting was appraised by the draft an Action Plan presented to MIDANPIRG Chairs with clear/specific actions, assignment of champions, including the AIM SG, expected deliverables and timelines, on prioritization manner, reflecting only the actions which necessitate follow-up by MIDANPIRG. Once endorsed by the MSG/7, the AIM SG will address some issues related to COVID-19 NOTAM publication.

3.4 Agenda item 3: round table discussion

3.4.1 After the presentation, a round table discussion took place to address the following questions/subjects:

- When do you expect restart?
- Who are the collaborators you need to liaise with?
- How do you intend to Publish for the restart?

3.4.2 An updates from States on the above was provided on date of restart, if known and how they address these key action areas.

4. AOB AND CLOSING

4.1 The meeting was appraised of the joint UAE GCAA and ICAO MID are organizing the Month of Knowledge which consists of series of educational webinars taking place from 6-31 August 2020 with objective is to share knowledge and experiences amongst aviation community for better and successful future of ANS. The meeting was also provided with web-links to register for the webinar online.

4.2 Mr. Aissaoui Radhouan, ICAO MID Regional Officer Information Management, informed the meeting that The Council approved the postponement of the applicability date from 5 November 2020 to 4 November 2021, for the consequential enhanced global reporting format for assessing and reporting runway surface conditions (GRF) related provisions contained in Annexes 3, 6, 8, 14 and 15 as well as in the Procedures for Air Navigation Services PANS-ATM, Doc 4444); PANS-Aerodromes, Doc 9981); and PANS-AIM, Doc 10066).

4.3 The meeting noted that the MSG/7 virtual meeting will be held from 1 to 3September with a focus on COVID-19 related matters and activities.

4.4 The Meeting was closed by Mr. Aissaoui Radhouan, who thanked participants for their attendance and invited to share their concerns and challenges on the AIM for Restart and Recovery so that their concerns could be addressed in a coordinated manner in the future work of the RPTF ANS WS.

4.5 The next meeting will take place in a few weeks, most probably the last week of September 2020, when further progress has been made in relation to the conclusions of this meeting.

LIST OF APPENDICES

Attachment A—List of Participants

Meeting-Teleconference with the AIM FPs (Monday, 10 August 2020, 10:00-11:30 UTC Time)

List of Participants

STATE/ ORGANIZATION	NAME	TITLE	EMAIL
STATES			
Bahrain	Abdulla Al Qadhi	Chief AIM & Airspace Planning	aalqadhi@mtt.gov.bh
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	Mootaz Alnaggar		
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<u>ORGANIZATIONS</u>			
AACO	Mr. Walid Elhoss	Manager - Economics	whoss@aaco.org
IATA	Lindi-Lee Kirkman	Manager Safety & Flight Operations ATM Infrastructure	kirkmanl@iata.org
ICAO	Aissaoui Radhouan Ahmed Amirah Ahmed Kaveh Manal Wissa	RO/IM RO/ATM/SAR RO/ATM Programme Analysis Associate	raissaoui@icao.int aamireh@icao.int akaveh@icao.int mwissa@icao.int