



*International Civil Aviation Organization*

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

*(8 June 2020, from 10:00 to 11:30 UTC)*

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### **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1. The Middle East DGCA Teleconference of 23 April underlined the importance of taking all necessary measures to facilitate a collaborative approach for restarting commercial passengers' flights and established the MID Region Recovery Plan Task Force (RPTF) to provide necessary guidance and facilitate an harmonized restart of operations in a sustainable, safe, secure and orderly manner as soon as practicable taking into consideration the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic and the decisions by International and National Public Health Authorities.

1.2. The RPTF consists of the 4 work streams: Public Health Requirements, Operational Safety Measures, Airport & Passengers Facilitation and the Air Navigation Services/Air Traffic Management.

1.3. As part of the WS ANS, the Middle East AIM FPs Meeting/Teleconference was held on Monday 8th June 2020 from 10:00 to 11:30 UTC, using Zoom facility.

1.4. The meeting/teleconference was attended by a total of Twenty-two (22) participants from four (4) States (Jordan, Oman, Saudi Arabia and UAE,) and four (4) Organizations (AACO, ACAO, IATA and ICAO). The list of participants is at **Attachment 1**.

1.5. The main objectives of the teleconference are the following:

- a. Provide an overview of the challenges surrounding timely accessibility to quality Aeronautical Information (AI).
- b. Present the Collaborative Solution, RPTF introduction and work-streams WS4 ANS and ATM high level focus areas and AIM specific activities; and
- c. Agree on necessary actions to ensure timely, accurate access to aeronautical information for the region and monitoring and engagement towards continued improvement in Aeronautical Information across the region

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

- Lack of access to timely quality aeronautical information that addresses needs of airspace users
- Aeronautical information providers apparent lack of understanding of the impact of poorly published aeronautical information on the airspace users.
- Lack of standardization in the publication of COVID-19 aeronautical information.
- NOTAMs issued by many States are unclear– Annex 15 requirements for NOTAMs on aerodromes, epidemics/inoculation requirements/quarantine, and aeronautical services
  - Closure or limited availability of aerodromes included in Regional Requirements (Regional Air Navigation Plan Vol II) – Availability for EDTO operations, ALTN, emergency diversions, UN/humanitarian operations, tech stops, cargo.

3.2 The meeting was apprised about the established Recovery Plan Task Force (RPTF) and its four technical work streams:

- Stream 1: Public Health Requirements/measures,
- Stream 2: Operational Safety Measures,
- Stream 3: Airport & Passengers Facilitation, and
- Stream 4: Air Navigation Services/Air Traffic Management.

3.3 The Meeting was also informed about the objectives of the AIM key activity under ANS WS, to support:

- Timely, accurate access to aeronautical information for the region
- Ensure that restrictions are published in a way that supports airspace user operations.
- To have continued coordination, collaboration and dialog between States and stakeholders (3-way communications)
- Support continued monitoring and engagement towards continued improvement in Aeronautical Information across the region.

3.4 The meeting noted with appreciation that the ICAO MID Office developed a COVID-19 web page, with useful links/information, and a Table showing the list of NOTAMs issued by MID States and measures taken related to COVID-19 at:

<https://www.icao.int/MID/Pages/COVID19/COVID19.aspx>

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

- What are the most difficult challenges faced by the AISP amid the COVID-19?
- What are States expectations from RPTF WS4?
- What are the proposed measures for a smooth and orderly return to normal (recovery plan) from AIM prospective?

#### **4. CHALLENGES FACED BY AISP AMID THE COVID-19**

- There might be a possibility to face an increase of data to be published for restart and recovery. This requires considerable efforts to be made by AISP in the AI management, transmission and distribution chain.
- Due to the availability of a very limited amount of information in the beginning of the crisis, AISP reacted in different ways and issued a different NOTAMs.
- Dissemination and distribution by Post of AIP on a physical distribution medium (CD, DVD, etc.)
- Accessibility of AIM system due to remote work arrangement.

#### **5. EXPECTATIONS OF AISP FROM ICAO AND THE ORGS**

- The meeting highlighted the need for ICAO to develop guidance and recommended

NOTAM Format templates for COVID-19 publications to allow the return to normal operations; and NOTAM users with the essential and pertinent information in a harmonized way.

- ICAO should take the lead in developing necessary guidance to ensure harmonization and alignment of States' recovery AI, to support an orderly and successful recovery at regional and global levels.

## **6. NEXT STEPS**

6.1 The meeting recognized the importance of working together the aeronautical information value chain members and the need to deal with the issue, at the regional level, in a coordinated and coherent manner with a view to support the standardization of timely, quality aeronautical information that will help the air transport industry return to normal operations following the COVID-19 crisis.

6.2 Therefore, the meeting has agreed to:

- Make all COVID-19 AI info available on ICAO-MID website, in addition to AI summary.
- Establish an AIM forum and conduct continuous meetings to address operational challenges associated with AI, including:
  - Timely, accurate access to aeronautical information for the region
  - Ensure that restrictions are published in a way that supports airspace user operations.
  - To have continued coordination, collaboration and dialog between States and stakeholders (3-way communications)
  - Support continued monitoring and engagement towards continued improvement in Aeronautical Information across the region.
- Provide States with reports about recommendations from the RPTF WS4 AIM meetings.
- Develop Guidance Material and NOTAMs Templates: best practice for COVID-19 AI publication.
- Organize webinar relating to AIM issues amid COVID-19, as required.

## **7. AOB AND CLOSING**

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

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## Middle East AIM Focal Points Teleconference/Meeting 8 June 2020

## List of Participants

STATE/ ORGANIZATION	NAME	TITLE	EMAIL
<b>STATES</b>			
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