



*International Civil Aviation Organization*

**MIDANPIRG/18 and RASG-MID/8 Virtual Meetings**

*(15-22 February 2021)*

---

**Agenda Item 2.3: Global and Regional Developments Air Navigation Developments  
COVID-19 Impact on Aviation**

**AIR TRAFFIC SERVICE CONTINUITY MEASURES DURING COVID-19  
PANDAMEC DEVELOPMENTS**

*(Presented by the Kingdom of Bahrain)*

**SUMMARY**

The COVID-19 Global Pandemic has highly and significantly impacted the operations of air carriers, airports and air navigation services providers, therefore it is necessary that measures are taken by different sectors including air traffic services to ensure service availability and continuity

The paper outlines the measures taken by Bahrain to ensure air traffic services continuity during the developments of the COVID-19 Global pandemic.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The COVID-19 pandemic has become a global event that posed unprecedented challenges to the aviation sector including air navigation services worldwide. Therefore, Bahrain Civil Aviation Affairs had to adapt to the containment measures imposed by the authorities in the State in order to protect the facilities and people to ensure the air traffic control system's ability to remain fully operational and avoid any closure and disruption of air traffic control facilities.

1.2 Bahrain Civil Aviation Affairs has developed Air Traffic Service Pandemic Continuity Plan (SCP) Document. The Plan (SCP) aims to ensure the continuity of the provision of air traffic services in the event of a pandemic occurring in Bahrain. The plan provides detailed all measures and actions that are necessary and required to put in place during the developments of the COVID -19 pandemic which could impact on the provision of air traffic services provided at Bahrain International Airport and Bahrain Flight Information Region.

1.3 This information paper, provides an outline Bahrain's Civil Aviation Affairs measures and actions to secure the continuous provision of air traffic services during the developments of the COVID -19 pandemic.

## **2. DISCUSSION**

2.1 The provision of air traffic services is an essential service to ensure the safety and efficiency of air traffic at Bahrain International Airport and Bahrain Flight Information Region. The essential elements for continuity in the provision of air traffic control (ATC) services are adequate ATC manpower and serviceable ATC equipment.

2.2 Under Air Traffic Service Continuity Plan, Bahrain has established back-up (contingency) facilities for Control Tower, Approach and Area control services from which air traffic operations can be continued should the main facilities become inoperable for any reason. Therefore, Bahrain ATM was already prepared for the possible disruption at any time.

2.3 Bahrain CAA planned the continuity of operations during Covid-19 developments by creating an Alert Based system.

2.4 Under the Alert Based System actions are taken based on the various stages of alerts, i.e.:

- pandemic identified by World Health Organization (WHO);
- infection spread across countries;
- infection spread across neighboring countries;
- infection spread within country; and
- cases reported amongst staff etc.

2.5 There was no requirement to enact the ATM Service Continuity Plan due to outbreak, but Bahrain has placed the facilities and all air navigation staff on alert and has implemented the following measures:

- a) Protection of the workplace and all staff in accordance with the instructions issued by the Ministry of Health and other containment measure imposed by other government authorities as appropriate;
- b) Live air traffic operations being performed from the back-up facility to ensure no service disruption in the event of the loss of the main facility due to suspected or reported case;
- c) Created isolated groups of air traffic controllers operating teams and engineering to operate and maintain both facilities and implemented special rosters to ensure that all air traffic controllers retain operational currency;
- d) Provided continuous simulator sessions for all air traffic control staff to avoid any skill degradation due to the reduced traffic levels on all operational sectors.

2.6 Bahrain continues to monitor the pandemic in order to ensure safety, security and high level of air traffic services to all stakeholders.

**3. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The meeting is invited to note the contents of this Information Paper.

- END -