



*International Civil Aviation Organization*

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

*(15 – 22 February 2021)*

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**Agenda Item 4.2.6: Other Regional Aviation Safety Projects, Initiatives and Activities**

**MENA RSOO**

*(Presented by Saudi Arabia)*

**SUMMARY**

This paper presents the progress made related to the establishment of MENA RSOO.

Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.

**REFERENCES**

- First MENA RSOO Steering Committee Report
- DGCA-MID/5 Report
- MENA RSOO Technical Meeting Report
- RASG-MID/7 Report

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The establishment of MENA RSOO is one of the initiatives, which is coordinated with the Arab Civil Aviation Organization (ACAO) under the framework of the RASG-MID. The primary objective of MENA RSOO is to assist its Member States to develop and implement State Safety Programme (SSP). The MENA RSOO would also, on the demand of individual States, provide assistance to improve States' safety oversight capabilities. The RSOO should perform its duties and functions within the framework of the GASP and should be fully aligned with the RASGs' priorities and objectives.

1.2 Saudi Arabia has confirmed its commitment to support the establishment of the MENA RSOO by hosting the RSOO and providing financial and in-kind support to expedite its establishment in many occasions including the ACAO General Assembly (GA/23, Jeddah, 18-19 May 2016, Saudi Arabia) and (GA/24) held in Rabat, 9-10 May 2018, and the Third MID Region Safety Summit and the High-Level Briefing to DGCA's and CEOs (24 -26 May 2016, Doha, Qatar).

1.3 During the Global Ministerial Aviation Summit (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 29 - 31 August 2016), Saudi Arabia re-confirmed the offer to host the MENA RSOO and provide financial and technical support for the first 2 years of operations (two Safety Experts and one Administrative employee in addition to the premises). Accordingly, the Summit agreed to the following Recommendation:

*MENA RSOO Recommendation*

*States and Stakeholders are encouraged to:*

- a) support the expeditious establishment of the MENA RSOO; and*
- b) provide voluntary cash and/or in-kind contribution (seconded personnel, etc.)*

1.4 The DGCA-MID/4 meeting (Muscat, Oman, 17-19 October 2017), supported the proposals of Saudi Arabia, which were made during the RASG-MID/6 meeting and were supported by Bahrain, Kuwait and UAE; and agreed to the following Conclusion:

*CONCLUSION 4/5 – ESTABLISHMENT PROCESS OF THE MENA RSOO*

*That:*

- a) the MENA RSOO be governed by a Steering Committee composed of the MENA RSOO member States (both ICAO and ACAC will be part of the Steering Committee);*
- b) the Steering Committee decides on all the details related to the establishment and operation of the MENA RSOO (organization, funding, etc.); and*
- c) Saudi Arabia (the host State) is invited to organize the first meeting of the MENA RSOO Steering Committee as soon as possible*

## **2. DISCUSSION**

2.1 The meeting may wish to recall that the First MENA RSOO Steering Committee (DGs Level) was held on 1 October 2018, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, back-to-back with the Fourth MID Region Safety Summit (2-3 October 2018), which was hosted by the General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) including a visit to the MENA RSOO premises.

2.2 A revised Letter of Intent (LoI) was signed by 15 States (Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, UAE and Yemen), which represents a clear statement by those States that are committed to the establishment of the MENA RSOO and to be a member State of the MENA RSOO. An action plan for the establishment of the MENA RSOO was included in the signed LOI leading to:

- a) signing the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the MENA RSOO as a legal entity; and
- b) signing the MENA RSOO Project Document to enable recruitment of the MENA RSOO staff and start operation, subject to availability of funds.

2.3 The First MENA RSOO Technical meeting was held at the MENA RSOO premises (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 2-4 February 2019) to review the draft MOA and Project Document. Accordingly, the MOA was circulated to the States by ACAO and feedback was received from some States. The meeting came up with two proposed phases in order to expedite the establishment and operations process, as follows:

### **Phase 1**

Initiate the operations of the MENA RSOO based on the MOA to be signed by the member States during the Second MENA RSOO Steering Committee meeting. This phase includes the following actions:

- The MENA RSOO Steering Committee to designate an official from the member States to resume the position of MENA RSOO Manager.
- Saudi Arabia to assign two technical experts and required support staff.

## **Phase 2**

Continue the operations of the MENA RSOO according to one of the following options:

- The mechanism contained in the Project Document prepared by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), in coordination with the Arab Civil Aviation Organization, which allows for the project to be executed as an ICAO Technical Cooperation Project in accordance with ICAO policies, including recruitment of the experts.
- Any other a mechanism to be decided by MENA RSOO Steering Committee, which should be finalized during Phase 1.

2.4 A progress report was presented to the DGCA-MID/5 meeting (Kuwait, 4-6 November 2019). The meeting thanked Saudi Arabia for its continuous support and for generously hosting the MENA RSOO in Riyadh and facilitating the launching of its operation technically and financially for the first 2 years.

2.5 Saudi Arabia has:

- Postponed hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> MENA RSOO steering committee meeting to Q3 2021 due to the unforeseen COVID-19 circumstances.

## **3. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the progress made in establishing MENA RSOO and support the establishment process; and
- b) invite States to participate, physical attendance, in the Second MENA RSOO Steering Committee meeting (DGs Level).

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