



*International Civil Aviation Organization*

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

*(15-22 February 2021)*

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**Agenda Item 5.2.5: Air Navigation Planning and Implementation/Proposal for Amendment (PfA) of the ICAO MID ANP - Volume I (Serial No.: MID ANP-I 20/01 – ATM/SAR), originated by Qatar**

*(Presented by the State of Qatar)*

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This paper provides a brief overview on the status of Proposal for Amendment of the ICAO MID Air Navigation Plan (Doc 9708), MID ANP – Volume I (Serial No: MID ANP-I 20/01 – ATM/SAR) (Ref.: AN 6/5A-20/152) dated 5 August 2020.

Action by the meeting is at para. 3.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 You may recall that various Task Force meetings have been organized by ICAO, involving concerned States with a view to come up with a consensus on the proposal by Qatar to have a dedicated FIR/SRR. Unfortunately, States have raised objections towards this proposal.

1.2 It is noted that the ICAO Secretariat had further consultations with the concerned States, and only 5 out of 55 States maintained their objections to the proposal. Therefore, in accordance with the Procedure for Amendment of the Air Navigation Plan – Volume I, approved by the ICAO Council, if an objection remains after further consultation, the matter will be documented for discussion by the respective planning and implementation regional group (PIRG) and, ultimately for formal consideration by the Air Navigation Commission, if it remains unresolved.

1.3 It is reiterated that the aim of the proposal is to enhance safety and to improve efficiency and economy of traffic currently operating in that segment of the Bahrain FIR and is based solely on technical and operational justifications. It has specifically been prepared to address current endemic issues in an open and constructive manner, seeking solutions which are of optimum benefit to the MID Region

1.4 The current airspace structure no longer serves the best interests of the region and does not cater for medium and long-term requirements of the State of Qatar and needs to be reviewed and updated.

## **2. DISCUSSION**

2.1 With due consideration to the air navigation environment in the Middle East Region, the State of Qatar is of the opinion that the best possible option to ensure that it can effectively discharge itself of its obligations under the Chicago Convention is by setting-up a Doha FIR/SRR over its sovereign territory and over some parts of airspace over the high seas adjacent thereto.

2.2 The rationale behind this proposal has been elaborated in the proposed amendment. (*See points d) to k)* and, in addition issues raised by other parties have been amply addressed within the framework of the Task Force meetings organized under the aegis of ICAO.

2.3 In addition, such an FIR/SRR will, facilitate the establishment of a robust supervisory framework that will enable the State of Qatar to ensure that all air navigation services and facilities over its territory adequately serve the needs of international air navigation and meet the requirements set under the ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices and the Mid-Air Navigation Plan.

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

3.1 The meeting is invited to note that:

- a) the State of Qatar maintains its proposal for the establishment of the Doha FIR/SRR;
- b) the establishment of a dedicated Doha FIR/SRR will enhance safety and improve efficiency and provide sustained economic benefits to the airline industry;
- c) the State of Qatar has explored all possible options for reaching a consensus on the proposal and is of the view that some parties are using delaying tactics to further drag on the process; and
- d) the current airspace organization no longer serves the best interest of the region and does not cater for the medium- and long-term strategic interest of the State of Qatar; and accordingly.

3.2 Submit the proposal for consideration by the Air Navigation Commission and eventually to the ICAO Council for its deliberation.