

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

Sixth Meeting of the APIRG Airspace and Aerodrome Operations Sub-Group (AAO/SG6)

4 - 8 September 2023

Agenda Item 3.1: Achievements of the AAOSG**AFI REGIONAL ATM CONTINGENCY PLAN REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT REPORT.***(Presented by AFI CCT)***SUMMARY**

This paper presents, progress report on the status of the AFI Regional Contingency Plan review, coordination and implementation.

Action by the meeting is in paragraph 3

REFERENCE(S):

Annex 11 Paragraph 2.32

APIRG 21 Report - Conclusion 21/05 that mandated States to develop National ATM Contingency Plans,

APIRG 25 Report - Conclusion 25/01 and Decision 25/02

Related ICAO Strategic Objective(s):

A – Aviation Safety, **B** – Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency, **D** – Economic Development

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Since the adoption of the AFI ATM Contingency Plan (AFI ATM CP) in August 2019, AFI Contingency Coordination Team (AFI CCT) has been involved in the management and coordination of several contingencies. States in the AFI Region are at different maturity levels in their implementation of the provisions of the AFI ATM Contingency Plan.

1.2 The AFI CCT presents this paper to provide an update on recent developments and to

propose key actions for consideration by the sixth meeting of the APIRG Airspace and Aerodrome Operations Sub-Group (AAO/SG 6).

1.3 The AFI CCT’s mandate involves enhancement of AFI ATM CP ensuring preparedness and response through collaborative efforts. Thus, the team must ascertain levels of implementation and availability of all AFI member States’ ATM Contingency Plans, which is an integral objective in the review and maintenance of the AFI ATM CP.

2. DISCUSSION

The AFI CCT activities and findings can be summarized as follows:

2.1 AFI CCT Name change:

2.1.1 The recent regional contingency situations and the interaction with respective States’ CCCs and the ICAO Mid-region presented a need to review the team designation in line with the objectives as per the Terms of Reference (ToRs) to avoid confusion, especially where airspace users and other industry stakeholders are concerned.

2.1.2 The AFI CCT took a decision to effect a name change to AFI ATM Contingency Plan Working Group (AFI ATM CP WG) in order to differentiate the Working Group from the activation of an impending or ongoing contingency coordination team.

2.2 Membership Updates:

The working group has experienced changes in membership to ensure comprehensive representation. Diverse experts have joined, enriching the group's expertise and perspectives. Endorsing these changes is crucial to strengthening the group's ability to address a wide range of AFI ATM CP challenges effectively.

2.3 Review of Past Contingencies:

2.3.1 *CCTs activation in 2022/2023*

In the period 2022/2023 since AAO/SG 5 held on 24 -26 August 2022, the AFI region experienced four contingency situations resulting in airspace closure activating the AFI ATM CP and CCT as follows:

NO	NAME OF CCT	DATE OF ACTIVATION	DATE OF CLOSURE	FIRS AFFECTED
1	Western Africa – Indian Ocean CCT	23/9/2022		Antananarivo FIR, Brazzaville FIR, Dakar Terrestrial and Oceanic FIRs, Ndjamena FIR, Niamey FIR and the EUR/SAM Corridor.
2	Khartoum FIR CCT	16/4/2023	On-going	Khartoum FIR which includes the airspace above the South Sudan FL245.
3	Niamey CCT	27/7/2023	On-going	Niamey FIR – airspace over Niger territory.

4	Gabon airspace CCT	30/8/2023	On-going	Brazzaville FIR –airspace over the Gabon territory.
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2.3.2 Analysis of previous contingencies including those in previous years, revealed instances of non-adherence or inconsistencies in application of provisions of the established AFI ATM CP. These underscore the need for a dynamic and an adaptable plan capable of addressing real-world challenges.

2.3.3 Additionally, difficulties were encountered in getting certain States' points of contact or contingency coordination committee focal points and thus highlighting the need for clear contingency communication channels; States need to keep the contacts updated with the regional offices accredited to the individual state.

2.3.4 The other challenges encountered during contingencies are as follows:

- a) Inconsistencies in NOTAM, AIP and other contingency related publications including the validation and update of this information.
- b) Inconsistencies and inaccuracies regarding the application and accessibility of published contingency routes and associated FLAS.
- c) Challenges in obtaining timely overflight clearances due to lack of approval mechanisms in line with the IATA recommended file and fly principle.

2.4 Upcoming Activities:

The CCT plans to hold a meeting in October 2023 which will focus on the following key discussion areas:

2.4.1 *Plan Review of the AFI ATM CP:*

In the bid to rectify all inconsistencies and challenges identified in the AFI ATM CP, (including all State CPs) the working group will plan a review of the AFI ATM CP and inculcate the lessons acquired from recent events to ensure the CP meets the required ICAO Strategic objectives.

2.4.2 *Develop MOU and NOTAM Templates:*

The working group will develop templates that will support the ease of implementation of the CP when required. The template will include,

- a) Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) templates which will facilitate inter-State cooperation and communication during ATM level 2 contingencies.
- b) NOTAM templates which will enable enhancement of publications ensuring critical decision making and support information is accurate and readily available.

2.4.3 *Tabletop Exercise and Simulation Planning:*

Planning for a comprehensive CP testing tabletop exercise and simulation, initially scheduled for Q3 2023, is under consideration for extension to 31st March 2023 due to scheduling and capacity constraints.

The simulation exercise aims to provide hands-on experience in responding to ATM contingencies, identifying strengths and areas for improvement as well as updating and validation of information in the AFI ATM CP.

2.4.4 *Development of Regional Alignment Strategy:*

Alignment of the AFI ATM CP with other regions. The working group identified a need to coordinate inter-regional efforts to develop strategies and highlight the requirement to harmonize all ICAO region's ATM Contingency Plans. This initiative recognizes the cross-border nature of ATM contingencies and aims to enhance application, coordination and response.

2.5 Conclusion:

The AFI ATM CP Working Group remains steadfast in its commitment to enhancing ATM contingency preparedness and response. The activities proposed for the October meeting and subsequent AAO/SG6 actions demonstrate the group's dedication to collaborative and effective contingency planning.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) Review for endorsement the AFI CCT name change to AFI ATM CP WG in line with Appendix X.
- b) Endorse the inclusion of Mr. Bola Ahmed representing Nigeria and George Mbugua representing IFATCA in the membership of the AFI ATM CP WG in Appendix XX.
- c) Review and update the AFI ATM CCT Contact list in Appendix XXX.
- d) Endorse the upcoming October WG meeting activities, recognizing their significance in advancing ATM preparedness.
- e) Endorse the recommendation for the extension of the deadline for the tabletop and simulation exercise to 31st March 2024. This extension allows for more comprehensive preparation and participation.
- f) Endorse the proposal to hold a regional CP Review workshop for Q1 2024 to test the contingency plan effectiveness.
- g) Endorse the group's recommendation regarding the proactive involvement of States in implementing mechanisms to enable file and fly approval process for overflight clearances during contingency situations.

ATTACHMENTS:

- i. Draft ATM CP 4th Edition
- ii. Revised AFI ATM CP WG Membership list
- iii. The Contact list of the AFI ATM CCT
