



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION

AFI PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION REGIONAL GROUP (APIRG)
AFI OPMET MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE MEETING (AFI OPMET MTF/4)

(Pretoria, South Africa, 10-11 September 2012)

Agenda Item 3: Provision of tropical cyclone and volcanic ash advisories for the AFI Region and of the corresponding SIGMET by MWOs and review of report on SIGMET Tests conducted in November 2011

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents an overview of Annex 3 provisions on the provision of tropical cyclone and volcanic ash advisories and the report on the SIGMET Tests conducted in November 2011.

1. **Introduction**

1 The meeting will recall that Annex 3 provides that SIGMET information shall be issued by a meteorological watch office (MWO) and shall give a concise description in abbreviated plain language concerning and /or expected occurrence of specified en-route weather phenomena, which may affect the safety of operations, and of the development of those phenomena in time and space. It also provides the required technical specifications relating to the preparation and issuance of SIGMET.

1.2 The Annex further recommends that SIGMET messages concerning volcanic ash cloud and tropical cyclones should be based on advisory information provided by VAACs and TCACs, respectively designated by regional air navigation agreement.

1.3 The meeting will also recall that, following concerns by users, the MET Divisional Meeting (2002) formulated recommendation 1/12 b), urging for periodic tests of SIGMET messages to be conducted.

2. **Discussion**

2.1 The group may wish to note that in the fourth meeting of the WETWSG meeting held from 15 to 18 May 2012 in Montreal, it was noted that several inconsistencies exist between some ICAO Regional SIGMET guides and agreed to form an ad hoc group with the objective to, among others, develop generic guidance on the issuance of SIGMET for each ICAO region to consider in their respective SIGMET guides to remove inconsistencies. The Meeting may wish to request the Secretariat to amend the AFI SIGMET Guide based on the outcome of the said ad hoc working group.

Decision 4/xx Request for Amendment to the SIGMET Guide

That the Secretariat amends the AFI SIGMET Guide in accordance with the SIGMET ad hoc working group report and report to the MTF meeting on time.

2.2 The AFI region has been conducting SIGMET Tests on an annual basis since 2008. The latest

was conducted in November 2012, for tropical cyclone (TC), volcanic ash (VA) and for other weather phenomena(WS). The report on the result is attached at Appendix A to this working paper. From the past SIGMET Tests, it appears that 22 MWOs (61%) are still not issuing SIGMETs at the time of the test. The meeting may wish to review the Recommendations proposed by the said report and formulate the following decision:

Recommendation 4/xx: Arrangements Between Adjacent MWOs for the Provision of SIGMET information

That MWO Providers States that have never issued SIGMETs during SIGMET Tests be assisted by Dakar and Nairobi ICAO regional Offices to establish bilateral arrangements with adjacent operational MWOs, for the provision of SIGMET information awaiting operational implementation of their MWOs.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the information in this paper,
- b) decide on the above Recommendation proposed for the Task Force's consideration.