



International Civil Aviation Organization

ICAO

**Fourteenth Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Air Traffic Flow
Management Steering Group (ATFM/SG/14)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 22 – 26 April 2024

Agenda Item 7: Any Other Business

PLANNING FOR THE EXPECTED AND UNEXPECTED: NEW GUIDANCE MATERIAL FROM CANSO

(Presented by CANSO)

SUMMARY

This paper presents a new reference material for States/Administrations and/or ANSPs. The recently published document, *Planning for the Expected and Unexpected: a Special Event and Disruption Planning Reference for ANSPs*, provides many case studies and key considerations for the planning of special events and disruptions which – if mismanaged – can result in devastating impact on the ATM system and the air transportation network. The document is now available for access through the CANSO website.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Throughout the history of commercial aviation, disruptions caused by special events and unforeseen circumstances have been an inevitable part of the air transportation system. Unique challenges from natural disasters, State events, and space or military operations can occur and disrupt air traffic management on any given day. Mismanagement of these challenges can have far-reaching impacts on air traffic management.

1.2 Recognizing the importance of the ATM community – especially the air navigation service providers (ANSPs) – being aware of and ever ready for disruptions arising from both planned and unplanned events, CANSO has released a new reference/guidance material for States/Administrations and/or ANSPs having to prepare for ATM disruptions.

2. DISCUSSION

The Document

2.1 Special events and unforeseen disruptions have been, and will continue to be, an inevitable part of the air transportation system. From a major sporting event such as the National Football League Championship game (the Super Bowl) to a large-scale State event such as a State Funeral, and from a planned joint military air exercise to an unplanned typhoon, the mismanagement of these inevitable disruptions can have devastating impacts. Maintaining readiness to manage the disruptions is therefore an important part of ensuring the resilience of the ATM system and the air transportation network.

2.2 Fortunately, over the years the ATM industry has gained a wealth of knowledge, with many ANSPs and regional groups having successfully managed all types of special events and disruptions. These collective experiences can be a rich source of information for States/Administrations and/or ANSPs when they must plan for similar events for the first time.

2.3 CANSO, through the ATFM/A-CDM Workgroup, had set out to collect this wealth of knowledge from its members to make it available to not only CANSO members but the whole ATM community.

2.4 The result is the publication of *Planning for the Expected and Unexpected: a Special Event and Disruption Planning Reference for ANSPs (Vol. 1)* in February 2024.

2.5 In *Planning for the Expected and Unexpected*, ten (10) case studies written by experts from ANSPs, regional groups, and aviation organizations with direct experience are included. Each case study discusses the context for the event/disruption, the multi-stakeholder coordination workflow and associated ATM/ATFM solutions to manage it, and the key lessons learned or success factors that can be emulated by other ANSPs or organizations preparing for the same thing in the future. The case studies span events and disruptions arising from:

- State event,
- Sporting event,
- Planned aerodrome and airspace closures,
- Space operations,
- Weather disruptions,
- Significant natural disasters, and
- Contingency planning.

2.6 These case studies can serve as references for States/Administrations preparing for similar events/disruptions. Additionally, sets of common key considerations when planning for special events and managing disruptions have also been synthesized from the case studies and included in the document.

2.7 It is not possible for this document to capture every possible type of special events and disruption, and their associated management techniques. As time passes, the wealth of experience among the ATM community will continue to grow and more case studies may be identified. CANSO therefore envisions that further volume(s) of this document covering new case studies and more lessons learned will be developed.

2.8 The *Planning for the Expected and Unexpected* is now available through the CANSO website at: <https://canso.org/publication/planning-for-the-expected-and-unexpected/>.

Acknowledgment

2.9 In the development of this new guidance material, CANSO received support from several ANSPs of the Asia/Pacific States/Administrations including:

- China,
- Hong Kong China,
- Japan,
- Singapore,
- Thailand, and
- the United States of America.

2.10 CANSO would like to appreciate the listed States/Administrations, whose representatives have invaluable contributed to the document.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper,
- b) utilize *Planning for the Expected and Unexpected* as a reference in the planning for special events and the management of ATM disruptions,
- c) contact CANSO for any support as needed when preparing for special events impacting the ATM system, and
- d) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate.

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