ICAO APAC/MID ATM Contingency Planning Workshop and APAC ATM Contingency Tabletop Exercise
ICAO Asia and Pacific Regional Office, Bangkok, Thailand, 25 - 28 June 2024

The workshop results/outcomes are the following:

1. The workshop commended States, Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs), and International Organizations for sharing their Air Traffic Management (ATM) contingency experiences during the workshop.

2. Recognizing the discrepancies between the regional ATM Contingency Plans discussed during the workshop, it was agreed that there is an urgent need for more collaboration and harmonization across the ICAO Regions, considering that the impact of any contingency event on international traffic flows is, in most cases, inter-regional.

3. The workshop agreed that the best way forward is to transition to a new regional ATM contingency framework covering air traffic service (ATS), air traffic flow management (ATFM), and airspace management (ASM). This framework would include common contingency planning elements, terms or definitions, arrangements, procedures, and scenarios, as well as a risk register.

4. The workshop agreed that the new framework has been developed to assist in providing for the continued safe and orderly flow of international air traffic in the event of disruption or potential disruption of ATS and related supporting services.

5. It was emphasized that the framework, at this stage, should be simple and easy to understand and apply and would not include airports' emergency plans.

6. The framework would define the roles, responsibilities and functions of the Contingency Coordination Committee (CCC), ATM Contingency Group (ACG) and Contingency Coordination Team (CCT).

7. It was agreed that the harmonized use of terms in reference to ATM contingencies would remove ambiguity and ensure consistency in their application.

8. The workshop agreed to the ATM contingency management (ACM) Cycle, which should consist of four Phases: Planning and Preparedness, Response, Recovery, and Post-assessment (including lessons learned, training and exercises).

9. The workshop agreed on the need for a regional risk register for Contingency/Crisis events that reflects the assessment of the impact of such events based on the severity of their impact and probability. The assessment should be conducted periodically, but at least every six months, by a designated regional group. The registry could be provided on a web-based platform or the ICAO Regional Offices Website with a hyperlink in the RACF.

10. The workshop reviewed the draft [APAC or MID] Region ATM Contingency Framework (RACF), which was developed initially by the APAC ANSPs Committee (AAC) Work Stream 3. This was also based on the current regional ATM contingency plans and took into account the existing guidance from the EUR/NAT Regions. For the APAC Region, it was noted that the current APAC ATM Contingency Plan would be updated in line with the RACF and retained.

11. The workshop agreed that implementing a RACF in all ICAO Regions, as practicable, would ensure consistency in preparing, responding to, and managing ATM Contingency events more effectively, harmonized, and collaboratively within and across the regions.

12. It was made clear that the term "ATM or ATS contingency plan" refers to the State/ANSP contingency plan in accordance with the requirements of Annex 11, and that the term "ATM contingency arrangements and procedures" would refer to measures with cross-border aspects (Level 2 or 3 of the RACF).

13. The workshop emphasized the need for an ICAO ATM Contingency Online Platform to share information among stakeholders and provide communication and coordination means for the CCTs, considering the limitations related to the use of the current social media applications.

14. The workshop invited the ICAO Regional Offices to arrange for further review and improvements of the RACF with the support of AAC as appropriate, by the regional ATM Sub-group for final endorsement by the PIRGs of each ICAO Region.

15. ICAO was invited to support States in updating/developing their national ATM contingency plans in accordance with Annex 11 and the RACF.

16. The workshop invited States to use/consider the already existing guidance material on contingency and crisis management.

17. ICAO was also invited to organize symposia to raise awareness of the new framework, including workshops to support regional implementation.

18. States were invited/urged to consider ACM in the content of their national disaster/crisis response and relief mechanisms and to allocate the required resources to support effective implementation, considering the importance of the air transport sector in providing air routes and access to aerodromes for humanitarian missions.

19. States were invited to ensure the establishment of a Contingency Coordination Committee (CCC), if not done yet so, f no other existing committee is responsible for the functions as described in the RACF.

20. States were invited to establish, if not yet done so, an ATM Contingency Group (ACG) which will be provided with the required resources and authorized to perform its functions, including those with cross-border coordination and communication aspects.

21. States were urged to conduct training for the personnel involved in contingency management as well as periodic contingency management tabletop exercises, as these are key success elements for effectively responding to and managing a contingency event.

22. The workshop noted the need for regional guidance for clearing volcanic ash from aerodrome movement areas.

23. The workshop noted the need for additional guidance on the delineation of ANSPs' and aerodrome operators' roles and responsibilities when dealing with aerodrome emergencies such as natural disasters, based on the type,

scale, and location of the emergency/disaster and the coordination required with responding agencies.

24. The workshop thanked the efforts of the ICAO Team in organizing the Workshop and the ICAO APAC Office for hosting this important event. The workshop invited the Secretariat to organize similar workshops in other ICAO Regions to promote and raise awareness concerning the new RACF. It also thanked the APAC Office for hosting the events.

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