

MID REPORT

GENERAL INFORMATION



AFI Aviation Week 2026: Strengthening Partnerships and Advancing Global Aviation Priorities

ICAO Secretary General meets with Minister of Civil Aviation

Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar, ICAO Secretary General met with H.E. Dr. Sameh El Hefny, Minister of Civil Aviation of Egypt, as part of a series of high-level bilateral engagements. The meeting was attended by Mr. Mohamed Khalifa Rahma, ICAO Director, Air Transport Bureau and Regional Director for the Middle East, and Ms. Reem Arabi, Egypt's Alternate Representative to ICAO. Discussions focused on the development of civil aviation in Africa in light of the evolving aviation landscape, as well as support for ICAO programmes, capacity-building efforts, and the exchange of expertise among Member States.

The two sides also reviewed preparations for the Seventh ICAO Air Transport Conference (ATConf/7) and the Extraordinary Session of the ICAO Assembly, scheduled for November 2026. The meeting reaffirmed the importance of continued cooperation and coordination in advancing a safe, secure, efficient, and sustainable international civil aviation system.



Minister of Civil Aviation Honours ICAO MID Regional Director

During the closing session of AFI Aviation Week 2026, hosted by Egypt, H.E. Dr. Sameh El Hefny, Minister of Civil Aviation, honoured Mr. Mohamed Khalifa Rahma on the occasion of his appointment as ICAO Regional Director for the Middle East.



The recognition reflected appreciation for his distinguished career and contributions to international civil aviation, including his service as the first Egyptian to lead ICAO's Air Transport Bureau. The Minister highlighted Mr. Rahma's professionalism and leadership in supporting ICAO programmes and fostering cooperation among Member States. ICAO Secretary General Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar commended Mr. Rahma's expertise and commitment, noting that his extensive experience positions him well to lead ICAO's activities in the Middle East Region. Mr. Rahma expressed his appreciation for the recognition and reaffirmed his commitment to advancing ICAO's objectives through partnership and collaboration.



Secretary General Meets with ICAO MID Regional Director and Staff

During a meeting with the ICAO MID Regional Director and Regional Office staff, the ICAO Secretary General briefed the team on recent developments, key priorities, and strategic initiatives at ICAO Headquarters and across the regional offices. The discussions provided an opportunity to exchange views on ongoing activities and future challenges. Mr. Mohamed Khalifa Rahma, ICAO MID Regional Director, welcomed the Secretary General to Egypt and highlighted the MID Office's upcoming priorities, emphasizing the pivotal role of staff as the cornerstone for achieving the Office's objectives and advancing ICAO's global strategic goals.

MID Region Strengthens Cooperation with IATA

Mr. Mohamed Khalifa Rahma, ICAO MID Regional Director, met with Mr. Kamil Al-Awadhi, IATA Regional Vice President for Africa and the Middle East. The meeting discussed areas of mutual interest and reaffirmed the importance of continued ICAO-IATA cooperation in advancing safe, secure, efficient, and sustainable air transport development across the MID Region.

ICAO MID Regional Director Meets with CAAS Deputy Director-General

Mr. Mohamed Khalifa Rahma, ICAO MID Regional Director, met with Mr. Ng Tee Chiou, Deputy Director-General of the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS). The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange views on key aviation priorities and explore avenues for enhanced cooperation in support of the safe, secure, efficient, and sustainable development of international civil aviation.

ICAO MID Regional Director Meets with GACA Executive Vice President

Mr. Mohamed Khalifa Rahma, ICAO Regional Director for the Middle East, met with Mr. Ali Mohammed Rajab, Executive Vice President for Air Transport and International Cooperation of the General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) of Saudi Arabia. Discussions focused on recent developments and priorities across the Middle East Region, ongoing cooperation activities, and upcoming regional initiatives. The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange views on matters of mutual interest and strengthen coordination in support of ICAO's regional work programme and strategic objectives. The participants underscored the value of continued engagement and collaboration to address common aviation priorities and opportunities.

ICAO Secretary General Meets with Oman Delegation

ICAO Secretary General Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar, accompanied by Mr. Mohamed Khalifa Rahma, ICAO Regional Director for the Middle East, and Mr. Fabio Rabbani, Director of Capacity Development and Implementation (CDI), met with the delegation of the Sultanate of Oman. The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange views on key aviation priorities, ongoing cooperation activities, and capacity-development initiatives. Discussions also addressed areas of mutual interest and opportunities to further enhance engagement between ICAO and Oman. The participants underscored the importance of continued coordination and collaboration in supporting the implementation of ICAO programmes and regional aviation priorities.



Preparations for the Sixth ICAO MID Regional Aviation Safety Summit

- ICAO MID continued coordination with the United Arab Emirates General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) on the organization of the Sixth ICAO MID Regional Aviation Safety Summit, scheduled to be held in Dubai, November 2026, preceded by an SSP/SMS Workshop.
- Progress included further development of the Summit programme, identification of priority topics, coordination of prospective speakers and partners, and alignment of the technical content with regional and global aviation safety priorities. The proposed programme will address aviation safety in complex airspace, emerging technologies, advanced air mobility, unmanned aircraft systems, crisis management and contingency planning, as well as lessons learned from recent regional operational disruptions.

ICAO MID, CASP-MID and ACAO Successfully Conduct Regional AVSEC/FAL Seminar

- The ICAO MID Regional Office, in collaboration with CASP-MID and the Arab Civil Aviation Organization (ACAO), successfully organized the Aviation Security and Facilitation Seminar, held virtually from 20 to 22 July 2026. The event brought together more than 100 participants representing international organizations (ACI, ECAC, AFCAC, UNOCT, SITA, and INTERPOL), MID and North African States, as well as representatives from immigration authorities, airports, and aircraft operators.
- The seminar highlighted the latest developments in Aviation Security (AVSEC) and Facilitation (FAL), while providing a valuable platform for participants to exchange experiences, share best practices, and strengthen regional cooperation.

Coordination with Oman on AVSEC/FAL Priorities

- On 31 July 2026, the ICAO MID Regional Office met with the Aviation Security and Facilitation (AVSEC/FAL) focal points of the Oman Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) at its headquarters in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, to discuss Oman's continued contribution to enhancing the effective implementation of ICAO Aviation Security (AVSEC) and Facilitation (FAL) Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) across the MID Region. The meeting also highlighted Oman's preparations for hosting upcoming regional AVSEC/FAL events and explored proposals for future cooperation and capacity-building initiatives.

Regional Support for Timely CORSIA CO₂ Emissions Reporting

- The ICAO MID Regional Office continued to support MID States in the timely submission of their 2025 CO₂ emissions data through the CORSIA Central Registry (CCR), in accordance with the reporting requirements of Annex 16, Volume IV, Part II, Chapter 2 (2.3.2). Follow-up activities were carried out to assist States in meeting the 31 July 2026 reporting deadline and to facilitate timely compliance with CORSIA reporting requirements.

ICAO MID Supports Launch of the ACT-SAF Feasibility Study in Egypt

- The ICAO MID Regional Office actively participated in the launch of the Assistance, Capacity-building and Training for Sustainable Aviation Fuels (ACT-SAF) feasibility study in Egypt, funded by the European Union, through the Project Kick-off Workshop held on 12-13 July 2026. The workshop covered ICAO's work on sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) and the scope of the project, including an introduction to SAF, production technologies and pathways, certification requirements, policy measures, and SAF reporting under the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA).
- The workshop also included the presentation of the pre-feasibility study and agreement on the next steps toward the development of a comprehensive SAF feasibility study and roadmap for Egypt.



Coordination Continues for the ICAO Green Airports Seminar 2026

- The ICAO MID Regional Office actively participated in a coordination meeting held on 21 July 2026 with ICAO Headquarters and the Government of Egypt in preparation for the ICAO Green Airports Seminar 2026. The meeting finalized the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ICAO, the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the Egyptian Holding Company for Airports and Air Navigation (EHCAAN), defining the respective roles, responsibilities, and hosting arrangements to ensure the successful organization of the Seminar.

Implementation Support to the Syrian Arab Republic under the ICAO No Country Left Behind (NCLB)

- The ICAO MID Regional Office is implementing a phased Plan of Action to support the recovery, modernization, and sustainable development of the Syrian civil aviation sector under the ICAO No Country Left Behind (NCLB) initiative.
- The Plan comprises four phases:
 1. Baseline assessment and prioritization of needs.
 2. Implementation of priority technical assistance and capacity-building activities.
 3. Institutional strengthening and system modernization.
 4. Transition to sustainable national capability through continued implementation support, partnerships, and monitoring.
- Building on the virtual multidisciplinary baseline assessment conducted in April 2026, the ICAO MID Regional Office carried out a follow-up on-site mission to the Syrian Arab Republic from 5 to 9 July 2026 as part of Phase I of the Plan of Action. The mission included a high-level meeting with H.E. Eng. Omar Al-Husari, President of the Syrian General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA), who reaffirmed GACA's commitment to the recovery and modernization of the civil aviation sector and expressed appreciation for ICAO MID's continued support.
- The multidisciplinary team validated the findings of the initial baseline assessment through consultations with national stakeholders, technical meetings, and site visits covering the regulatory framework, institutional arrangements, aerodromes, air navigation services, aviation security and facilitation, and safety oversight.
- Based on the mission outcomes, the ICAO MID Regional Office is identifying priority short-, medium-, and long-term implementation actions to support the recovery, modernization, and sustainable development of Syria's civil aviation system. The mission also strengthened coordination with United Nations agencies, including the World Food Programme (WFP), and international partners, including IATA, to promote a coordinated implementation approach under the ICAO NCLB initiative.

ICAO Technical Assistance and Gap Analysis Mission to Lebanon

- The ICAO MID Regional Office conducted a multidisciplinary ICAO Technical Assistance and Gap Analysis Mission to Lebanon from 13 to 17 July 2026 to assess the State's civil aviation system and identify priority actions to strengthen regulatory oversight capabilities across all technical domains, including LEG, ORG, SSP, PEL, OPS, AIR, AIG, ANS, AVSEC, and FAL, in accordance with ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs).
- The mission also evaluated the effectiveness of Air Navigation Services (ANS), Aviation Security (AVSEC), and Facilitation (FAL), identifying operational challenges, capacity-building needs, and opportunities to support the modernization of Lebanon's civil aviation system.
- The mission resulted in a comprehensive gap analysis, including prioritized recommendations and a roadmap of short-, medium-, and long-term actions to support the recovery, modernization, and sustainable development of Lebanon's civil aviation sector, while informing future ICAO technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives.



Implementation Support Activities

MID FPP Strengthens Regional Flight Procedure Design Capacity

Following a request from the Libyan Civil Aviation Authority (LYCAA) for support under the Middle East Flight Procedure Programme (MID FPP) for its ongoing Flight Procedure Design (FPD) projects, the MID FPP engaged with LYCAA and developed a Statement of Work (SoW) covering the certification of a third-party Instrument Flight Procedure (IFP) design service provider.

Following the ICAO MID Regional Office's call for States to express interest in hosting the Middle East Flight Procedure Programme (MID FPP) by 1 September 2026, a meeting was held with the Egyptian Civil Aviation Authority (ECAA) on 21 July 2026, at Egypt's request, to discuss the Host State Model. The meeting provided clarifications on the hosting obligations, expected support, and associated benefits. The ICAO MID Regional Office encouraged Egypt to consider hosting the Programme, noting that serving as the Host State would demonstrate regional leadership and a strong commitment to advancing flight procedure design, Performance-Based Navigation (PBN) implementation, and air navigation capacity-building across the MID Region, while reinforcing Egypt's role as a strategic partner in supporting ICAO regional priorities.

