



International Civil Aviation Organization

MIDANPIRG/22 and RASG-MID/12 Meeting

(Doha, Qatar, 4 - 8 May 2025)

Agenda Item 4.2: Outcomes of the AIIG/MENA ARCM Meetings

OUTCOMES OF THE AIIG/MENA ARCM MEETINGS

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY
This paper presents the outcome of the MENA ARCM meetings. Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.
REFERENCES
- MIDANPIRG/21-RASG-MID/11 Report - MENA ARCM/5&6 Reports

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Fifth Meeting of Middle East North Africa Aircraft Accident and incident Investigation Regional Cooperation Mechanism (MENA ARCM) Committee meeting and AIIG/3-Conference was held at Muscat, Oman, from 7 to 9 May 2024. The conference theme: “*Assistance to Aircraft Accident victims and their families (AAAVF)*”.

1.2 The meeting was attended by a total of Thirty-six (36) participants from seven (7) MENA ARCM Member States (Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and UAE), two (2) other States (Qatar & USA) and Four (2) Organizations (ACAO and ICAO)

1.3 The conference was attended by a total of two hundred (200) participants from MD States, other States, international organizations, and industry.

1.4 The Sixth Meeting of Middle East North Africa Aircraft Accident and incident Investigation Regional Cooperation Mechanism (MENA ARCM) Committee meeting, Fourth RAIO CP Annual Meeting, and the Symposium on “Aviation Safety and Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation”. were held at Abu Dhabi, UAE, from 19 to 21 November 2024. The MENA ARCM/6 meeting has been held on 19 November 2024.

1.5 The MENA ARCM/6 meeting was attended by a total of Forty-one (41) participants from eight (8) MENA ARCM Member States (Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and UAE) and two (2) Organizations (ACAO and ICAO).

1.6 The symposium was attended by approximately two hundred (200) participants from States, international organizations, and industry.

2. DISCUSSION

MENA ARCM/5 Meeting

2.1 The MENA ARCM/5 meeting was informed that an on the Online share folder demonstration to manage MENA ARCM database and activities has been conducted in February 2024 and was also provided with a presentation on the registration process and ways to use the Share folder.

2.2 The meeting encouraged MENA ARCM Members States to register and use the online Share Folder as part of the Technical Assistance process and procedure. The share folder registration link to be accessed through: <https://mena-arcm.acao.org.ma/>.

2.3 The meeting was apprised by the MENA ARCM logo design demonstration. Accordingly, the meeting agreed to modify the design taking into consideration the feedback provided.

2.4 The meeting was informed about the final decision taken after voting process during the last day of the conference related to the selected MENA ARCM Logo at **Appendix A**.

2.5 The MENA ARCM/5 meeting noted the GASP 2026-2028 progress update including the process to identify the global safety issues and the proposed GASP Goals 2026-2028.

2.6 The MENA ARCM/5 meeting was informed on the latest update on ICAO Annex 13 amendments including Investigations involving unmanned aircraft, Release of investigative information, Global Aeronautical Distress Safety System (GADSS) data and information, Consultation period of Final Reports, Publication of Final Reports as well as AIGP/7 & 8 proposed recommendations.

Assistance to Aircraft Accident victims and their families (AAAVF)” Conference

2.7 The meeting may wish to note that Oman Transport Safety Bureau (OTSB), in cooperation with the ICAO MID Office have successfully organized "Assistance to Aircraft Accident victims and their families (AAAVF)” Conference in Muscat, during 7 to 9 May 2024. The main purpose of the conference was to explore how best to assist the aircraft accident victims and their families.

2.8 The event included speeches, presentations, and discussions. In addition, two- days Conference provided an overview on shared experiences from regulators, accident investigation authorities, and industry perspective as well as best practices in the communication of sensitive information on aircraft accidents, information management.

2.9 The meeting may also wish to note the outcome of the conference.

- Participants noted the Assembly Resolutions A39-1 & A40-16, adopted at the 39th & 40th Sessions of the ICAO Assembly, recognizing the need to provide assistance to victims and their families, and which urged States to establish legislation, regulations and policies to support victims of civil aviation accidents and their family members.
- Participants noted that:
 - ICAO Council established 20 February as the International Day Commemorating Air Crash Victims and their Families in coordination with associations representative of victims and their families.
 - ICAO elevated an existing Recommended Practice to a Standard 8.47 in 2022, thus heightening the responsibility of the States to establish legislation, regulations and policies in support of assistance to aircraft accident victims and their families.

- ICAO developed training courses to help regulators set out appropriate family assistance legislation.
- Participants underlined the development of comprehensive assistance programs involving all stakeholders including governments entities, airlines, regulators, airports, and emergency responders. It also requires careful planning, resources, and time. It is essential that assistance be practical, adapted to need, and sustained for as long as it is required. It is also important that the service providers consider the culture, religion, and family values of the victims.
- Participants emphasized the critical need for comprehensive support systems to address the diverse needs of aircraft accident victims and their families. This includes psychological, financial, legal, and logistical assistance.
- Participants underscored the importance of providing long-term support to aircraft accident victims and their families, as the impacts of such incidents can be enduring. This includes ongoing psychological support, financial assistance, and access to healthcare services.
- There was a consensus amongst participants on the importance of coordination and collaboration among various stakeholders, including governments entities, airlines, airports, emergency responders, NGOs, and international bodies. Effective communication and cooperation are essential for providing timely and effective assistance.
- Participants stressed the need for training programs and capacity-building initiatives for personnel involved in providing assistance to aircraft accident victims and their families as well as the need for organizing workshops and seminars/conferences. This includes training for emergency responders, healthcare professionals, mental health counselors, legal advisors, and volunteers.
- Effective information sharing and communication channels are vital during and after aviation disasters. It is essential to keep the affected individuals and families informed about developments, support services, and their rights throughout the recovery process. Information and any findings that have been made should be conveyed to the families.
- Governments and airlines should ensure that adequate legal and financial assistance is available to aircraft accident victims and their families. This includes assistance with compensation claims, insurance coverage, and access to legal representation.
- Given the global nature of aviation accidents, international cooperation and collaboration are essential. States need to work together to share resources, expertise, and lessons learned to enhance the effectiveness of assistance efforts worldwide.

MENA ARCM/6 Meeting

Updated Progress on MENA ARCM Areas of Cooperation & Technical Assistance

2.10 The MENA ARCM/6 meeting was apprised with appreciation of the work progress achieved on the MENA ARCM database management, Technical Assistance, and share folder.

2.11 The meeting urged the MENA ARCM Member States to provide their data to MENA ARCM Coordinator, if not yet done.

MENA ARCM Member States discussion & presentations

2.12 The MENA ARCM/6 meeting:

- urged MENA ARCM Members States to register and use the online Share Folder as part of the Technical Assistance process and procedure. The share folder registration link to be accessed through: <https://mena-arcm.acao.org.ma/>.

- agreed that the MENA ARCM Coordinator in coordination with ACAO to support States in the registration process, accessing and using the share folder.
- agreed to initiate the establishment of safety recommendations database to enhance aviation safety through systematic data collection, analysis, and dissemination of safety recommendations derived from accident investigations and with the objective to share lessons learned across the MENA ARCM member States to prevent recurrence of similar occurrences.
- noted that a workshop on the establishment of safety recommendations database is tentatively planned to be conducted during the upcoming MENA ARCM in Saudi Arabia with focus on framework development and data management protocol.
- noted that MENA ARCM Coordinator in coordination with ACAO to explore initially using the share folder as a platform for safety recommendations.
- agreed to reinforce the capacity building activities in aircraft accident investigation field using technical assistance form and coordination with MENA ARCM Coordinator.
- agreed to ensure the translation to Arabic language during the upcoming MENA ARCM meetings, as needed.
- thanked Morocco BEA for sharing the learned lessons/experience and common findings from ICAO USOAP audits mainly inadequate Organizational Structure, insufficient detailed MoU, insufficient Trained Personnel, delayed Accident Reporting, inadequate Accident Investigation Manuals or Procedures, limited Access to Technical Resources and Data, insufficient follow-up on Safety Recommendations, and inadequate Prevention Measures.
- thanked UAE AIG in sharing UAE AAIS Projects including Aviation Pathology Protocol in aircraft accident investigations, master's Program in Aviation Safety and Aircraft Accident Investigation, and UAE AIMS.

Amendment 19 to Annex 13 update

2.13 The MENA ARCM/6 meeting noted with appreciation the Amendment 19 to Annex 13 & AIG PQs 2024 update.

Update on Safety Management

2.14 The MENA ARCM/6 meeting noted with appreciation the updated status of Annex 19, Amendment 2 proposals and Status of Safety Management guidance material.

2.15 The MENA ARCM/6 meeting also noted that the newly revised ICAO SSP PQs draft has been published in the OLF and the SSPIA has been integrated into the USOAP Programme.

2.16 The meeting was also informed that SMS PQs will be added to each technical area as a subgroup of safety oversight PQs following the traditional PQ structure and the applicability dates to start the USOAP audit is 1st July 2025. The PQs on SSP implementation and maintenance will be separately grouped.

Follow-up on the RASG-MID/11 Meeting Conclusions & Decisions

2.17 The MENA ARCM/6 meeting reviewed the progress made for the implementation of the RASG-MID/11 and PIRG/RASG Conclusions and Decisions.

MENA ARCM MoU signature ceremony

2.18 The MENA ARCM/6 meeting noted with appreciation that the state of Qatar AIG signed the MENA ARCM MoU and joined the MENA ARCM to support its activities as at ***Appendix B*** (so far 16 States).

Fourth RAIO CP Annual Meeting

2.19 The meeting may wish to note that the Fourth RAIO CP Annual Meeting has been held on 19 Nov 2024 back-to-back with MENA ARCM/6 meeting.

Symposium: “Aviation Safety and Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation”.

2.20 The meeting may wish to note that the General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), in cooperation with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has successfully organized “Aviation Safety and Aircraft Accident Investigation” Symposium in Abu Dhabi, during 20 to 21 November 2024. The symposium convened accident investigation authorities, regulators, international organizations, and industry experts to discuss critical aspects of aviation safety and investigation practices. This event brought together global aviation safety professionals to discuss challenges, share experiences, and foster collaboration on safety and accident investigation practices.

2.21 The symposium highlighted the importance of international cooperation in addressing global issues and improving aviation safety standards. The event included speeches, presentations, and panel discussions on topics such as:

- a) Annual Safety Reports which provided participants with information regarding the latest Annual Safety Reports with an emphasis on accident and incident data.
- b) Cooperation and Harmonization of Safety Recommendations which discussed strategies and recommendations for coordinating and harmonizing safety recommendations and data for accident and incident investigations.
- c) Industry perspective on working with RAIOS/ICMs which explored the importance of coordination of safety data, how collaboration between industry and RAIOS/ICMs works, what advantages it yields and how both parties could leverage on each other’s expertise.
- d) AIG Panel and Working Group 23 work progress which provided an overview of USOAP AIG findings and provided guidance and information to RAIOS/ICMs for complying with ICAO SARPs.
- e) Supporting Member States: Benefits and Challenges of RAIOS/ICMs which shared their experiences to support their Member States, challenges, benefits and way forward for regional cooperation.
- f) Completed accident and incident investigation which discussed how accident and incident investigations were successfully completed and share the lessons learned during the process.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the progress made by the MENA ARCM/5 & 6 meetings.

- b) continue to support the MENA ARCM & AIIG activities and meetings; and
- c) encourage States to sign the MENA ARCM MoU, if not yet done.



قائمة الدول الموقعة على مذكرة التفاهم المتعددة الأطراف أعلاه

List of countries that signed the Multi-Lateral MoU above

التوقيع Signature	وضيفة صاحب التوقيع Title of signatory	الدولة State	م n°
		المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	1
		دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة United Arab Emirates	2
		الجمهورية الإسلامية الإيرانية Islamic Republic of Iran	3
		مملكة البحرين Kingdom of Bahrain	4
		الجمهورية التونسية Republic of Tunisia	5
		جمهورية جيبوتي Republic of Djibouti	6
		الجمهورية الجزائرية الديمقراطية الشعبية People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	7
		المملكة العربية السعودية Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	8
		جمهورية السودان Republic of Sudan	9
		جمهورية الصومال Republic of Somalia	10
		جمهورية العراق Republic of Iraq	11
		سلطنة عمان Sultanate of Oman	12
		دولة فلسطين State of Palestine	13
	رئيس مرسدة التصديق في حواري الطائر	دولة قطر State of Qatar	14
		جمهورية القمر المتحدة Republic of the Comoros	15
		دولة الكويت State of Kuwait	16
		الجمهورية اللبنانية the Republic of Lebanon	17
		دولة ليبيا the State of Libya	18
		جمهورية مصر العربية Arab Republic of Egypt	19
		المملكة المغربية Kingdom of Morocco	20
		الجمهورية الإسلامية الموريتانية the Islamic Republic of Mauritania	21
		الجمهورية اليمنية the Republic of Yemen	22

Note: This multilateral MoU shall be signed by Authorized person from each state to do so, either by the person responsible for the authority of AIG/Unit if it is an independent entity, or the head of the Civil Aviation Authority if the AIG is under his authority, or by whomever they delegate.

ملاحظة: يوقع مذكرة التفاهم المتعددة الأطراف هذه المفوض له من قبل كل دولة للقيام بذلك، إما المسؤول عن هيئة/وحدة التحقيق في حوادث ووقائع الطائرات فيما إذا كانت كيانا مستقلا أو رئيس سلطة/هيئة الطيران المدني إذا ما كانت وحدة التحقيق منظمة تحت سلطته، أو من يفوضه كل منهما.