



International Civil Aviation Organization

**MIDANPIRG/23 & RASG-MID/13 Meetings**

*(Cairo, Egypt, 14 – 18 June 2026)*

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**Agenda Item 5.7: CNS**

COMMUNICATIONS MATTERS

*(Presented by the Secretariat)*

**SUMMARY**

This paper presents the outcomes of the fifteenth meeting of the MIDANPIRG CNS Sub-group (CNS SG/15) concerning communication issues and the MID IP Network project.

Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3

**REFERENCE**

- CNS SG/15 Report
- MIDANPIRG/22 Report
- MIDANPIRG Procedural Handbook (MID Doc 001)

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The eleventh meeting of the MIDAMC Steering Group was conducted from 8 to 9 April 2026, at the ICAO MID Office, Cairo, Egypt. The meeting was held back-to-back with the MIDAMC Workshop. The meeting was attended by a total of twenty-seven (27) participants, from eight (8) States (Egypt, Jordan, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen).

1.2 The Fifteenth meeting of the MIDANPIRG Communications, Navigation and Surveillance Sub-Group (CNS SG/15) was hosted by Qatar in Doha, Qatar, 11-14 May 2026.

**2. DISCUSSION**

***ROC Plan***

2.1 The CNS SG/15 meeting reviewed the status of the Regional OPMET Center (ROC) plan and noted that all actions have been completed except for the evaluation of inter-regional connection bandwidth and the transition of the Beirut–Nicosia connection from CIDIN to AMHS, as reflected in the updated ROC plan at **Appendix A**. Following the coordination with the MET SG, it was confirmed that ROC data exchange is functioning reliably and without reported issues.

2.2 The meeting may wish to note that the ROC plan can now be considered fully implemented, with the remaining items not affecting operational data exchange. The meeting may also wish to encourage States to assess the need for increasing connection bandwidth to ensure efficient messages exchange.

***Efficiency of AMHS Network Operations***

2.3 The CNS SG/15 meeting noted that limited progress has been made in implementing MIDANPIRG Conclusion 20/37, which called upon States to rationalize the AFTN/AMHS network in the MID Region. The meeting may wish to note that the regional AFTN/AMHS requirements are defined in the MID ANP, Volume II, CNS Tables II-1 and II-2. The CNS SG/15 meeting emphasized that States should refrain from establishing additional Inter-Regional connections, to ensure the efficiency and reliability of Inter-Regional message exchange.

2.4 The successful transition of SITA integration in the MID Region was completed in 2019; the CNS SG/15 meeting noted that routing mismatches and misconfigurations continue to cause traffic loss, routing loops and delays. The meeting further recalled that MIDANPIRG Conclusion 20/41 urged Egypt, Libya, and Sudan to validate ARINC addresses by 1 August 2023; however, the States involved reported difficulties due to the absence of these addresses in their national records. The meeting may wish to agree to task the MIDAMC Team to coordinate with ARINC to obtain the necessary address lists and supporting details to enable the validation process.

2.5 In light of the above, the meeting agreed to the following Draft Conclusion:

***DRAFT CONCLUSION 15/1: EFFICIENCY OF THE AMHS NETWORK OPERATION IN THE MID REGION***

*That, in order to enhance the efficiency and ensure consistency of the AFTN/AMHS network operations in the MID Region, States be urged to:*

- a) refrain from establishing new bilateral inter-regional connections and rationalize existing ones, ensuring that operational requirements, overall network efficiency, and the regional provisions specified in MID ANP Volume II are fully considered;*
- b) update the AMC data, including AFTN/AMHS Routing directories, on a regular basis in close collaboration with the MIDAMC team; and*
- c) ensure that the AMHS system operates in full alignment with the AMC data, including proper configuration of AMHS parameters and timely update of P3/P7 user agents' addressee information*

***AFS Inter-regional Coordination***

2.7 The CNS SG/15 meeting noted that some MID States are facing operational issues concerning the Inter-Regional communications. Consequently, the meeting proposed that ICAO organize a meeting to discuss Inter-Regional aeronautical fixed service (AFS) issues with States involved. Accordingly, the CNS SG/15 meeting agreed to the following Draft Conclusion:

***DRAFT CONCLUSION 15/2: AFS INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATION***

*That, in order to enhance coordination and facilitate resolution of outstanding Inter-Regional issues, ICAO MID Office is requested to organize an AFS inter-regional coordination meeting with AFI, APAC, and EUR/NAT Regions and States involved.*

***AMHS/AMC Capacity Building Activities***

2.8 Following the successful conduct of the MIDAMC Workshop held from 5 to 7 April 2026 in Cairo, which provided participants with essential knowledge and practical skills, the CNS SG/15 meeting proposed that an advanced Workshop should be organized in 2027 to further strengthen

operator competencies and enhance the efficiency and reliability of the AFTN/AMHS environment. The meeting also acknowledged requests from Libya, Syria, and Yemen to organise MIDAMC Workshops at National Level to enable broader participation and support AMHS implementation within their States, with Libya highlighting the need to schedule its Workshop at the earliest opportunity. Accordingly, the meeting agreed to the following Draft Conclusion:

***DRAFT CONCLUSION 15/3: CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES ON AMHS/AMC***

*That, in order to strengthen AMHS operator competencies and enable the smooth and efficient AMHS operation in the MID Region:*

- a) an Advanced AMHS/AMC Workshop be organized in 2027; and*
- b) States interested to organise AMHS/AMC Workshop at National level send official requests to the ICAO MID Office.*

***MID IP NETWORK PROJECT***

2.9 The meeting may wish to recall that the MID IP Network project initially began with the APAC CRV project; however, due to the high costs originally quoted, it was agreed to explore EUROCONTROL's New PENS service as an alternative, in line with MIDANPIRG Conclusion 18/37.

2.10 EUROCONTROL subsequently agreed to extend New PENS to the MID Region and committed to communicating the next steps to the MID Office. The meeting further noted that the APAC Office has re-engaged the MID Region, offering reduced CRV costs and prompting MIDANPIRG/21 to refer the matter to CNS SG/13 for further study.

2.11 Emphasizing the need for a coordinated regional or sub-regional decision to select the most cost-effective option for a regional IP Network, the meeting agreed to establish an Action Group to reassess all available options and provide recommendations to CNS SG/16 and MIDANPIRG/24 meetings. Accordingly, the meeting agreed to the following Draft Decision:

***DRAFT DECISION 15/5: MID IP NETWORK ACTION GROUP***

*That:*

- a) the MID IP Network Action Group is established to reassess all options and scenarios related to the MID IP project and to provide guidance on the most appropriate course of action; and*
- b) the MID IP Network Action Group is composed of:*
  - i. Mohamed Sultan (Egypt)*
  - ii. Yasser Zayyad (Jordan)*
  - iii. Ahmed El-Amari (Libya)*
  - iv. Said Albalushi (Oman)*
  - v. Sheikha Al-Temais (Qatar)*
  - vi. Faisal Alzahrani (Saudi Arabia)*
  - vii. Ayham Alkilani (Syria)*
  - viii. Rashed Al-Shehi (UAE)*
  - ix. Ezat Faiq (Yemen)*
  - x. ICAO Secretariat*

***MIDAMC TERMS OF REFERENCE***

2.12 The CNS SG/15 meeting reviewed and updated the Terms of Reference (ToRs) as at **Appendix B**, taking into account the following considerations:

- a) given that the management and development of SWIM services fall under the terms of reference of the AIM SG, the MIDAMC will support only the establishment and operation of the SWIM infrastructure, not the services themselves, in order to avoid overlapping of tasks and duplication of efforts; and
- b) the withdrawal of the MIDAMC Platform and the transition to the use of the AMC.

2.13 Accordingly, the meeting agreed to the Draft Decision:

***DRAFT DECISION 15/4: MID AMC STG AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE***

*That the MID AMC Steering Group Terms of Reference be amended as at **Appendix B**.*

**3. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note and support the outcomes of the CNS SG/15 meeting covering Communications matters and the MID IP Network project contained in this paper;
- b) encourage States to evaluate and, where necessary, enhance AMHS bandwidth to support reliable OPMET data exchange;
- c) task the MIDAMC Team to coordinate with ARINC to obtain the necessary address lists and supporting details to enable the validation process; and
- d) endorse the Draft Conclusions and Decisions.

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**MID ROC Plan**

<i>AMHS Plan for ROC in Jeddah and Bahrain</i>					
	<b>Task</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Assigned to</b>	<b>Champion</b>	<b>Status</b>
<i>AMHS Intra-regional Trunk Connections</i>					
1	Establish Jeddah – Beirut IP Network.	Jul 2015	Saudi Lebanon	IM MS	Completed
2	Establish Bahrain – Beirut IP Network.	Feb 2016	Bahrain Lebanon	YH MS	Completed
3	Establish Cairo – Beirut IP Network.	July 2016	Egypt Lebanon	AF//MR MS	Completed
4	Establish Bahrain – Jeddah IP Network.	Mar 2016	Bahrain Saudi	IM YH	Completed
5	Perform the Interoperability test between Jeddah and Beirut COM Centers.	July 2015	Saudi Lebanon	IB MS	Completed
6	Perform the Interoperability test between Bahrain and Beirut COM Centers.	July 2016	Bahrain Lebanon	MS YH	Completed
7	Perform the Interoperability test between Cairo and Beirut COM Centers	July 2016	Egypt Lebanon	AF/TZ/MR MS/EK	Completed
8	Perform the Interoperability test between Bahrain and Jeddah COM Centers.	15 October 2020	Bahrain Saudi	YM AA	Completed
9	Perform the Pre-operational test between Jeddah and Beirut COM Centers.	July 2015	Saudi Lebanon	IM MS	Completed
10	Perform the Pre-operational test between Bahrain and Beirut COM Centers.	July 2016	Bahrain Lebanon	YH MS	Completed
11	Perform the Pre-operational test between Cairo and Beirut COM Centers.	March 2017	Egypt Lebanon	AF/ /MR MS/EK	Completed
12	Perform the Pre-operational test between Bahrain and Saudi COM Centers.	25 October 2020	Bahrain Saudi	YM IM	Completed
13	Place the AMHS link into operation between Jeddah and Beirut COM centers, and updating the Routing tables.	July 2015	Saudi Lebanon MID AMC	IM MS/EK MN	Completed July, 2015
14	Place the AMHS link into operation between Bahrain and Beirut COM centers, and updating the Routing tables.	July 2016	Bahrain Lebanon MID AMC	YH MS/EK MN	Completed On 3/5/2016
15	Place the AMHS link into operation between Cairo and Beirut COM centers, and updating the Routing tables.	April 2017	Egypt Lebanon MID AMC	AF/TZ/MR MS/EK MN	completed

<i>AMHS Plan for ROC in Jeddah and Bahrain</i>					
	<b>Task</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Assigned to</b>	<b>Champion</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b><i>AMHS Intra-regional Trunk Connections</i></b>					
16	Evaluate the Trunks connections bandwidth and increase it if required between (Bahrain, Beirut, Cairo and Jeddah).	Q4 2021	Bahrain Beirut Cairo Jeddah	YH MS/EK AF/TZ IM	
<b><i>The AMHS Interconnection with EUR Region Depends on Nicosia and Athens</i></b>					
17	Establish Cairo – Tunis IP Network.	<i>March 2016</i> <i>July 2016</i>		AF/TZ/MR IB/MA	completed
18	Establish Nicosia – Beirut IP Network.	Q3 2021		MS/EK	Lebanon is ready to connect
19	Establish Nicosia – Jeddah IP Network.			IM	Completed
20	Establish Bahrain – Nicosia IP Network.	Q3 2021		AD	Bahrain is ready to connect
21	Establish Cairo – Athens IP Network.	Dec 2016		AF/TZ/MR	Completed
22	Perform the Interoperability test between Cairo and Tunis COM Centers.	<i>April 2016</i> <i>August 2016</i>		AF/ /MR IB/MA	Completed
23	Perform the pre operational test between Cairo and Tunis COM Centers.	<i>Q3 2016</i>		AF/ /MR IB/MA	Completed
24	Place the AMHS link into operation between Cairo and Tunis COM Centers, and updating the Routing tables.	<i>Aug 2016</i>		AF/ /MR IB/MA	Completed
25	Perform the Interoperability test between Athens and Cairo COM Centers.	Mar 2017		AF/TZ/MR IB/MA	Completed
26	Perform the Interoperability test between Bahrain and Nicosia COM Centers.	Q4 2025		AD	Completed
27	Perform the Interoperability test between Nicosia and Jeddah COM Centers.	Q3 2021		IM	Completed
28	Perform the Interoperability test between Nicosia and Beirut COM Centers.	Q3 2021		MS/EK	Lebanon is ready to connect
29	Perform the Pre-operational test between Athens and Cairo COM Centers.	Mar 2017		AF/TZ/MR	Completed
30	Perform the Pre-operational test between Bahrain and Nicosia COM Centers.	Q3 2021		YH	Bahrain is ready to connect
31	Perform the Pre-operational test between Nicosia and Beirut COM Centers.	Q3 2021		MS/EK	Lebanon is ready to connect

<i>AMHS Plan for ROC in Jeddah and Bahrain</i>					
	<b>Task</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Assigned to</b>	<b>Champion</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b><i>AMHS Intra-regional Trunk Connections</i></b>					
32	Perform the Pre-operational test between Nicosia and Jeddah COM Centers.	Q3 2021		IM	completed
33	Place the AMHS link into operation between Athens and Cairo COM Centers, and updating the Routing tables.	Q1 2017		MIDAMC AF/ /MR	Completed
34	Place the AMHS link into operation between Bahrain and Nicosia COM Centers, and updating the Routing tables.	Q3 2021		MID AMC YH	
35	Place the AMHS link into operation between Nicosia and Jeddah COM Centers, and updating the Routing tables.	Q3 2021		MID AMC IM	Completed
36	Place the AMHS link into operation between Nicosia and Beirut COM Centers, and updating the Routing tables.	Q3 2021		MS/EK	
37	Evaluate the inter-region connections bandwidth and increase it if required.	Q3 2021		MID AMC	Ongoing
38	Transition of all regional AFTN/CIDIN Connections to AMHS.	Q3 2021	Bahrain UAE		Completed all intra-regional connections are AMHS  1 inter-regional connection is remained

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## MIDAMC Steering Group (MIDAMC STG) Terms of Reference

### 1. TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

#### 1.1 The Terms of Reference of the MIDAMC Steering are:

- a) to promote the efficiency and safety of aeronautical fixed services in the MID Region through the operation and management, ~~on a sound and efficient basis, of a permanent MID Regional t h e~~ ATS Messaging Management Center (MIDAMC);
- b) foster the implementation of the Air traffic service Message handling service (AMHS) in the MID Region through provision of the guidance materials and running facilitation tools, utilizing the MIDAMC functions and tools;
- c) MIDAMC Steering Group will consist of a focal point from each Participating MID State who would represent the State and acts as the Steering Group Member;
- d) MIDAMC Steering Group will be responsible for overall ~~supervision, direction, evaluation operation and management~~ of the MIDAMC in the MID Region ~~project operation~~ and will review/update the MIDAMC work plan whenever required;
- e) the MID Region is considering the establishment of a Regional MID IP Network; the MIDAMC STG will drive the project ~~which is called Common aeRonautical Virtual Private Network (CRV)~~, until the Operation Group is established;
- f) ~~contribute to the development of~~ and maintain a regional plan for the transition from AFS to SWIM services; and
- g) provide regular progress reports to the CNS SG, and MIDANPIRG concerning its work programme.

#### 1.2 In order to meet the Terms of Reference, the MIDAMC Steering Group shall:

- a) ~~develop~~/update the accreditation procedure for all MID users on the MIDAMC;
- b) develop and maintain guidance materials for MIDAMC users in the MID Region;
- c) discuss and identify solution for operational problems that may be arising;
- d) provide support/guidance to States for AMHS Implementation, and monitor the AMHS activities;
- e) assist and encourage States to conduct trial on the Implementation of the ATS extended services, and identify operational requirements;
- f) provide guidance/support to States on implementation of XML-based data models (IWXXM, FIXM, AIXM, etc.) over AMHS; including developing regional plans as required
- g) monitor States' readiness to implement XML based data models over extended AMHS;
- h) identify the need for any enhancement for the MIDAMC and prepare functional and technical specifications, and define its financial implications;

- i) follow-up on ICAO standards and recommendations on the ATS messaging management and SWIM;
- ~~j) define future liabilities and new participating States and ANSPs in the progressive introduction of SWIM services;~~
- k) follow-up and review the work of similar groups in other ICAO Regions including successful implementations of SWIM infrastructures to identify and adopt best practices;
- l) Identify SWIM prerequisites in terms of infrastructure, including IP-based network; and monitor the status of implementation of those elements in the MID Region;
- m) follow-up the implementation of IP Network in the MID Region supporting SWIM services, through joining relevant projects, like CRV and act as project manager;
- ~~n) propose appropriate actions for the early implementation also support the IP Network supporting the progressive introduction of SWIM services until the Operational Group is establish;~~
- o) develop and amend the relevant ICAO MID Regional documentation considering the progress made in SWIM implementation and considering the need for harmonization with the adjacent Regions in compliance with the GANP;
- p) coordinate with the relevant ICAO MID Regional Groups to ensure a gradual transition of AFS services to SWIM in the MID Region ensuring operational continuity and develop guidance material accordingly; and
- q) provide guidance and training to MID States and stakeholders involved in AMHSSWIM implementation.

## 2. COMPOSITION

- a) ICAO MID Regional Office;
- b) Members appointed by the MIDANPIRG member States; and
- c) Other representatives, who could contribute to the activity of the Steering Group, could be invited to participate as observers, when required.

## 3. WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

3.1 The Chairperson, in close co-operation with the Secretary, shall make all necessary arrangements for the most efficient working of the Study Group. The Study Group shall at all times conduct its activities in the most efficient manner possible with a minimum of formality and paperwork (paperless meetings). Permanent contact shall be maintained between the Chairperson, Secretary and Members of the Study Group to advance the work. ~~Best advantage should be taken of modern communications facilities, particularly video conferencing (Virtual Meetings) and e-mails.~~

3.2 ~~Face-to-face~~ Virtual meetings will be conducted when it is necessary to do so.