International Civil Aviation Organization

MIDANPIRG/23 & RASG-MID/13 Meetings

(Cairo, Egypt, 14 – 18 June 2026)

Agenda Item 5.8: MET

OUTCOMES OF THE THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE MET SUB-GROUP AND PROPOSED METEOROLOGY PRIORITIES

(Presented by Saudi Arabia)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the outcomes of the Thirteenth Meeting of the MIDANPIRG Meteorology Sub-Group (MET SG/13, Cairo, 16–17 December 2025), including its Draft Conclusions and Draft Decision, and the related meteorology priorities proposed for the MID Region. It expresses Saudi Arabia's support for the outcomes and invites the meeting to endorse its conclusions and decisions.

Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.

REFERENCE

- Annex 3 — Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation
- Doc 10157, Procedures for Air Navigation Services — Meteorology (PANS-MET)
- Report of MIDANPIRG/22 & RASG-MID/12, Doha, 4–8 May 2025 (Conclusions 22/28, 22/29 and 22/32)
- Report of the Thirteenth Meeting of the MIDANPIRG MET Sub-Group (MET SG/13), Cairo, 16–17 December 2025

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The MIDANPIRG Meteorology Sub-Group (MET SG) ensures that the implementation of meteorological (MET) services in the MID Region is coherent with the Global Air Navigation Plan and the ASBU framework, monitors implementation status, and identifies associated deficiencies.

1.2. The Thirteenth Meeting of the MET Sub-Group (MET SG/13) was held in Cairo, Egypt, from 16 to 17 December 2025. This paper presents the principal outcomes of MET SG/13, expresses support for the conclusions and decisions, and invites MIDANPIRG/23 to endorse the outcomes of MET SG/13.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1. *Global and regional MET developments*

2.1.1. MET SG/13 noted the outcomes of the Sixth Meeting of the ICAO Meteorology Panel (METP/6), including draft amendments to Annex 3 and PANS-MET aimed at enabling the transition from product-centric to information-based and SWIM-enabled MET service provision, and the approval of Version 3 of the MET-SWIM Roadmap, aligned with the GANP ASBU blocks.

2.1.2. The meeting noted developments concerning the World Area Forecast System, the Quantitative Volcanic Ash service, the Space Weather Information Service, and Hazardous Weather Information Services, and emphasized the importance of early regional preparation for the discontinuation of legacy text-based formats in favour of structured digital exchange.

2.2. MET implementation in the MID Region

2.2.1. MET SG/13 reviewed the results of the ICAO MID regional MET implementation survey, to which eleven of the fifteen MID States responded. The meeting found that institutional and organizational arrangements for MET service provision are generally mature, with all responding States having designated MET Authorities and issuing core MET products.

2.2.2. The meeting identified digital exchange through the ICAO Meteorological Information Exchange Model (IWXXM), cross-border SIGMET coordination, and the reception of Space Weather advisories as the principal contributors to residual regional risk, and agreed on a Draft Conclusion on strengthening the implementation and operational use of global advisories.

2.3. SIGMET issuance and IWXXM implementation

2.3.1. MET SG/13 reviewed the issuance of Volcanic Ash SIGMETs during the Hayli Gubbi volcanic eruption of 23 November 2025, noting deficiencies in the coding and content of the SIGMETs issued and the need to strengthen cross-border coordination between adjacent Meteorological Watch Offices. The meeting agreed on a Draft Conclusion on strengthening SIGMET and Volcanic Ash SIGMET issuance, including refresher training, cross-border coordination and regional test exercises.

2.3.2. The meeting reviewed the status of IWXXM implementation in the MID Region, noting that it remains uneven and recalling MIDANPIRG Conclusion 22/29 on IWXXM implementation deficiencies, and agreed on a Draft Conclusion under which the ICAO MID Regional Office will survey States on the national status of, and planned dates for, IWXXM implementation.

2.4. MET deficiencies and Draft Conclusions of MET SG/13

2.4.1. MET SG/13 reviewed the air navigation deficiencies in the MET field, noting twenty-four priority "A" deficiencies — comprising five relating to quality management systems, nine to METAR, TAF, SIGMET and WAFS provision, and ten, the largest single group, to the non-implementation of IWXXM for OPMET data exchange — and the absence of specific Corrective Action Plans for many of them.

2.4.2. MET SG/13 agreed on the following Draft Conclusions and Draft Decision for consideration by MIDANPIRG/23:

a) Draft Conclusion 13/1 — Strengthening implementation and operational use of global advisories in the MID Region;

b) Draft Decision 13/2 — SADIS Focal Point information;

c) Draft Conclusion 13/3 — Strengthening SIGMET and Volcanic Ash SIGMET issuance in the MID Region; and

d) Draft Conclusion 13/4 — MID Region IWXXM implementation status.

2.4.3. MET SG/13 also noted with concern the limited participation of MID States in the meeting and agreed that this concern should be brought to the attention of MIDANPIRG with a view to encouraging consistent State participation in future MET Sub-Group meetings.

2.4.4. Under its Any Other Business agenda item, MET SG/13 considered two proposals presented by Saudi Arabia concerning the competency certification of meteorological personnel and the certification of meteorological service providers, and invited Saudi Arabia to present those proposals to MIDANPIRG. They are, according to the subject of two separate working papers presented under this agenda item and are not addressed further in the present paper.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1. The meeting is invited to:

a) note the outcomes of MET SG/13, as presented in this paper;

b) note the support expressed by Saudi Arabia to the Draft Conclusions and the Draft Decision of MET SG/13 listed in paragraph 2.4.2; and

c) encourage MID States to ensure consistent participation in future MET Sub-Group meetings.

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