



International Civil Aviation Organization

MIDANPIRG/23 & RASG-MID/13 Meetings

(Cairo, Egypt, 14 – 18 June 2026)

Agenda Item 5.6: ATM-SAR

COLLABORATIVE OPERATIONAL ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE BETWEEN SULTANATE OF OMAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN FOR AIR NAVIGATION SERVICES IMPROVEMENT AND AIRSPACE OPTIMIZATION OVER HIGH SEAS BETWEEN MID, APAC AND AFI REGIONS

(Presented by the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Yemen)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the outcomes of the joint meeting between Oman Civil Aviation authority (CAA) and the Yemen Civil Aviation & Metrology Authority (CAMA), hosted in Muscat, 6-7th April 2026. The meeting aimed to discuss and develop collaborative initiatives to enhance air navigation services and optimize airspace over the high seas between the MID, APAC and AFI Regions.

Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.

REFERENCE

- MIDANPIRG/20
- MIDANPIRG/21
- MIDANPIRG/22 – WP74
- GANP, DOC 9750

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This meeting built upon the outcome of the meeting between the Ministers of Transport of the two States, held in Muscat in December 2024, as part of ongoing efforts to enhance air navigation services and ensure seamless air traffic flow.

1.2 The main objectives were to:

1.2.1 Share common challenges and opportunities and ways of collaboration to solve current difficulties and improve air navigation services between MID, APAC and AFI Regions

1.2.2 Study and assess Air Navigation Plans (ATS route network, PBN implementation, establishment of parallel and direct ATS route, implementation of FUA & FRA, Longitudinal Separation minima) addressing the airspace optimization (capacity and efficiency), complexity and operational impact on environment.

1.2.3 Ensure that future traffic growth is sustainable and demand is accommodated.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 This initiative falls within the scope of the Oman Airspace Strategic Project (OASP), launched in June 2023. The project aims to optimize airspace and enhance structure through an improved route network to accommodate regional and interregional traffic flows. By incorporating Flexible Use of Airspace (FUA) and Free Route Airspace (FRA) concepts, the initiative seeks to improve traffic flows, reduce CO₂ emissions, and ultimately achieve ICAO's Long-Term Aspirational Goal (LTAG).

2.2 To achieve these objectives, Oman has adopted a regional collaborative approach through a series of coordination meetings with adjacent States to discuss the Oman Airspace Strategic Project (OASP), align implementation plans, and identify opportunities for airspace optimization. In this context, coordination activities with Pakistan and India have been ongoing since 2023 to foster inter-regional initiatives aimed at enhancing the airspace interface over the high seas between the Middle East (MID) and Asia Pacific (APAC) Regions, where increasing traffic demand continues to present operational challenges associated with existing route network structures and capacity constraints.

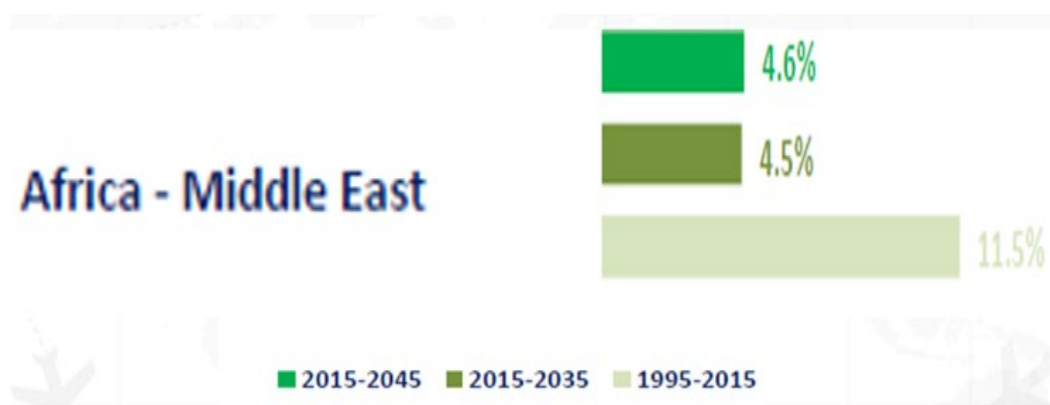
2.3 The experience gained through these regional coordination activities has also supported the development of bilateral initiatives between Oman and Yemen aimed at improving air navigation services and optimizing airspace over the high seas between the MID and AFI Regions.

2.4 In light of the expected continued expansion of global air travel, the oceanic airspace at the interface between Oman and Yemen has become a strategically important gateway linking the Middle East and Africa. The B400 and R401 ATS routes serve as key corridors supporting regional and international traffic flows. With traffic demand expected to increase significantly in the coming years, both States recognize the need to strengthen coordination and pursue collaborative airspace enhancement initiatives to ensure the safe, efficient and sustainable management of air traffic within this common area.

2.5 According to IATA, the Middle East will have a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 3.6% for the period 2019-2040 and 4.6% for the CAGR by Region Route group Middle East/Africa.

Region	Recovery year	CAGR (2019 - 2040)	Additional passengers by 2040, millions
Africa	2023	3.6%	169.7
Asia Pacific	2024	4.5%	2,536.8
Europe	2023	2.2%	701.4
Middle East	2023	3.6%	264.1
North America	2023	2.2%	558.5
Latin America & Caribbean	2023	2.8%	304.0
World	2024	3.4%	3,923.0

Sources: IATA Sustainability and Economics, Tourism Economics (September 2023 release)



2.6 AGREED OUTCOMES

Both States agreed on a number of collaborative actions aimed at enhancing air navigation services and improving traffic flow between the MID, APAC and AFI Regions. The agreed actions include:

- 2.5.1. Continue the bilateral cooperation to develop air navigation services, and design of future air traffic routes serving both States.
- 2.5.2. Establish a joint proposal for airspace enhancement over the high seas between the two FIRs, addressing current operational challenges and accommodating future traffic growth requirements.
- 2.5.3. Conduct periodic coordination meetings to monitor implementation progress and identify additional areas for future cooperation.
- 2.5.4. Enhance regional cooperation and integration with neighboring States through airspace structure improvements and harmonized route network development.
- 2.5.5. Strengthen cooperation in the modernization of CNS/ATM systems to improve operational efficiency, safety performance and support the proposed air traffic routes over the high seas.
- 2.5.6. Interchange technical assistance, training and capacity-building support in identified priority areas related to air navigation services and aviation safety.
- 2.5.7. Explore opportunities to increase air connectivity and encourage the operation of national carriers between the two States.
- 2.5.8. The establishment of a follow-up coordination mechanism to monitor implementation of agreed actions.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the ongoing progress on the bilateral arrangements by Oman and Yemen regarding:
 - The development of a joint work program; for airspace optimization and traffic flow improvement;
 - Enhanced cooperation in CNS/ATM modernization, safety improvement and technical capacity-building;
- b) Encourage both States to continue exploring solutions for the interregional air traffic flows in close coordination with the neighboring States.
- c) Request the ICAO MID and East Africa offices to support the initiatives derived from this cooperation.

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