



International Civil Aviation Organization

MIDANPIRG/23 & RASG-MID/13 Meetings

(Cairo, Egypt, 14 – 18 June 2026)

Agenda Item 5.8: MET

OUTCOMES OF MET SG/13 MEETING

(Presented by the Secretariat)

<p style="text-align: center;">SUMMARY</p> <p>This paper presents the outcomes of the MET SG/13 meeting. It highlights key updates related to WAFS, IWXXM implementation and MET planning and implementation issues.</p> <p>Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">REFERENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- MET SG/13 Report- MIDANPIRG/22 Report

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Thirteenth Meeting of the MET Sub-Group (MET SG/13) was held in Cairo, Egypt, on 16–17 December 2025, attended by 20 participants from five MID States (Egypt, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Yemen), the USA, and WMO.

2. DISCUSSION

GLOBAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS - METP/6 OUTCOMES AND ANNEX 3/ PANS-MET DEVELOPMENTS

2.1 The meeting noted the outcomes of the sixth meeting of the ICAO Meteorology Panel (METP/6), held in Montreal, 3–7 March 2025. METP/6 advanced work on Amendment proposals to Annex 3 and PANS-MET (Doc 10157), supporting the transition from product-centric to SWIM-enabled information-based MET service provision.

2.2 Key developments include:

- Quantitative Volcanic Ash (QVA): Proposed upgrade to a Standard in Annex 3 for significant volcanic ash clouds, with incremental resolution improvements. Enhancements outside the amendment cycle require agreement by all nine VAACs;
- Volcanic Ash Encounter Report (AVER): Developed in collaboration with IFALPA and IATA; proposed amendment postponed pending coordination with other ANC Panels;
- Space Weather Information Service (SWIS): Increased temporal resolution agreed; transition to SWIM-enabled service targeted for November 2030;

- WAFS Upgrades: Higher-resolution data, new APIs, multi-step SIGWX forecasts, and probabilistic enhancements planned; AMOIS/AMFIS work referred to WG-MRAD for further development ahead of METP/7.

ICAO MID regional MET implementation survey

2.3 The meeting reviewed the results of the MID Regional MET Implementation Survey conducted pursuant to MIDANPIRG Conclusion 22/32, assessing compliance with Annex 3 and PANS-MET, reception of global advisory information, and readiness for digital/SWIM-enabled services.

2.4 Responses were received from 11 out of the 15 MID States. The ICAO MID Office will follow up with non-responding States. Key findings:

- Core MET service infrastructure is largely established across the Region;
- Gaps identified: limited cross-border SIGMET coordination, uneven IWXXM implementation, insufficient reception and use of Space Weather advisories, and absence of WAFS reception in one State identified as a significant operational concern.

2.5 The meeting emphasized that these gaps collectively represent key areas of residual regional risk, particularly in the context of increasing reliance on digital data exchange, SWIM-enabled services, and global advisory products. The meeting underscored the need for strengthened implementation, enhanced coordination, and targeted capacity-building efforts to ensure safe and efficient operations across the Region.

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

DRAFT CONCLUSION 13/1: STRENGTHENING IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATIONAL USE OF GLOBAL ADVISORIES IN THE MID REGION

That,

a) States be urged to:

- *fully implement Annex 3 (including latest amendments) and PANS-MET (Doc 10157) by 31 December 2026;*
- *strengthen national capabilities for receiving and using global advisory information, including WAFS, VAAC/VONA, SWX, and TAAC products;*
- *improve cross-border SIGMET coordination through regular drills, harmonized procedures, and proper monitoring by 31 December 2026; and*
- *nominate national focal points for IWXXM and SWX matters to support regional coordination and identify capacity-building needs.*

b) The ICAO MID Office continue monitoring MET implementation through periodic surveys and report progress to MET SG and MIDANPIRG.

WAFS and SADIS Updates

2.7 The meeting noted significant WAFS/SADIS developments, including:

- Automation of T+24 SIGWX forecasts; transition to colour charts with updated content and improved issuance timelines;
- Introduction of multi-timestep SIGWX product (T+6 to T+48) in IWXXM format via the SADIS API;

- Automated WAFC backup procedure implemented to ensure service continuity;
- SADIS API now fully operational, providing WAFS gridded data, SIGWX, and OPMET data aligned with SWIM/OGC-EDR principles;
- SADIS FTP service planned for retirement by November 2028;
- OPMET component updates include revised file-naming conventions and introduction of VONA messages in TAC and IWXXM formats.

2.8 The meeting noted that the SADIS Focal Points list contains outdated entries and requires updating. Maintaining an accurate list is essential for effective coordination and service continuity. The updated document will be migrated to the ICAO Secure Portal once validated.

2.9 Considering the above, the meeting agreed to the following Draft Decision:

DRAFT CONCLUSION 13/2: SADIS FOCAL POINT INFORMATION

That States are urged to send updated contact details of their SADIS Focal Point to SADISManager@metoffice.gov.uk with a copy to the ICAO MID Office (icaomid@icao.int).

VA SIGMET Issues in the MID Region

2.10 The meeting reviewed an analysis of VA SIGMET issuance during the Hayli Gubbi eruption (November 2025), which affected several MID Region FIRs. The review revealed significant compliance gaps, including the complete absence of VA SIGMETs for one affected FIR, while SIGMETs issued for other FIRs contained multiple deficiencies such as incorrect identifiers, inappropriate descriptors, non-compliant polygon formats, and inconsistencies with VAA/VAG information. Non-compliant coding, including the omission of the volcanic source, further adversely affected operational use and automated system interpretation.

2.11 These deficiencies reflect significant gaps in compliance with Annex 3 and PANS-MET, weaknesses in quality control, training, and cross-border coordination, with direct impact on flight planning and operational decision-making during rapidly evolving volcanic ash events. In light of these findings, the meeting agreed to the following Draft Conclusion:

DRAFT CONCLUSION 13/3: STRENGTHENING SIGMET AND VA SIGMET ISSUANCE IN THE MID REGION

That MID States, in coordination with ROC Jeddah:

- a) review and update national regulatory frameworks, operational procedures, and guidance material for SIGMET issuance, ensuring alignment with Amendment 82 to Annex 3 and PANS-MET (Doc 10157), including correct use of descriptors, polygon formats, and integration of VAA/VAG and future QVA information;*
- b) conduct refresher training for MWO personnel on SIGMET preparation and coding, with dedicated modules for VA SIGMET issuance;*
- c) formalize cross-border coordination among adjacent MWOs to ensure consistency and avoid gaps or overlaps during volcanic ash events;*
- d) ~~establish a VA SIGMET ad hoc group (MID States and ICAO MID Office) to coordinate training, conduct post-event reviews, support regional harmonization, and report to MET SG/14;~~ and*
- e) initiate regional SIGMET test exercises in coordination with VAAC Toulouse, WAFC London, and ROC Jeddah, covering WS, TC, and VA SIGMET types, to validate compliance with Annex 3 and PANS-MET, and compile quality monitoring reports for MET SG review.*

IWXXM IMPLEMENTATION IN THE MID REGION

2.12 The meeting reviewed the status of IWXXM implementation in the MID Region as at **Appendix A** and inter-regional IWXXM data exchange with the EUR Region. Key findings:

- Several MID States have implemented IWXXM; others are planning implementation — overall progress remains uneven;
- Translation services in current use are not a long-term solution; States are encouraged to accelerate direct implementation using Doc 10003;
- Inter-regional IWXXM exchange (EUR–MID) via AMHS is operational, but issues persist: incomplete AMHS compliance, duplicate messages, and schema version inconsistencies;
- IWXXM exchange within the MID Region remains limited and lacks dedicated regional coordination.

2.13 Given the aforementioned, the meeting agreed to the following:

DRAFT CONCLUSION 13/4: MID REGION IWXXM IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

That the ICAO MID Office conduct a survey to collect up-to-date information from MID States (with particular attention to States using ROC-provided IWXXM translation services) on the national status and planned implementation dates for:

- (a) IWXXM provision via the AMHS network; and*
- (b) METAR/SPECI; TAF; and SIGMET in IWXXM;*

including identification of implementation challenges and assistance needs, and to consolidate results and report to MET SG and MIDANPIRG to support regional planning.

MET SG PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT

2.14 The meeting noted with concern the limited participation of MID States at MET SG/13 and emphasized that sustained engagement, including the nomination of relevant subject-matter experts, is essential for effective planning and implementation, monitoring, informed decision-making, and timely resolution of deficiencies in MET field. Accordingly, the meeting agreed that MIDANPIRG should strongly urge MID States to ensure consistent and active participation in future MET SG meetings through the nomination of appropriate technical experts from CAA and METSP.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the outcomes of the MET SG/13 meeting;
- b) endorse the Draft Conclusions; and
- c) urge MID States to ensure consistent and active participation in future MET SG meetings.

APPENDIX A

Table – Status of IWXXM Implementation in the MID Region

State	Expected implementation date	Comment
Bahrain	Completed	IWXXM v3.0
Egypt		In Progress
Iraq		
Iran		Support planned until end of 2022
Jordan	Completed	IWXXM v3.0
Kuwait	2024	
Lebanon	End 2023	
Libya		
Oman	Q1 2024	To be officially submitted by State
Qatar	Completed	IWXXM v2.1 Testing IWXXM v3.0 between MET and COM Centres Need to exchange with ROC Jeddah
Saudi Arabia	Completed	IWXXM v3.0
Sudan		
Syria		
United Arab Emirates	Completed	IWXXM v3.0
Yemen		

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