



ICAO MID

الهيئة العامة للطيران المدني
Civil Aviation Authority
دولة قطر • State of Qatar



الاجتماع الثامن للمدراء العاميين للطيران المدني في منطقة الشرق الأوسط (DGCA-MID/8)

Eighth Meeting of the Directors General of Civil Aviation-Middle East Region (DGCA-MID/8)



ICAO MID

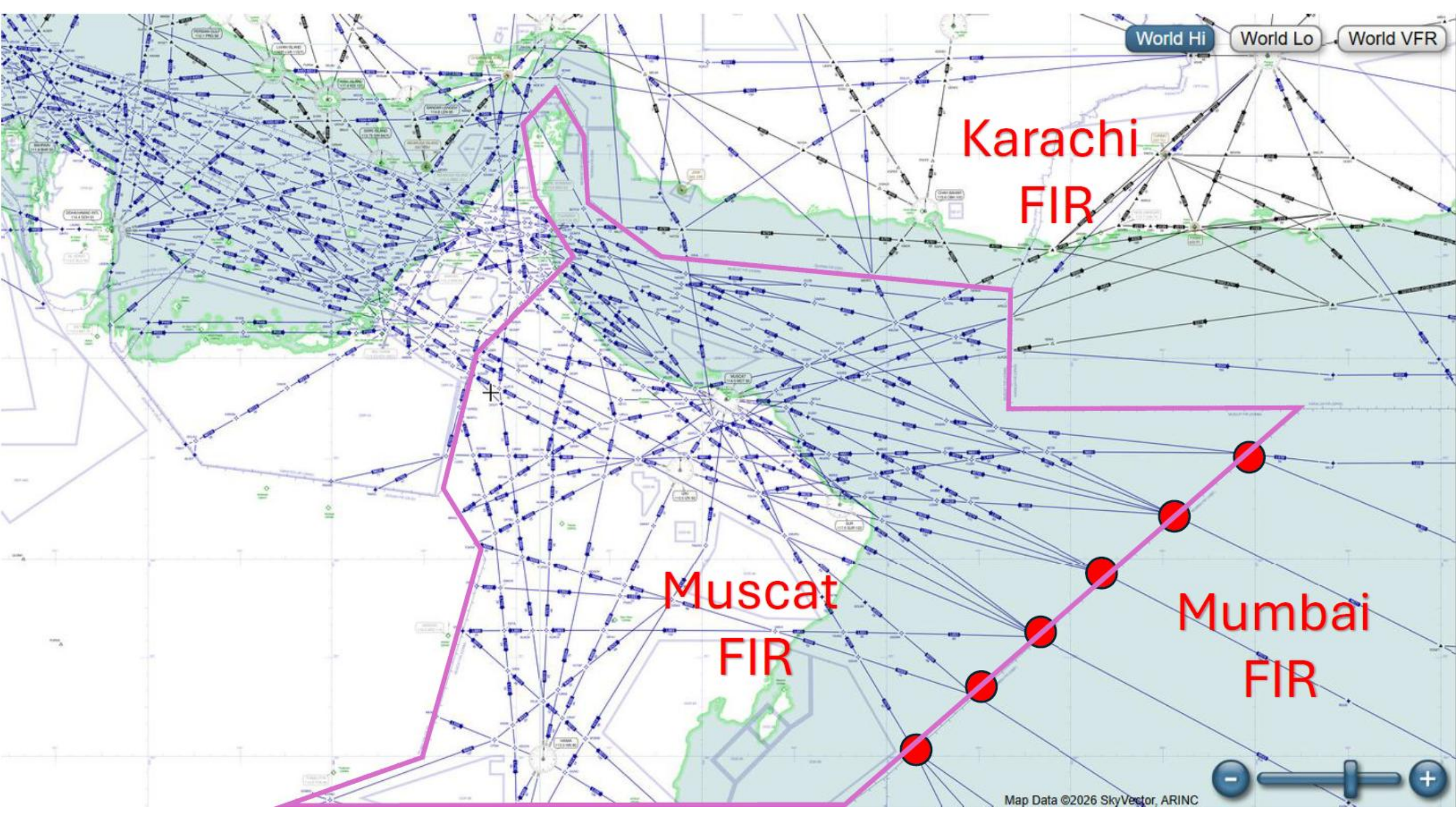


Airspace Challenges over the Indian Ocean

United Arab Emirates

Ahmed Al Jallaf – UAE GCAA ADG





World Hi

World Lo

World VFR

Karachi
FIR

Muscat
FIR

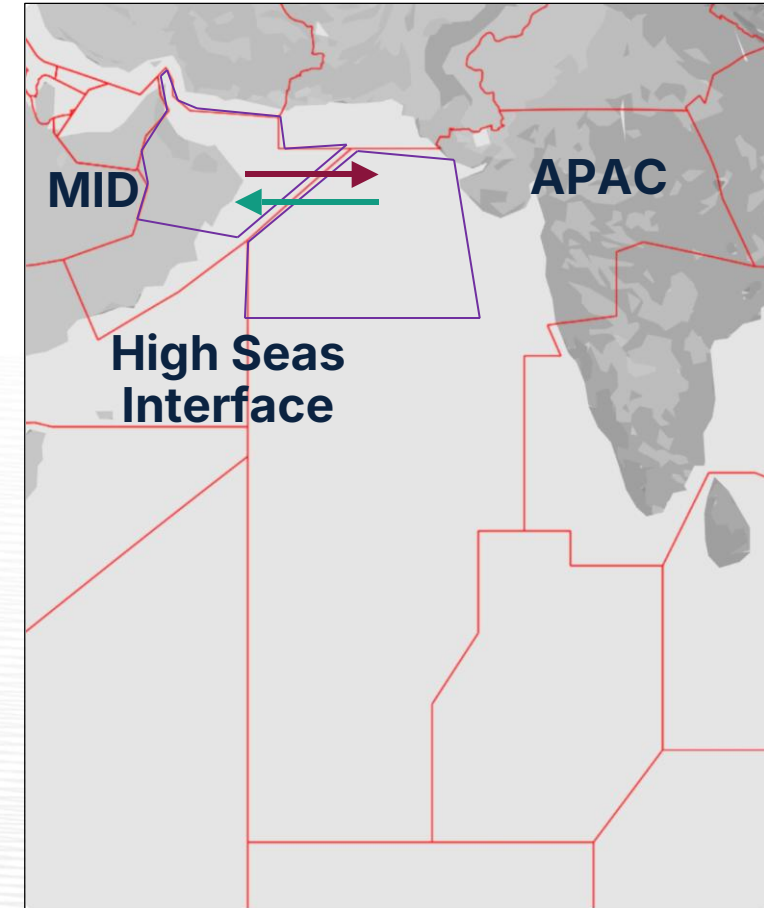
Mumbai
FIR

Bottom line — Escalated URGENT coordinated is required now

THE ISSUE

Persistent constraints at the MID-APAC Indian Ocean interface affect regional traffic resilience and capacity.

- **Structural bottlenecks:** Existing airspace arrangements and operational limitations are far from meeting today's demand and certainly tomorrow's growth
- **Fragmented regional solutions:** Differences in separation standards, traffic management and cross-regional ineffective coordination limit capacity and efficiency solutions.
- **Growing strategic exposure:** Without high level effective coordinated mechanism, increasing traffic demand will intensify congestion, operational disruption and aviation growth and investments will be jeopardized across both regions.

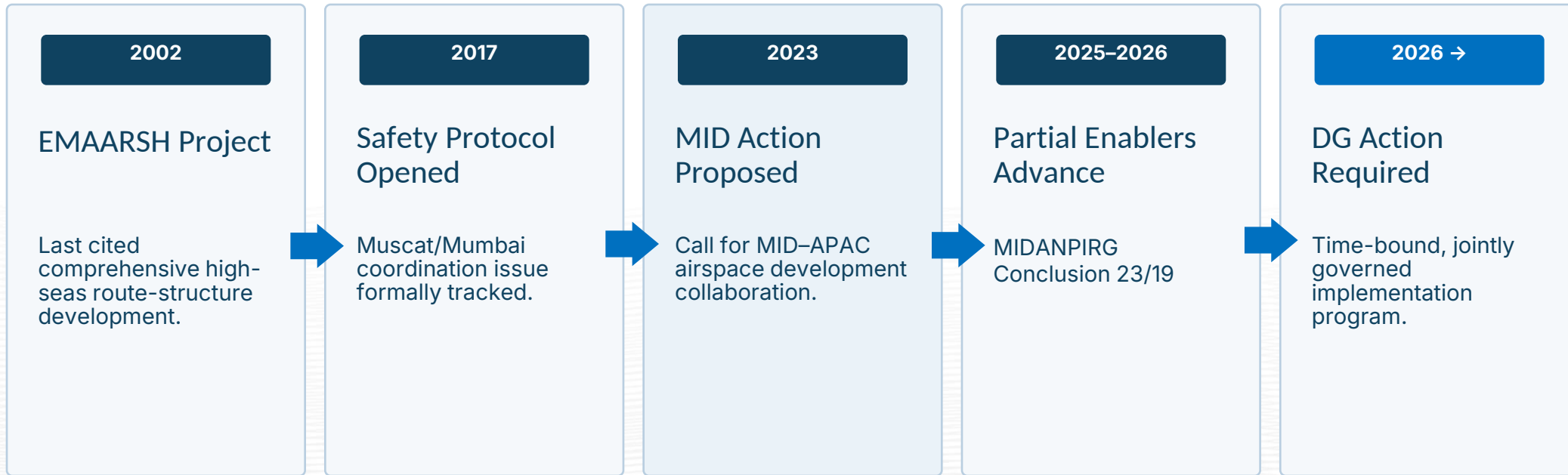


Multiple constraints compound at the interface — no single measure will resolve them

The issue is the combined effect of **traffic concentration, weather, coordination and capability differences.**

Interface constraint	Operational effect
Concentrated traffic flow	Reduced flight-level availability and more tactical workload.
Oceanic weather deviations	Competing lateral and vertical maneuver requests under time pressure.
Lack of Investments & Modernization	Insufficient allocation of investments to modernize the airspace structure, systems and qualify specialized manpower.
Outdated applications of policies & standards	Relevant Airspace over high seas policies and standards require immediate reviews and updates
Uneven fleet and systems equipage	Capacity benefits can't safely be applied to all traffic at once.
System requirement	Routine handover reliability, disrupted-operations coordination and capacity management must be improved together.

Earlier initiatives advanced enablers — but not an integrated operating solution



Move from isolated initiatives to a jointly governed, measurable implementation program.

DGCA-MID/8 would implement existing ICAO direction — not create a new policy

The proposed program translates established high-seas collaboration objectives into regional delivery.

2024 • AN-Conf/14 — State-led proposals

Oman WP/82: Enhancement of Airspace over High Seas contributing to LTAG.

UAE WP/40: Minimum Service Level Requirements over the High Seas.

2025 • 42nd Assembly — Oman and UAE A42-WP/18

Called for PIRG-led cross-regional initiatives, active FIR data sharing and joint task forces to optimize high-seas airspace. The paper identifies the same constraints seen at the Indian Ocean interface: inconsistent separation, legacy coordination and capacity/route inefficiencies.

2026 • DGCA MID/8 — implementation decision

Translate cross-regional direction into a focused MID–APAC Indian Ocean Interface Platform.

Regional implementation of global direction

PIRG-led governance • active data sharing • joint task force • phased, performance-assured harmonization

A joint forum converts the proposal into measurable delivery

Joint governance, clear accountabilities and measurable operational results.

MID-APAC Indian Ocean Interface Group

Co-sponsored by ICAO MID and APAC.

Relevant States/ANSPs, MIDRMA, APAC RMA and AUs.

FIVE JOINT DELIVERABLES

1. Agree appropriate and common priorities and projects.
2. Agree immediate corrective actions with measurable outcomes.
3. Align a modernization roadmap with specific KPIs and implementation timelines
4. Agree on governance and accountabilities, implementation mechanism and performance assurance mechanisms
5. Track performance and report progress through joint regional oversight.

FIRST-PERIOD OUTCOME

A jointly agreed operating package with a comprehensive roadmap ready for implementation.

Decision requested from DGCA-MID/8

- 1 Note the regional significance of the Indian Ocean interface and the need for coordinated action.
- 2 Agree that ICAO MID urgently coordinate the establishment of a high level MID-APAC Indian Ocean Interface Group under ICAO.
- 3 Request ICAO to expedite modernization of relevant policies and standards related to airspace over high seas.
- 4 Request ICAO to prioritize an effective mechanism to ensure smooth and efficient collaboration between ICAO regions

THE MANDATE SHOULD BE

No attribution.

No open-ended study.

Measurable regional delivery.

Executive sponsorship.
Time-bound implementation.



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Thank You