



## INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

**Fifth Meeting of the AFI Volcanic Ash Exercises Steering Group****(AFI VOLCEX/SG5)***(Virtual, 9 June 2026)***Agenda Item 3: Review of AFI VOLCEX/SG's Terms of Reference****WP3 Review of the Terms of Reference of the AFI VOLCEX Steering Group***(Presented by the Secretariat)***SUMMARY**

This paper presents an update of the Terms of reference (ToR) for the AFI volcanic ash exercises steering group (AFI VOLCEX/SG) for review and possible update by the meeting.

Action by the meeting in paragraph 3

**REFERENCE(S):**

- APIRG/25 Report
- AFI VOLCEX 25/01 Report
- Doc 9766 Handbook on the IAVW
- AFI Volcanic Ash A Exercises Operational Instructions (AFI VOLCEX OPINS) Rev0.1
- Terms of Reference of the AFI VOLCEX Steering Group

**Related ICAO Strategic Objective(s):**

- *A – Every Flight is Safe and Secure*
- *C – Aviation Delivers Seamless, Accessible and Reliable Mobility for All*

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 In accordance with the provisions of the DOC 9766 – Handbook on the IAVW, volcanic ash exercises should be conducted by ICAO on a regional basis in order to practice and develop inter-agency response to volcanic activity, in order to maintain safety, regularity and efficiency of aviation in the event of a volcanic eruption.
- 1.2 A volcanic ash exercises steering group may be established by a PIRG [ICAO Planning and Implementation Regional Group] to coordinate all aspects of the organization and conduct of the exercises. The steering group should have representatives from, as a minimum, the volcanic ash advisory centres (VAACs) concerned, air navigation service providers (ANSPs), airspace users and regulators.
- 1.3 The Terms of Reference of the AFI VOLCEX/SG was adopted at the Twenty-fourth Meeting of the AFI Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG/24), through its Decision 24/02 to guide the conduct of the volcanic activities in the Region.

## **2. DISCUSSION**

- 2.1 The terms of reference of the AFI VOLCEX/SG are based on the guidance contained in ICAO Doc 9766 – *Handbook on the International Airways Volcano Watch*, Appendix F – *Guidance for conducting volcanic ash exercises in ICAO Regions*.
- 2.2 Building on the lessons learned from previous volcanic ash exercises conducted in the Region, a proposal to update the Terms of Reference for the AFI VOLCEX/SG is presented in Appendix 1 of this Working Paper. This update provides additional guidance on key aspects of the AFI VOLCEX/SG, including its Background, Mandate, Composition, Main Tasks, and Working Methods. The meeting is invited to review and consider this proposed update.

## **3. ACTIONS BY THE MEETING**

- 3.1 The meeting is invited to:
  - a) Note the information contained in this paper; and
  - b) Deliberate on paragraph 2.2 of this working paper.

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