



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

Fifth Meeting of the AFI Volcanic Ash Exercises Steering Group
(AFI VOLCEX/SG5)

(Virtual, 9 June 2026)

Agenda Item 4: Review of AFI VOLCEX/SG's Terms of Reference

WP4 Review of the Terms of Reference of the AFI VOLCEX Steering Group

(Presented by the Secretariat)

Table with 1 column and 3 rows. Row 1: SUMMARY. Row 2: This paper presents an update of the AFI Volcanic Ash A Exercises Operational Instructions (AFI VOLCEX OPINS) for review and possible update by the meeting. Action by the meeting in paragraph 3. Row 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.

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 were 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. In addition, Exercises

Operational Instructions on the conduct of AFI Volcanic Ash Exercises were developed as contained in the AFI Volcanic Ash Exercises Operational Instructions (AFI VOLCEX OPINS) Rev0.1.

2. DISCUSSION

- 2.1 The Africa –Indian Ocean (AFI) Volcanic Ash Exercises Operating Instructions (AFI VOLCEX OPINS) have been prepared by the Eastern and Southern African (ESAF) and Western and Central African (WACAF) Offices, to facilitate the coordination and the conduct of volcanic ash exercises in the AFI Region of ICAO.
- 2.2 Building on the lessons learned from previous volcanic ash exercises conducted in the Region, a proposal of an update of the AFI VOLCEX OPINS is presented in Appendix 1 of this Working Paper. This update provides additional guidance on key aspects, including (but not limited to) the amendment of volcanic exercise naming formula, the provisions related to the Assistant Exercise Leader, the GO/NO GO Decision guidance, the improvement of the reporting guidance. The meeting may need 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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