

**INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION**
**Fifth Meeting of the AFI Volcanic Ash Steering Group (AFI VOLCEX/SG5)**
*(Virtual, 9 June 2026)*
**Agenda Item 6 - Planning for the future volcanic ash exercise in the AFI region**
**WP6 Planning for the future volcanic ash exercise in the AFI region**
*(Presented by the Secretariat)*

<b>SUMMARY</b>
<p>This paper provides guidance for the preparation and the conduct of the <b>EXERCISE PLANNING MEETING</b> aimed at negotiating the objectives of the next edition of a volcanic ash exercise.</p> <p>Action by the meeting in <b>paragraph 3</b></p>
<p><b>REFERENCE(S):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AFI Volcanic Ash Exercise Operating Instructions (AFI VOLCEX OPINS)</li> <li>• Doc 9766 Handbook on the IAVW</li> <li>• AFI VOLCEX 2025/01 Report</li> </ul>
<p><b>Related ICAO Strategic Objective(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>A – Every Flight is Safe and Secure</i></li> <li>• <i>C – Aviation Delivers Seamless, Accessible and Reliable Mobility for All</i></li> </ul>

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. The Twenty-fourth Meeting of the AFI Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG/24), held virtually from 1 to 8 November 2021, through its Decision 24/28, endorsed the AFI Volcanic Ash Exercise Operational Instructions (AFI VOLCEX OPINS) and Directives to guide the conduct of the volcanic ash exercise in the AFI region.
- 1.2. This working paper provides insight for the initial activity pertaining to the preparation of a volcanic ash exercise in the AFI Region.

**2. DISCUSSIONS**

- 2.1. The preparation of a volcanic ash exercise begins with the Volcanic Ash Exercise Planning Meetings. These Planning Meetings are convened at least three months before the scheduled exercise in the AFI Region and are chaired by the Exercise Leader. The primary objectives of these meetings include, but are not limited to:
  - a) Defining the exercise objectives and designing the scenario;
  - b) Identifying participating agencies and clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the Directing Staff; and
  - c) Facilitating the exchange of relevant information among the exercise community.

- 2.2. The Planning Meeting may be conducted either online or in person. Delegates should include key personnel authorized to make decisions on behalf of their respective States or Organizations.
- 2.3. The Planning Meeting shall be chaired by the Chairperson of the Steering Group, who is responsible for ensuring that a comprehensive agenda is developed, providing clear guidance for the meeting's conduct. Any delegate may propose agenda items, which must be submitted to the Exercise Leader at least four weeks prior to the meeting.
- 2.4. The Planning Meeting Report should comprehensively outline the objectives of the upcoming exercise, the scenario details—including information about the target volcano—the list of participating agencies, and the Directing Staff.
- 2.5. The designated Exercise Leader States shall use the Planning Meeting Report as the foundation to carry out all necessary preparatory actions for the upcoming exercise, in accordance with AFI VOLCEX OPINS.

### **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 2.3 of this working paper.

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