



**APIRG/25 WP03F1 – Appendix 1 : Outcomes of the First Meeting of the AFI Volcanic Ash Exercise Steering Group (AFI VOLCEX/SG1)**

*Election of the Chairperson of the VOLCEX SG:*

- 2.1. In accordance with the guidance provided in ICAO Doc 9766, the Twenty-fourth Meeting of APIRG established the AFI Volcanic Ash Exercise Steering Group (AFI VOLCEX/SG) through the Decision 24/02 to play the role of coordinating the volcanic ash exercise activities in the Region in accordance with the provisions of the Steering Group.
- 2.2. The steering group was led by Senegal, that coordinates the IIM/SG MET Project 2 on the implementation of requirements for the provision of WAFS products.
- 2.3. The meeting discussed issues related to the chairmanship of the steering group and elected a chair from among the representatives of the volcano observatory States to coordinate the activities of the group. The meeting formulated the following decision accordingly:

***VOLCEX/SG1 Draft Decision 1/01: Election of the Chairperson of the Group.***

***That, to guide the work of the AFI VOLCEX Steering Group, Fredrick Etemesi from Kenya is elected as Chairperson of the Group.***

*Review of the report of the first volcanic ash exercise in the AFI region (AFI VOLCEX 21/01):*

- 2.4. The meeting reviewed the report of the AFI VOLCEX 21/01 and acknowledged the efforts made by Cape Verde as Lead of conduct this regional event. The overall objective of AFI VOLCEX 21/01 was to maintain enhanced safety, regularity, and efficiency in support of aviation industry in the event of a volcanic eruption by demonstrating the provision/exchange of volcanic ash information to support aviation activities.
- 2.5. The meeting then called for consideration of the lessons learnt from the first exercise. It also discussed the matter related to the leader of the 2023 exercise and acknowledged the proposal of the Democratic Republic of Congo to lead the AFI VOLCEX 23/01. The meeting formulated the following decisions accordingly.

***VOLCEX/SG1 Draft Decision 1/02: Consideration of lessons learned from the AFI VOLCEX 21/01***

***That, in order to benefit from lessons learnt from the first volcanic ash exercise,***

- a) ***the Lead State of the next volcanic ash exercise Leader is urged to consider and address the issues raised in the report of the first AFI VOLCEX 21/01, and;***
- b) ***Report on the implementation to the AFI VOLCEX/SG2 Meeting.***

***VOLCEX/SG1 Draft Decision 1/05: Conduct of the AFI VOLCEX 23/01 exercise in the AFI Region.***

***That, to conduct the second volcanic ash exercise in the AFI region, the Democratic Republic of Congo is designated as the State Leader of AFI VA Exercise 23/01.***

*Review of the ToR of the AFI VOLCEX SG.*

- 2.6. The terms of reference (ToR) of the AFI VOLCEX/SG, was approved by the Twenty-fourth Meeting of the AFI Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG/24), through its Decision 24/02 - Establishment of a Volcanic Ash Exercises Steering Group in the AFI Region.
- 2.7. The meeting reviewed and updated these ToR to provide additional guidance on attributes of the AFI VOLCEX/SG including the composition, administration, and functions of the group. The meeting updated the Volcanic Ash Operation Instructions accordingly. The following decision was formulated.

***VOLCEX/SG1 Draft Decision 1/03: Approval of the updated Terms of reference of AFI VOLCEX Steering Group and the AFI VA Exercises Operational Instructions (VOLCEX OPINS)***

***That; in order to provide additional guidance on attributes of the AFI VOLCEX/SG including the composition, administration and functions of the group, the updated TOR of the AFI VOLCEX Steering Group and the AFI VA Exercises Operational Instructions (VOLCEX OPINS) are endorsed as per Appendices X and Y to this paper.***

*Future Work programme of AFI VOLCEX SG.*

- 2.8. The meeting reviewed the work programme of the Steering Group, identified relevant tasks and proposed a work program of the Steering for 2023. The meeting then developed a list of 17 tasks contributing towards the overall work plan and objectives of the group for 2022/2023. The meeting formulated the following decision accordingly.

***VOLCEX/SG1 Draft Decision 1/06: Future Work programme of AFI VOLCEX SG.***

***That, to enable the VOLCEX/SG to achieve the group's objectives for 2022/2023, the updated work programme of the Group is endorsed as per Appendix X to this paper.***

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