



International Civil Aviation Organization
Eastern and Southern African Office

**Thirteenth Meeting of the Air Traffic Management/Aeronautical
Information Management/Search and Rescue Sub-Group
(ATM/AIM/SAR SG/13)
(Nairobi, Kenya, 16 - 19 September 2013)**

Agenda Item: 8 Air Traffic Management (ATM) Contingency plans

AIR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT (ATM) CONTINGENCY PLANS

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY
<p>This paper highlights the requirements for development and promulgation of air traffic management (ATM) contingency plans (ATM CPs). It also highlights the ongoing low level of implementation by States and urges implementation.</p> <p>It also highlights the requirements for States to incorporate the volcanic ash contingency plan (VACP) as an Appendix to the ATM contingency plan, as concluded by the First ATM/MET Task Force meeting in June 2013.</p> <p>Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.</p>
REFERENCES
<p>Annex 11 to the Chicago Convention AFI /7 RAN Report Assembly Resolution A37-15 App M APIRG/17 & 18 Reports</p>
<p>This Working paper is related to Strategic Objectives: A et C</p>

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Sub-Group will recall that Chapter 2 of Annex 11 to the Chicago Convention provides that air traffic services (ATS) authorities shall develop and promulgate contingency plans for implementation in the event of disruption or potential disruption of ATS and supporting services in the airspace for which they are responsible for such services. Attachment D to Annex 11 provides guidance for the development of contingency planning for air traffic management.

1.2 Contingency plans normally constitute a temporary deviation from the facilities and services provided by States in accordance with Article 28 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Doc 7300). Contingency arrangements remain in effect until the services and facilities of the regional air navigation plan are reactivated and, accordingly, do

not constitute amendments to the regional air navigation plan. Such plans should be developed in consultation with other States and airspace users concerned and with ICAO, as appropriate, whenever the effects of the service disruption(s) are likely to affect the services in adjacent airspace. Contingency plans require the approval of the President of the Council on behalf of the Council

1.3 APIRG/17, convened in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, August 2010, recalled Recommendation 5/2 of AFI/7 RAN Meeting 1997, which urged States to develop contingency plans for their area of responsibility, as well as *Assembly Resolution A36-13 Appendix M: Delimitation of air traffic services airspaces*, whereby States providing air traffic services over the high seas are encouraged to enter, as far as is practicable, into agreements with appropriate States providing air traffic services in adjacent airspaces, so that, in the event the required air traffic services over the high seas cannot be provided, contingency plans, which may require temporary modifications of ATS airspace limits, will be available to be put into effect with the approval of the ICAO Council.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The meeting will recall that the APIRG/17 adopted a template for development of contingency plans, and formulated Conclusion 17/66 which is reproduced below, in order to support States in meeting the requirements of Annex 11, Section 2.30, *Contingency Arrangements*:

APIRG Conclusion 17/66: Development and promulgation of contingency plans

That:

- a) *AFI States develop/update and promulgate contingency plans in accordance with Annex 11 and Annex 15 provisions.*
- b) *AFI States use available ICAO guidance material for the development and promulgation of contingency plans including the template at Appendix 3.4K to this report.*
- c) *ICAO Regional Offices carry out a survey on the status of development of contingency plans in the AFI region in order to take remedial actions as necessary; and*
- d) *ICAO Regional Offices expedite responses to States on matters related to development of contingency plans, as well processes for approval of contingency plans submitted by States.*

2.2 APIRG/18 held in Kampala, Uganda, March 2012 noted that based on information available with the Secretariat, many States had not yet developed or updated contingency plans for the airspaces in which they are responsible for the provision of ATS. Furthermore, although some States had developed contingency plans for their FIR, many of the contingency plans were yet to be formatted in accordance with the template adopted in accordance with APIRG Conclusion 17/66, as at **Appendix A** to this working paper.

2.3 APIRG/18 recalled that within and adjacent to the AFI Region there were areas of volcanic activity which were likely to affect flight operation in the AFI Region. In this regard, the Group agreed to the development of the AFI Volcanic Ash Contingency Plan (VACP). A draft VACP was initially developed by adapting the EUR/NAT VACP in the AFI

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- b) AFI States having VOs, be encouraged to improve communication between the observatories and the aviation community; and
- c) ICAO ESAF Regional Office be urged to conduct volcanic ash awareness missions to States having volcanoes for implementation of VONA.

Recommendation Conclusion 1/04 Adoption of the AFI VA exercise procedures

That:

- a) The VA Exercises Procedures and instructions given at ~~Appendixes 3A C and D 3B~~ respectively, are adopted as the AFI VACP Exercises Procedures; and
- b) The AFI ATM/MET Task Force Secretariat coordinate the implementation of the AFI VACP exercises and report to the APIRG ATM/AIM/SAR and MET Sub-groups as appropriate.

Decision 1/05 Agenda, venue and date of the AFI ATM/MET Task Force meetings and organization of the volcanic ash awareness seminars

That,

- a) The agenda given at ~~Appendix 4A E~~, be adopted as the provisional agenda for the next Task Force meeting;
- b) The AFI ATM/MET Task Force meeting be held once a year alternating between the Dakar and Nairobi Regional Offices;
- c) The second meeting of the AFI ATM/MET Task Force be held during the second semester of 2014 at the WACAF Regional Office in Dakar; and
- d) The volcanic ash awareness seminars planned to be held during 2013 as per APIRG/18 Conclusion 18/53 be postponed for the first quarter of 2014, in order to prepare AFI States (to include all potential members of the Task Force) for the first volcanic ash exercise to be convened for the AFI Region during the second semester 2014.

Decision 1/06 Revised ATM/MET Task Force terms of reference

That, the Terms of Reference given in ~~Appendix 4B F~~ to this report, be revised to focus on the activities of the Task Force on the AFI regional requirements only.

2.7 The Sub-Group may wish to adopt the above Decision as a Draft Conclusion for consideration by APIRG and implementation by States.

2.8 The meeting will recall that the requirement for inclusion of public health emergencies in the ATM contingency plan was agreed by Council and included in Annex 11 to the Chicago Convention through Amendment 47 to the Annex. USOAP Audit of States has indicated that many States have not included the public health emergencies in their contingency plans. In this regard, the meeting may wish to urge States to include public health emergencies in their assessment of risk, as well as in the planning stage, and to reflect related operational procedures in their ATM contingency plans that are published.

2.9 It is important to note that in the development of contingency plans, considerable material is involved, from initial consultations with stakeholders, to development of detailed plans that would include all aspects of the risks to which ATM may be exposed to, and the material that is readily available to users, which is contained in the APIRG Template. In this regard, most of the details relating to interaction between ATM and many organs of the State, as well as non-governmental organizations will not necessarily be reflected in the APIRG template.

2.10 The meeting will recall that Standard 2.30 of Annex 11 provides for the development of contingency plans with the assistance of ICAO as necessary, in close coordination with the responsible air traffic services authorities in adjacent portions of airspace and with airspace users concerned. Accordingly, Regional Offices are available to provide support through guidance to States in their effort to develop and publish their contingency plans.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to urge States that have not done so:

- a) to develop their ATM contingency plans using the template provided at **Appendix A** to this working paper:
- b) include public health emergencies in their assessment of risk as well as planning, and reflect operational procedures in the contingency plan part that is published (*refer to the APIRG Template*).
- c) integrate the AFI Volcanic Ash Contingency Plan as an Appendix to the ATM Contingency Plan; and
- d) submit a copy of their ATM Contingency Plan, duly amended, to the ESAF and WACAF Regional Offices for endorsement and forwarding to ICAO Headquarters for necessary approval by the Present on behalf of the Council.
