



International Civil Aviation Organization

**ICAO New Flight Plan Format Study Group
(INFPL SG)**

**Fourth Meeting
(Cairo, Egypt, 27 – 29 February 2012)**

Agenda Item 2: Follow-up on MIDANPIRG and other meetings Conclusions and Decisions related to INFPL

**FOLLOW-UP ON THE OUTCOME OF THE JOINT
ACAC/ICAO INFPL WORKSHOP/SEMINAR**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the outcome of the joint ACAC/ICAO INFPL workshop/seminar conducted 16-18 January 2012.

Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.

REFERENCES

- Summary of discussion for joint INFPL workshop/Seminar

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The joint ACAC/ICAO workshop/seminar was successfully held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia 16-18 January 2012. The event was attended by ninety four (94) participants from eleven (11) States, and three (3) organizations.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The meeting may wish to note that on 27 September 2010 a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) was signed between ICAO and ACAC. In the implementation plan of the MOC it has been agreed that ACAC and ICAO organize joint INFPL implementation workshop/seminar. Accordingly ACAC and ICAO MID Regional office held a successful workshop/seminar which was generously hosted by the General Authority of Civil Aviation in Saudi Arabia from 16-18 January 2012. The summary of discussion is at **Appendix A** to this working paper. Furthermore, the CNS/ATM/IC SG/6 meeting, supported the outcome of the workshop/seminar and agreed that the INFPL SG/4 meeting take appropriate action on them and report to MIDANPIRG/13

2.2 The workshop/seminar was conducted with an objective to identify the progress in MID States and to provide advanced information and details to raise awareness on the critical issues related to the implementation of the amendment 1 to the PANS-ATM concerning changes to the ICAO new flight plan format and related ATS messages and procedures and discuss testing and contingency plans with a view to ensure timely implementation by the applicability date which is set for 15 November 2012.

2.3 A number of presentations providing detailed information on the FPL 2012 programme, including transition plans, testing, documentation, safety assurances, training, Strategic Support Teams and contingency were delivered during the workshop/seminar. The three days were divided into nine working sessions.

2.4 The participants to the workshop/seminar provided updates of their States, on the progress achieved by highlighting their activities on the INFPL implementation and it was noted that some States will install converters to accept both present and new FPL format by the applicability date, until they complete the full upgrade of the necessary ATM systems.

2.5 The workshop/seminar discussed the contingency measures that could be used by States that anticipate delays in implementing the new flight plan format, where it was recommended that States that are able to do the conversion for other States to provide the conversion assistance.

2.6 Furthermore, the workshop/seminar recommended that neighbouring States do not perform testing on the same day and recommended that testing for the neighbouring States systems be coordinated through an agreed testing schedule. Accordingly a draft proposal for testing schedule showing the dates is prepared for consideration by the meeting, as at **Appendix B** to this working paper.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) propose appropriate actions on **Appendix A** to this working paper; and
- b) develop a coordinated testing schedule for MID States.

APPENDIX A



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

MIDDLE EAST OFFICE

Joint ACAC/ICAO INFPL Format Seminar/Workshop
(Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 16 - 18 January 2012)

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Joint ACAC/ICAO INFPL Format Seminar/Workshop was successfully held at King Abdul-Aziz International Airport Project Management Building in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 16-18 January 2012. The seminar/workshop was attended by a total of ninety four (94) participants from eleven (11) States and three (3) Organizations. The list of participants is available at **Appendix A** to this Summary of Discussion. Mr. Jehad Faqir, Deputy Regional Director, ICAO MID Regional Office, Capt. Mohammed Jamjoom Vice president safety GACA and Mr. Hicham Banani ACAC opened the Seminar.

1.2 Mr. Raza Gulam, RO/CNS, was the principle facilitator of the seminar supported by Mr. Tom Brady, Consultant for the Global Implementation and Transition of the ICAO Flight Plan changes, ICAO Headquarters in Montreal.

1.3 The workshop/seminar was conducted with an objective to identify the progress in MID States ,and to provide advanced information and raise awareness on the critical issues related to the implementation of the amendment 1 to the PANS-ATM concerning changes to the ICAO new flight plan format and related ATS messages and procedures and discuss testing and contingency plans with a view to ensure timely implementation by the applicability date which is set for 15 November 2012.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Mr. Brady delivered a number of presentations providing detailed information on the FPL 2012 programme, including transition plans, testing, documentation, safety assurances, training, Strategic Support Teams and contingency. The three days seminar was divided into nine working sessions; three sessions each day. On the first day of the seminar, participants were provided with presentations, which covered the objective of the seminar, quick overview of amendment 1 to the PANS-ATM Doc 4444, update on global progress, the detailed implementation Programme, with detailed transition plans and phases, the importance of stakeholder identification.

2.2 States delivered presentation on the first day, indicating the planning process to implement the required changes and that they will be ready by the application date of 15 November 2012. Saudi Arabia updated the participants on the progress achieved by highlighting their activities on the INFPL implementation and the intention to install a converter to accept both present and new. The update from Egypt also indicated that Egypt will be ready to accept new format using converter until it completes the upgrade of the flight data processing systems (FDPS).

2.3 On the second day, the seminar/workshop participants received presentations on the updates from States where Jordan indicated that comprehensive impact study was carried out and actions are under way to complete the implementation of INFPL according to regional Strategy and global requirement, furthermore Jordan proposed the development of regional flight plan rejection procedures. Oman presentation provided update on the process of implementation of INFPL and signed a contract for the implementation of INFPL and will be ready by the required applicability date. Lebanon updated the workshop/seminar with their action for the implementation of the INFPL and indicated that they will be ready by 15 November or sooner; they have also expressed their willingness to contribute and assist other states in the MID and North African Regions in the implementation of the INFPL.

2.4 The presentations from UAE reflected that they are ready since 2010 and also indicated that they are able to convert New to PRESENT during transition period, and completed the testing, their message switch is able to convert New to PRESENT and message composer as well as Air Traffic Management system is able to handle New to PRESENT converted flight plans. Qatar indicated that they are ready and will be hosting training to which all GCC States will be invited. All States present Bahrain, Iran, Sudan and Yemen indicated that preparations are under way .

2.5 The seminar/workshop received presentations from EUR Region highlighting EUR Region FPL 2012 Planning, Implementation Plan, Status and Recent Developments. System supplier Avitech, presentation provided detailed information on their readiness and compliance to meet the requirements on the implementation of the INFPL deadline of 15 November 2012.

2.6 The seminar/workshop was presented with valuable information on testing and interfaces including documentations for the facilitation of a harmonized INFPL implementation on a Global manner. Furthermore, the seminar/workshop participants received detailed presentation on the training process and requirements, safety assurance and hazard identification, implications of none implementation and finally testing schedules and contingency procedures .Some States indicated their willingness to support other States on contingency measures by converting FPL and resending to the neighboring State.

2.7 At the closing session Mr. Jehad Faqir, Deputy Regional Director ICAO MID Region, thanked Saudi Arabia for hosting the event, the participants, vendors and organization present for making the seminar/workshop successful, he also thanked Mr. Tom Brady for the valuable information and support in making the event fruitful, and requested States to utilize the knowledge gained in order to be ready on 15 November 2012.

3. OUTCOME

3.1 The Seminar/workshop developed the following outcome:

- States who have not done so to allocate the necessary resources to implement the provisions of amendment 1.
- Launch of training campaigns within States with specified time lines (Engineers, Ops, ATC, Military, Airlines, maintenance, etc.)

- 3 -

- Consider development of Regional Testing Schedule
- The following were identified as members of Regional Support Team (Bahrain, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, UAE and IATA)
- Interregional issues to be handled through concerned ICAO Regional offices
- Make use of ICAO support through Strategic Support Teams /Interested States in obtaining support should file a request
- States to Share their experience (testing doc, training, etc.)
- States to consider collective negotiations with vendors and should seeks assistance from representative organization (CANSO, IATA, IFATCA, etc.) to conclude agreement with vendors
- INFPL SG/4 to prepare standard briefing to be distributed to all MID States for distribution to all airlines registered in their States.
- consider development of standard Regional rejection procedures for flight plan
- consider development of common test plan to ensure that states will conduct (carry out) all necessary tests to validate the new FPL acceptance and processing.
- States unable to accept INFPL are encourage to request support from other States willing to provide the conversion and to conclude the necessary LOA.

APPENDIX B

MID REGION TESTING SCHEDULE

State	Software/ hardware delivery Before 31 March 2012	Internal testing Before 31 March 2012	External testing 1 April to 30 June 2012	airspace users testing 1 July to 14 November 2012	Inter- regional Testing	Type of solution Converter or upgrade	Date of Acceptance of both present and new format	Remarks
Bahrain	31 March 2012	1 April 2012	1 April to 30 June 2012	1 July to 14 November 2012				
Egypt	31 March 2012	1 April 2012						
Iran		1 April 2012						
Iraq		1 April 2012						
Jordan	31 March 2012							
Kuwait								
Lebanon	31 March 2012							
Libya								
Oman	31 March 2012							
Qatar	31 March 2012							
Saudi Arabia	31 March 2012							
Sudan	31 March 2012							
Syria	31 March 2012							
UAE	31 March 2012							
Yemen	31 March 2012							