



DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION-MIDDLE EAST REGION

Second Meeting (DGCA-MID/2) (Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 20-22 May 2013)

Agenda Item 4: Managerial Issues

STATES' SUPPORT TO THE ICAO MID REGIONAL OFFICE

(Presented by Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper summarizes MID Region States' support to the ICAO MID Regional Office and proposes a number of actions, including the support for the use of the Arabic Language, voluntary contribution for the funding of some of the RASG-MID and MIDANPIRG activities and other issues. The paper also highlights the low level of participation of States' delegates at the ICAO MID Regional Office meetings/events; and stimulates discussion regarding the possible ways and means to further improve the efficiency of the ICAO MID Regional Office.

Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The ICAO 35th Assembly through Resolution A35-15 requested the Council, as a matter of high priority, to ensure that adequate resources are made available to ICAO's Regional Offices.

1.2 The Regional Offices are primarily responsible for maintaining continuous liaison with the States to which they are accredited and with appropriate organizations, regional civil aviation bodies and UN Agencies and Programmes. They ensure interregional coordination and promote the timely and harmonized implementation of ICAO policies, decisions, Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and air navigation plans. They also provide technical guidance and assist States with implementation.

1.3 With the expansion of the scope of the Regional Offices' activities, there's a need to evaluate the gap between the needs required to implement the ICAO MID Regional Office work programme and the available resources.

1.4 Since the inception of the ICAO MID Regional Office in 1953, the English language has always been the working Language, used for the production of documentation and conduct of the meetings, seminars and workshops.

2. DISCUSSION

English and Arabic Language Services

2.1 It is to be noted that presently 93.3% of the States to which the MID Regional Office is accredited are Arabic speaking States. Accordingly, the DGCA-MID/1 meeting (Abu Dhabi 22-24 March 2011) agreed that both Arabic and English languages should be used for production of documentation and conduct of the DGCA-MID meetings. Taking into consideration the budget constraints which have led to non-availability of Language Officer in the ICAO MID Regional Office, the meeting agreed that MID States should provide necessary support to make available a Language Officer in the ICAO MID Regional Office, through either voluntary contributions or secondment of appropriate Expert. Accordingly, the meeting agreed to the following Conclusion:

*DGCA-MID/1 CONCLUSION 1/1 - STATES' SUPPORT FOR THE USE OF THE
ARABIC LANGUAGE IN THE MID REGION*

That, to support the use of the Arabic Language in the MID Region, States coordinate with the ICAO MID Regional Office for the provision of required resources through either voluntary contributions or secondment of appropriate Language Expert.

2.2 As a follow-up action to the above Conclusion, the ICAO MID Regional Office issued State Letter Ref.: ME 3/72- 11/099 dated 21 April 2011 inviting States to implement the provisions of the DGCA-MID/1 Conclusion 1/1. Egypt volunteered to provide an expert to support the ICAO MID Regional Office translation activities; however the offer did not materialize.

Support of the ICAO MID Office Activities

2.3 The successful launch of RASG-MID in 2011 posed additional challenges to ICAO MID Regional Office, States and other stakeholders. Three Teams have been established, namely Regional Aviation Safety Team (RAST), Annual Safety Report Team (ASRT) and Safety Support Team (SST) to support different activities of RASG-MID.

2.4 With the expansion of the scope of the ICAO MID Regional Office activities including, the necessary support to RASG –MID, the ICAO MID Regional Office is facing additional challenges to sustain the different activities including the availability of necessary funding to provide secretariat support to all groups. Additional financial resources will be required to improve the mission programme (missions to States on a more regular basis) and training and seminar/workshop budget.

2.5 The RASG-MID/2 meeting, through Conclusion 2/8, agreed that:

- a) the funding of the RASG-MID Work Programme for 2013, be ensured mainly through voluntary support of the RASG-MID members and partners; and
- b) States and partners be encouraged to use the SAFE earmarked contributions option to secure some funds that could be used for the implementation of the RASG-MID Work Programme.

2.6 The meeting may wish to consider the establishment of an ICAO MID Regional Office fund for voluntary contributions from States and industry partners, in order to be used for the funding of some of the MIDANPIRG and RASG-MID activities, including the organization of additional seminars/workshops and training courses as requested by States.

Participation at ICAO MID Regional Office Meetings and reply to State Letters

2.7 The meeting may wish to note that a number of scheduled ICAO MID Regional Office meetings were postponed due to low level of confirmation of attendance by States. The outcome of the meetings organized by the ICAO MID Regional Office depends on the participation of States.

2.8 Representatives of States designated as Members of MIDANPIRG or RASG-MID shall assume their duties and responsibilities of ensuring the normal conduct of business of these Groups. Members are required to attend regularly all the meetings of the Groups that they are assigned to and actively maintain the continuity of the Groups' work in the interval between meetings. This may take the form of assignment of specific tasks to selected individual Members and/or participation in subsidiary bodies' meetings.

2.9 The important actions taken by MIDANPIRG, RASG-MID and DGCA-MID meetings are recorded in the form of Conclusions, requiring actions from States, ICAO and/or partners (stakeholders). These Conclusions are followed up by appropriate State Letters issued by the ICAO MID Regional Office. However, it's to be highlighted that the level of reply to the State Letters is far below expectation.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 In view of above, the meeting is invited to:

- a) consider the proposals in paragraphs 2.5 and 2.6 to support and sustain the activities of MIDANPIRG, the RASG-MID and other events;
- b) urge States to:
 - i. provide voluntary contributions or secondment of appropriate Language Expert(s) to support the use of the Arabic Language in the MID Region;
 - ii. actively attend and support the ICAO MID Regional Office meetings, seminars/workshops and other events by providing appropriate materials i.e. working and information papers, presentations, etc; and
 - iii. reply to all State Letters issued by the ICAO MID Regional Office in a timely manner.

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