



DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION-MIDDLE EAST REGION

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

Agenda Item 4: Air Navigation

CONTINGENCY PLANING IN THE MID REGION

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

The aim of this paper is to highlight the requirements for development and promulgation of contingency plans and explore ways and means to improve the level of compliance with the associated ICAO provisions in the MID Region.

Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.

REFERENCES

- ARN TF/6
- DGCA MID/1
- MIDANPIRG/13

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The provisions regarding contingency arrangements, which detail States ATS obligations to develop and promulgate contingency plans for implementation in the event of disruption or potential disruption of ATS and supporting services, are contained in Chapter 2 of Annex 11. Guidance material relating to the development, promulgation and implementation of contingency plans is contained in Attachment C to Annex 11.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The development and promulgation of contingency plans and associated status of implementation has been addressed by the MIDANPIRG and its ATM/SAR/AIS Sub-Group meetings, since many years. In this regard, it was noted with concern that the development and promulgation of contingency plans in the MID Region remained significantly low.

2.2 The meeting may wish to recall that the DGCA-MID/1 meeting (Abu Dhabi, UAE 22-24 March 2011), noted with concern that the development and promulgation of contingency plans remains one of the long standing deficiencies in the MID Region. Taking into consideration the events in the MID Region and in order to ensure safety and continuity of civil aviation, the DGCA-MID/1 meeting recognized that it's becoming more imperative and pressing that all MID States take necessary measures to sign the pending contingency agreements with adjacent FIRs/States and expedite the promulgation of their contingency plans.

2.3 It's to be highlighted that one of the challenges contributing to the low pace in implementation of contingency plans was the process of consultation and agreements with adjacent FIRs/States. Nevertheless, some progress has been achieved in this regard, nine (9) States have signed contingency planning agreements with some of their adjacent FIRs/States, and few others are in the process of completing the required coordination, i.e. draft plans have been prepared and circulated to adjacent FIRs/States and they are still pending signature and promulgation.

2.4 Based on the above, MID States were requested to send copy of their contingency plans (even those which are still in draft format) to the ICAO MID Regional Office to assist in expediting any coordination issues that may rise in the event of disruption or possible interruption of ATS and supporting services.

2.5 The MIDANPIRG/13 (Abu Dhabi, UAE, 22-26 April 2012), reviewed the draft MID Regional Contingency Plan and the revised version of the Contingency Routing Scheme for Asia/Middle East/Europe-2003 (CRAME-03) Document, and agreed that the plan should be further updated by States and users. Accordingly the meeting agreed to the following Conclusion:

CONCLUSION 13/9: MID REGIONAL CONTINGENCY PLAN

*That, States and users be urged to review the MID Regional Contingency Plan and the revised version of the CRAME-03 at **Appendices 4.2E and 4.2F** to the Report on Agenda Item 4.2, respectively; and provide updates and comments to the ICAO MID Regional Office before **1 September 2012**.*

2.6 The (CRAME-03) has the objectives of ensuring continued safety of air navigation within FIRs affected by airspace closures and of minimising effects on international civil air transportation in the event of military action occurring in an area within the MID region. The contingency routing scheme is designed to provide alternative routes to/from Asia, Middle East, and Europe, which will allow aircraft operators to avoid airspace in the MID, as necessary, with a minimum of disruption to flight operations.

2.7 The meeting may wish to note that the Sixth ATS Route Network Task Force (ARN TF/6) (Cairo, Egypt, 22-24 April 2013) reviewed and updated the CRAME 03, and agreed that further coordination with States, ICAO EUR/NAT and APAC Regional Offices be carried out to consider additional routes with new scenarios in order to provide alternative routing in case of any airspace closure in the MID Region, and that ICAO MID regional office presents a consolidated version of CRAME 03 to the ATM/AIM/SAR SG/13 meeting that will be held in Cairo, Egypt in 2013.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

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

- a) update, complete and promulgate their contingency plans without delay; and
- b) send their comments on the CRAME 03 to the the ICAO MID Regional Office before 15 June 2013.