DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION-MIDDLE EAST REGION

Third Meeting (DGCA-MID/3)
(Doha, Qatar, 27-29 April 2015)

Agenda Item 6:   **Aviation Security and Facilitation**

SHARING OF THREAT/RISK ASSESSMENTS

(Presented by AACO)

SUMMARY

This paper summarizes the efforts of AACO member airlines to share assessments of threats/risks arising from conflict zones in order to assist each other in ensuring the safety of their flights. Moreover, the paper calls for the support of the region's states and calls for collaboration among states in this area to ensure the safety and security of the air transport sector.

1.   **INTRODUCTION**

1.1   On 17 July 2014, Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17, operating a scheduled flight from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur, was cruising at FL330 in the Dnipropetrovsk FIR above the temporary restricted area. The aircraft was downed over Ukraine, killing all 298 occupants.

1.2   The accident revealed the shortfalls of the current NOTAM system which is used, among other issues, to restrict flights in un-safe airspace.

1.3   In the wake of the accident, all stakeholders condemned the downing of a commercial aircraft and called for measures to ensure that such accident would not happen again.

1.4   ICAO established the Task Force on Risks to Civil Aviation arising from Conflict Zones (TF-RCZ) which work was presented to the Second High Level Safety Conference in February 2015.

2.   **DISCUSSION**

2.1   Airlines operate 24 hours a day which means that there are virtually aircraft operating within each FIR at any point in time.

2.2   While AACO welcomes ICAO's efforts in establishing a centralized web-based repository for information related to risks to civil aviation arising from conflict zones, however airlines would need timely and immediate information on risks and threats to act upon for the concerned flights. Accordingly, the industry needs to share and communicate risk/threat information which would complement the efforts of the states.

2.3   Therefore, AACO Annual General Meeting, in its 47th session held on 19 November 2014, agreed on a resolution which states that the AGM believes that it is the duty of the industry to establish an exchange mechanism for sharing assessment of airlines with regards to the threats affecting air routes so that airlines using the same routes may take that into account when assessing the operational safety of those routes.

2.4   As a result AACO Executive Committee directed the AACO Secretariat to establish an aviation security group to plan and implement a risk sharing mechanism. The group includes the heads of security of interested carriers, and sharing of information is based on three main criteria:

- No liability will be borne by the airline or party which is providing the information.

- Any action based on the information received through the exchange will be the sole responsibility of the airline taking the action.

- There will be no obligation on any member to provide the source of the information shared if the source is not public.

2.5   The mechanism, which is implemented as a model with the hope that there will be interest in the future to expand such model to the global level, works in two folds:

- A repository on a secure website where members upload a standard reporting form.

- Closed circuit email communication between the heads of security on urgent issues which is later added to the repository.

3.   ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1   The meeting is invited to:

a)   note the efforts of Arab airlines in this area;

b)   call States to support the work of ICAO by making use of the ICAO web-based repository and the ICAO Global Risk Context Statement to develop their national risk assessments;

c)   call States in the Region to individually strengthen communication between their relevant agencies and share that information with airlines in a timely manner; and

d)   call for collaboration between the Region's States in security by sharing information, best practices and expertise which will elevate the level of preparedness of States on one hand, and assist airlines to better manage their operations in a safe and sustainable manner on the other.

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