**DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION-MIDDLE EAST REGION
FIFTH MEETING (DGCA-MID/5)**

(Kuwait, 4-6 November 2019)

Agenda Item 9:   **ICAO Technical Assistance and Technical Cooperation Activities**

ACI'S WORK IN RELATION TO MUSCAT DECLARATION

(Airports Council International)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the work of Airports Council International (ACI) in relation to Muscat Declaration made at the fourth DGCA MID conference held in November 2017 and seeks guidance from the conference on how ACI may further its contribution to the implementation of the Declaration.

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1.   INTRODUCTION

1.1   ACI had the honour of participating in DGCA-MID/4 held in the city of Muscat in November 2017 and the privilege of witnessing there the signing of "ICAO MID Region NCLB (No Country Left Behind) Declaration", also known as Muscat Declaration.

1.2   Many of the targets committed to in the Muscat Declaration are related to aerodrome safety and aviation security. Both are strategic business objectives of ACI and therefore of key interests for the association.

1.3   This paper presents how ACI has been attempting to contribute to the progress of the Declaration under the leadership of ICAO and seeks guidance from the conference how ACI may enhance its cooperation with ICAO MID in advancing the Declaration, in particular in the areas of aerodrome safety and aviation security.

2.   ACI ASSEMBLY SUPPORTS NCLB A AND MID SAFETY STRATEGY

2.1   At its 25th annual general assembly held in Panama in September 2015, members of ACI adopted a resolution to declare its support to ICAO's "No Country Left Behind" campaign, collectively pledging participation in a number of initiatives aimed at assisting airports in need, particularly in the area of aerodrome safety. A copy of the resolution can be downloaded online here.

2.2   In WP42 submitted to RASG-MID/7 held in April 2019, ACI also expressed its support to targets related to aerodrome safety defined in the MID Safety Strategy adopted at the 4th MID Region Safety Summit held in Riyadh from 2 to 3 October 2018, the Strategy being one of the pillars of the Muscat Declaration.

2.3   In the spirit of NCLB, ACI provides technical assistance, training and guidance to its member airports, which numbered 1960 as of January 2019, and many of which situated in developing countries.

2.4   The following provides an update on these technical assistance and training programs, and guidance materials on aerodrome safety and aviation security since DGCA-MID/4.

3. APEX in Safety and Security the Workhorse of ACI's Technical Assistance

3.1   ACI appreciates ICAO's support to its APEX in Safety peer review program, specifically by including in the MID Safety Strategy a target of hosting at least one such review per year in the MID region and sending AGA officers to APEX missions.

3.2   By the end of September 2019, 142 APEX in Safety reviews had been conducted worldwide. Ten of these reviews were done at airports in the MID Region: Abu Dhabi (twice), Almadinah, Amman Queen Alia, Bahrain, Doha, Muscat (twice), Khartoum, and Cairo. Notably Abu Dhabi and Muscat requested ACI to do a second review as a follow up after a satisfactory first review.

3.3   In 2016 ACI launched APEX in Security, a program equivalent to APEX in Safety for aviation security. Twenty-seven (27) airports worldwide have so far hosted APEX in Security reviews, including Queen Alia International Airport, Amman, in the MID region.

4. New Aerodrome Safety and Security Guidance Materials

4.1   ACI handbooks are written as much as possible in simple, plain English for easier comprehension. Resources permitting, some of the handbooks are translated into other ICAO languages such as Arabic, Chinese, French and Spanish.

4.2   Since DGCA-MID/4, ACI has published the following two new safety handbooks:

- Managing Operations During Construction Handbook, First Edition, 2018; and
- Managing Rescue and Firefighting Handbook, First Edition, 2019.

4.3   ACI is pleased to announce that the Runway Safety Handbook has been translated into Arabic[1] for the benefits of airports in the MID and MENA.

4.4   Currently ACI is drafting new handbooks on the following two subjects:

- Airfield Maintenance; and
- Winter/Adverse Weather/Low Visibility Operations.

4.5   Topics of safety handbooks are determined partly based on the observations made at APEX in Safety reviews, hence the program's importance in identifying needs for guidance materials for the benefit of the airport community worldwide, in addition to providing technical assistance to the airport hosting the review.

4.6   A complete list of current ACI safety publications can be viewed online at https://store.aci.aero/product-category/safety/.

4.7   On aviation security, ACI has published the following new guidance materials on the following topical issues since DGCA-MID/4:

- Landside Security Handbook – First Edition 2018;

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[1] Contact ACI for password.

- [Addressing Insider Threat Handbook](#) – First Edition 2019; and
- [Cybersecurity for Airport Executives Handbook](#), First Edition 2019.

4.8   A handbook on the implementation of cybersecurity to complement the cybersecurity handbook for airport executives is being drafted.   Pre-order can be made online [here](#).

5   SAFETY AND SECURITY TRAINING COURSES FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

5.1   ACI provides financially subsidized training to airports situated in developing countries under the program "Developing Nations ACI Training (DNA Training)".   DNA training courses on safety and security are aimed at providing basic knowledge to employees at developing countries on priority safety and security matters such as aerodrome certification, SMS implementation, Annex 14 and airport security operations.

5.2   With the support of ICAO, an online training course on Global Reporting Format (GRF) on Runway Surface Conditions, due to become applicable on 5 November 2020, has been launched at https://www.olc.aero/product/icao-global-reporting-format/.

5.3   Criteria and procedures for scholarship and grant application under the Developing Nations ACI Training program are provided on ACI website at https://aci.aero/global-training/assistance/developing-nations-airport-assistance-programme/.

5.4   In the spirit of NCLB, States and Organizations are encouraged to make donations to the DNA program. Donors are duly honoured and recognized at ACI. Details and benefits of sponsorships are provided online at https://aci.aero/services/developing-nations-airport-assistance-dna-programme/dna-sponsorship/.

6   CONCLUSION

6.1   In conclusion ACI supports the implementation of Muscat Declaration in areas related to aerodrome safety and aviation security by providing APEX in Safety and Security reviews, guidance materials, and training courses.

7   ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

7.1   The conference is invited to provide feedback and guidance, e.g. by suggesting topics for drafting new guidance materials and training courses, to ACI as to how the organization, as an Industry Partner to ICAO, may better help advance Muscat Declaration.

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