



International Civil Aviation Organization

MID Safety Support Team

Fifth Meeting (MID-SST/5)
(Cairo, Egypt, 19-21 February 2019)

Agenda Item 2: MID-SST Work Programme

**RECOMMENDATION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
AN ICAO ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION WORKING GROUP (AIWG)
FOR THE MID-REGION**

(Presented by the United Arab Emirates)

SUMMARY

This paper proposes the establishment of an ICAO Accident Investigation Working Group (AIWG) for the MID-Region, constituted under the framework of the MID Regional Aviation Safety Group (RASG).

Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 It is incumbent on the State in which an aircraft accident occurs to institute an inquiry into the circumstances of the accident in conformity with Article 26 of the Convention.

1.2 Aircraft accident and incident investigations have yielded many safety recommendations, implementation of which has contributed significantly to improving safety.

1.3 Owing to the growing sophistication and complexity of modern aircraft, the conduct of an accident investigation usually requires participation by experts from many specialized technical and operational fields, and access to specially equipped facilities for investigation.

1.4 Some MID-Region Contracting States do not have such specialized technical and operational investigation expertise and appropriate facilities.

1.5 The ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Program (USOAP) findings indicate that a number of States have not been able to implement an effective accident and incident investigation system for their aviation activities.

1.6 The USOAP findings have been associated, in general, with lack of:

- resources (both human and financial);
- appropriate legislation and regulations;
- organization for the investigation of accidents and incidents;
- training system for investigators;
- equipment to conduct investigations; and
- policies, procedures and guidelines for accident and incident investigations.

1.7 To assist in maintaining public confidence in the safety of commercial aviation in the MID-Region, it is important that aircraft accidents and incidents be properly investigated to determine the probable cause and that the resulting safety recommendations are promulgated appropriately.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The work of the ICAO MID AIWG should advance strategies, policies and provisions relevant to the MID-Region States' Accident Investigation Authorities, enabling development and continuous improvement of investigations in a timely and cost-effective manner.

2.2 The ICAO MID AIWG should research and develop provisions for accident and incident investigations to allow for timely and effective investigations as set forth in Annex 13, and in support of the Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP).

2.3 The ICAO MID AIWG should encourage and facilitate cooperation among the MID-Region States in the investigation of major aircraft accidents or accidents in which the investigation requires highly specialized experts and facilities;

2.4 Examples of potential work items that could be addressed by the proposed AIWG:

- (a) Investigation procedures, techniques and methodologies
- (b) Establishment of a Regional Accident Investigation Organization (RAIO)
- (c) Protection of accident and incident records
- (d) Investigation involving unmanned aircraft systems (UAS)
- (e) Investigation of Serious Incidents
- (f) Mutual cooperation in investigations
- (g) Mutual cooperation in the provision of training
- (h) Participation in exercises
- (i) ICAO AIG Divisional Meetings

2.5 The MID-Region States, and appropriate regional professional organizations such as the Gulf Flight Safety Council, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the Middle East and North Africa Society of Air Safety Investigators (MENASASI), should each be invited to nominate an expert with relevant qualifications and professional experience for membership on the ICAO MID AIG WG.

2.6 The ICAO MID AIWG should conduct regular meetings, and also communicate through emails or telecommunication calls to discuss the progress of work.

2.7 Each MID State should be invited to send a representative to an inaugural meeting to establish the proposed AIWG (MID). It is suggested that the meeting be arranged by the ICAO MID Office and be held in Abu Dhabi and hosted by the United Arab Emirates.

2.8 The United Arab Emirates is willing to support the activities of the proposed ICAO MID AIWG.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to consider the recommendation to establish an ICAO MID-Region Accident Investigation Group Working Group (AIWG), under the Regional Aviation Safety Group (RASG) MID framework, with the goal of contributing to improved air safety in the MID-Region through effective State Authority accident investigations.