



**Summary of Discussion Second Middle East AIM Focal Points  
Teleconference/Meeting**

*(30 June 2020, from 11:00 to 12:30 UTC)*

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**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The Second Middle East AIM FPs Meeting/Teleconference was held on Tuesday 30 June 2020 from 11:00 to 12:30 UTC, using MS Teams facility.

1.2 The meeting/teleconference was attended by a total of Twenty-eight (28) participants from eight (8) States (Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE) and three (4) Organizations (AACO, ACAO, IATA and ICAO). The list of participants is at **Attachment 1**.

1.3 The main objectives of the teleconference are the following:

- a) Provide a briefing on the Global & Regional developments related to COVID and guidance on aviation public health measures to minimize the COVID-19 associated risks;
- b) Present the outcome of the MID RPTF AIM key activities (AIM advocacy effort, AIM communication plan, MID region NOTAM COVID-19 analysis and recommendations, and NOTAM harmonized template and guidance);
- c) Share information on States' important challenges faced in the publication of AI in response to COVID-19 and positive steps that have been taken to address them.
- d) Agree on the implementation of AIM recommendations and guidance in harmonized manner and the way forward.

**2. OPENING**

2.1 Mr. Aissaoui Radhouan, MID Regional Officer Information Management, welcomed all participants and thanked them for accepting the invitation to join the teleconference. He highlighted that this is an informal teleconference to share information, insights, best practices on the way forward for a smooth and orderly return to normal.

**3. DISCUSSIONS**

3.1 The SoD of the last teleconference/meeting was accepted with minor changes previously submitted by GACA Saudi Arabia and GCAA UAE.

3.2 Mr. Walid Elhoss, AACO Manager - Economics, delivered a presentation covering the latest developments related to COVID-19 at global and regional levels. He highlighted the regional initiatives that were taken to support States' implementation of the public health measures in the recovery and restart of aviation activities.

3.3 Ms Lindi-Lee Kirkman, IATA Manager Safety & Flight Operations ATM Infrastructure provided a presentation covering the AIM advocacy effort and highlights on:

- the importance of having access to timely, accurate, and reliable aeronautical

information;

- challenges faced by Airspace users due to Lack of access to harmonized information, Ambiguity in published information, Missing critical decision enabling information and Lack of timely AI;
- AIM in a Collaborative Environment;
- AIM for Restart and Recovery.

3.4 It was agreed to share the AIM advocacy effort document with AIM FPs who can share the AIM for recovery 1 pager with their stakeholders, up and down stream.

3.5 The meeting was updated on the AIM communication plan including the completed and Ongoing / Outstanding Activities.

3.6 The results from the Analysis of the MID NOTAM publications to date were presented to the meeting and a number of deficiencies were identified in the COVID-19 NOTAM promulgated by MID States. The recommendations to address the deficiencies include:

- The provision of ATS and aerodrome services for Extended diversion time operations (EDTO) operations, ALTN, emergency diversions, UN/humanitarian operations, tech stops, cargo ( SL Ref.: AN 13/35-20/47);
  - The use ICAO COVID-19 NOTICES TO AIRMEN (NOTAM) template;
  - To avoid excessive publication of NOTAM, the listed events in ICAO SARPs for which a NOTAM shall be issued must be strictly adhered to.

3.7 The work will continue to monitor and inform the AIM FPs about the status of NOTAM promulgated for the consideration by States.

3.8 The meeting noted with appreciation that the MID RPTF AIM key activities developed a set of specific NOTAM Format templates for COVID-19 publications.

3.9 The return to normal operation (RNO) phase has already started with the gradual restoration of flights between States. Therefore, it is imperative that, during this phase, appropriate and adequate information continues to be promulgated to the aviation community regarding the availability of air navigation services and facilities, including aerodromes and related services using the NOTAM templates on Resumption of Normal (or Limited) Operations.

3.10 It was agreed to share the COVID-19 Harmonised NOTAM Templates with AIM FPs for review and comments before dissemination for use by States.

3.11 After the presentation, a round table discussion took place to address the following questions/subjects:

- Besides the AIM recommendations and guidance, what measures States propose/require for the restart and recovery phases?
- What other NOTAM templates (scenarios) would be included?
- How can States foster the implementation of AIM recommendations and guidance in harmonized manner?

#### **4. CHALLENGES FACED BY AISP AMID THE COVID-19**

- Different entities and non-standard NOTAM originators interfere in the COVID-19 NOTAM origination process;
- Non adherence to the requirements for advance notification for issuance of NOTAM or cancellation by originators. There is a need to raise awareness amongst the NOTAM originators on relevant guidance material, with a view to eliminate bad practices and to comply with NOTAM notification requirements; and
- States still facing an increase of data to be published for restart and recovery. This

requires considerable efforts to be made by AISP in the AI management, transmission and distribution chain.

- The need for guidance material for AIM personnel such as those available for ATM and published in ICAO MID COVID 19 webpage.

## **5. ACHIEVEMENTS & NEXT STEPS**

5.1 The main achievements of the meeting are as follows:

- The meeting served as a forum for States to share their experiences, best practices and lessons learnt;
- The meeting provided an opportunity for fruitful exchange of views between States and the international organizations.
- It was also an opportunity for States to outline the most important challenges faced in responding to COVID-19.
- It was acknowledged that harmonization of COVID-19 AI publication across the region is of paramount importance to reinstate a full scale operation in a sustainable, safe, secure and orderly manner as soon as practicable.
- The meeting supported the issuance of the COVID-19 Aeronautical Information publication Guidance and NOTAM templates and committed to providing input/comment.

5.2 The meeting reemphasized the need and the importance for ICAO and all stakeholders to continue working collaboratively towards a gradual reinstate of full scale operations in a sustainable, safe, secure and orderly manner, as soon as practicable. In this respect, it was agreed that the MID RPTF should continue to be used as the regional forum to support the standardization of timely, quality aeronautical information that will help the air transport industry return to normal operations following the COVID-19 crisis.

## **6. AOB AND CLOSING**

6.1 The Meeting was closed by Mr. Aissaoui Radhouan, MID Regional Officer Information Management, who thanked participants for their participation, their positive attitude towards cooperation and invited all States to provide feedback on the deliverables and to share their concerns on the implementation of AIM recommendations and guidance so that their concerns could be addressed in a coordinated manner in the future RPTF AIM key activities.

6.2 The next meeting/teleconference will take place in a few weeks, tentatively on 20 July 2020.

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## Meeting-Teleconference with the AIM FPs (Tuesday, 30 June 2020, 11:00-12:30 UTC)

## List of Participants

STATE/ ORGANIZATION	NAME	TITLE	EMAIL
<b>STATES</b>			
<b>Bahrain</b>	Abdulla Al Qadhi	Chief AIM & Airspace Planning	<a href="mailto:aalqadhi@mtt.gov.bh">aalqadhi@mtt.gov.bh</a>
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