International Civil Aviation Organization

MIDANPIRG/20 and RASG-MID/10 Meetings

(Muscat, Oman, 14-17 May 2023)

Agenda Item 5.6: ATM/SAR

AIR TRAFFIC FLOW MANAGEMENT (ATFM)

(Presented by IATA)

SUMMARY

This working paper aims to highlight the need for interoperability and collaboration in all aspects of ATFM, the importance of a regional approach to ATFM, the need for agreements among States, and the challenges of fragmentation in the region.

Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.

REFERENCES

- ICAO DOC 014
- MIDANPIRG 19

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1   Air Traffic Flow Management (ATFM) is a critical aspect of Air Traffic Management (ATM) that aims to optimize the use of airspace and airports, reduce congestion, and ensure efficient handling of air traffic. In the Middle East Region (MID), ATFM implementation has been discussed extensively in various meetings and forums. However, concerns have been raised regarding the slow evolution of ATFM implementation in the MID region and the lack of interoperability, collaboration, and regional approach in addressing ATFM challenges. This working paper aims to highlight the need for interoperability and collaboration in all aspects of ATM, the importance of a regional approach to ATFM, the need for agreements among States, and the challenges of fragmentation in the region.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1   Interoperability and collaboration are crucial for effective ATFM operations. The flexible use of airspace, conditional routings, and manipulation of traffic flows should be undertaken in a collaborative manner, involving coordination among States, airlines, and other stakeholders. The lack of interoperability and collaboration can result in application of tactical ATFM measures, delays, congestion, inefficient use of airspace and airports, overly restricting the optimisation of flights, or creating excessive demand that could have been avoided due to application of measures at the pre tactical stage .

2.2   MIDNPIRG 19 endorsed the MID ATFM Implementation Plan V2.0 (ICAO Doc 014) and Action Plan for Implementation of ATFM in the Mid Region which provided a framework for coordinated

regional development considering the multi-Nodal solution, and the capability improvements roadmap for implementation.

2.3   It was noted that individual States in the MID region have been implementing their own ATFM systems, but there has been a lack of coordination and harmonization among these systems. This has resulted in fragmentation in ATFM practices, with each State adopting individual practices, leading to inconsistencies and inefficiencies. A regional approach through ATFM TF to ATFM is necessary to address these challenges and ensure harmonization and interoperability between different ATFM systems.

2.4   ATFM measures are not being consistently applied in the region. Agreements among States, including **harmonized procedures, standardized protocols,** and shared responsibilities for ATFM implementation, are essential to ensure consistent and effective application of ATFM measures. Such agreements would facilitate interoperability, collaboration, and coordination among States, airlines, and other stakeholders, leading to improved efficiency and performance of the regional ATM system.

2.5   To Address the challenges of fragmentation in the region there is a need to foster collaboration, coordination, and harmonization among States. Efforts should be made to align ATFM practices, streamline procedures, and ensure interoperability among different systems to avoid **inconsistencies, discrepancies, and lack of coordination in ATFM operations**.

3.   ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1   The meeting is invited to create a clear action plan to accelerate the implementation of coordinated measures (people, process, tools) that ensure harmonization and interoperability between different ATFM systems and stakeholders.

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