



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

Third Meeting of APIRG Infrastructure and Information Management Sub Group (IIM/SG/3)
(Virtual Meeting, 12-14 October 2020)

Agenda Item 5: Air Navigation Planning, Deficiencies and Reporting in the AIM, CNS and MET areas

eANP in the MET area- State Volcano Observatories and conduct of volcanic ash exercises in the AFI Region

(Presented by Secretariat)

| SUMMARY |
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| This paper discusses the issues related to volcanic ash in the AFI Region. |
| Action by the meeting is in paragraph 3 |
| REFERENCE(S): <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Doc 9750, Global Air Navigation Plan▪ Electronic Air Navigation Plan— Africa-Indian Ocean Region (AFI eANP- Volume I)▪ APIRG Procedural Handbook |
| Related ICAO Strategic Objective (s): A – Aviation Safety, B – Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency. |
| Related ASBU KPIs & B0/1 Modules: Related ASBU KPIs & AMET B0 and B1 Modules: Applicable to MET |

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The ICAO Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP) contained in Doc 9750 supports the evolution of the air navigation system both at the global, regional and national levels. The regional needs are aligned with global objectives and these are contained in the ICAO Regional Air Navigation Plans (ANPs). In 2014, the ICAO Council made a decision to publish the ANPs in three volumes namely Volume I, II and III. The ANP Volume I contains plan elements which are stable and do not require frequent amendments.
- 1.2 The electronic ANP (eANP) Part V Volume I of the ICAO Africa-Indian Ocean region (AFI) contains aeronautical meteorology (MET) provisions required for the effective planning and implementation of MET facilities and services in the AFI Region.
- 1.3 The MET facilities and services include, inter-alia, the elements pertaining to the World Area Forecast System (WAFS), Meteorological Offices, the AFI Volcanic Ash Advisory Centres (VAACs) and the Tropical Cyclone Advisory Centre (TCAC). The meeting may recall that the AFI VAAC and TCAC are hosted by France and La Reunion respectively. Furthermore, the State volcano observatories are published in Table MET I-1 of the AFI eANP Volume I.

2. DISCUSSION



- 2.1 During the twenty first meeting of the AFI Planning and Implementation Group's twenty-first meeting (APIRG/21) the outcomes of the Regional Awareness Seminar on the AFI Air Traffic Management (ATM) Volcanic Ash Contingency Plan (VACP), held from 4 to 7 September 2017 were presented. The seminar's objective was to provide assistance in relation to volcanic ash pursuant to APIRG Conclusion 18/53. The meeting agreed that it was important to conduct regular volcanic ash exercises in the AFI Region in order to practice and develop inter-agency response to volcanic activity, and maintain safety, regularity and efficiency of aviation in the event of a volcanic eruption. In addition, APIRG Conclusion 21/35 urged States to develop and conduct Volcanic Ash exercises using the guidance contained in Appendix F of ICAO Doc 9766 (Handbook on the International Airways Volcano Watch (IAVW)).
- 2.2 AFI States with potentially active or active volcanoes are published in Table MET I-1 of the AFI eANP Vol I. Their primary role is to monitor the active or potentially active volcanoes and send volcanic ash related information to their associated Flight Information Centre (FIC), MWOs and VAAC in accordance with the AFI Volcanic Ash Contingency Plan.
- 2.3 The AFI Volcanic Ash Contingency Plan is contained as Appendix H of the AFI Regional ATM Contingency Plan. The Plan sets out standardised guidelines and procedures for the provision of information to airlines and en-route aircraft before and during a volcanic eruption. Mitigating the hazards posed by volcanic ash in the atmosphere and/or at the aerodrome cannot be resolved in isolation but through collaborative decision-making (CDM) involving all stakeholders concerned.
- 2.4 It is important that the contact details of the selected States designated for notification of significant pre-eruption volcanic activity as indicated in Table MET I-1 be kept up to date.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

- 3.1 The meeting is invited to:
 - a) note the information in this paper;
 - b) note the importance of having updated contact details for the State Volcano Observatories in Table MET I-1; and
 - c) note the importance of practicing and developing inter-agency response plan to volcanic activity.
- 3.2 **Draft Conclusion/Decision 3/xx: *Conduct of volcanic ash exercises in the AFI Region***

That;

- a) **In view of the need for the provision of information to airlines and en-route aircraft before and during a volcanic eruption, the State Volcano Observatories in Table MET I-1 provide their updated contact details to the Secretariat for sharing with the States; and**
- b) **States are urged to develop volcanic ash contingency plans and conduct Volcanic Ash exercises using the guidance in the AFI Volcanic Ash Contingency Plan as contained in Appendix H of the AFI Regional ATM Contingency Plan.**

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