

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

**Fifth Meeting of the APIRG Infrastructure and Information Management Sub Group (IIM/SG/5)
(Virtual Meeting, 26-29 July 2022)**

Agenda Item 3.4: Other Air Navigation initiatives

WP3.4A Outcomes of the AFI VOLCEX/SG1 Meeting

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY
<p>This paper provides an overview of the AFI VOLCEX 2021/01 Report and presents the outcomes of the AFI Volcanic Ash Exercise Steering Group (VOLCEX SG) first meeting held virtual on 5 July 2022.</p>
<p>Action by the meeting is in paragraph 3</p>
<p>REFERENCE(S):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ APIRG/24 Report ▪ AFI VOLCEX 21/01 Report ▪ Doc 9766 Handbook on the IAVW ▪ ToR of AFI VOLCEX SG
<p>Related ICAO Strategic Objective (s): A- Safety, B- Capacity & Efficiency</p>

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Volcanic ash exercises should be conducted by ICAO on a regional basis to practice and develop inter-agency response to volcanic activity in support of safety in the event of a volcanic eruption. In accordance to the guidance provided in ICAO Doc 9766, a volcanic ash exercise steering group may be established by a Planning and Implementation Regional Group (PIRG) to coordinate all related aspects of the organization and conduction of the exercises in the geographical location of the PIRG.
- 1.2 The steering group should have representatives from, as a minimum, the concerned Volcanic Ash Advisory Centers (VAACs), Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs), airspace users and regulators. Decision 24/02 of the Twenty-fourth APIRG meeting established the AFI Volcanic Ash Exercise Steering Group (AFI VOLCEX/SG) to coordinate all aspects related to the planning and conducting of the volcanic ash exercise.

- 1.3 APIRG/23 Conclusion 23/28 called for ICAO assistance to States in planning and conducting a coordinated regional Volcanic Ash exercise by 31 December 2021.

2. DISCUSSION

- 2.1 The first AFI volcanic ash exercise, named *AFI Volcanic Ash Exercise (VOLCEX) 21/01* was conducted in November 2021. It simulated the eruption of Fogo volcano located on Fogo Island, Cape Verde and affected the Sal and Dakar Flight Information Regions (FIRs). Cape Verde was the Exercise Leader State. The details on the participants, the scenario, schedule, exercise messages and special instructions are provided in the AFI VOLCEX/SG1 Report contained in **Appendix 1** to this Paper.
- 2.2 The first meeting of AFI VOLCEX/SG was held virtually on 5 July 2022. The meeting adopted and discussed five items of its agenda, including the election of the Chairperson of the Group, the review of Volcanic Ash Exercise VOLCEX 21/01 report, the review of the ToR of the AFI VOLCEX SG, the planning for ICAO Volcanic Ash Exercise in the AFI Region in 2023 and the future Work Schedule of AFI VOLCEX SG. All the highlights and challenges noted during the AFI VOLCEX 21/01 were reviewed by the AFI VOLCEX/SG1.
- 2.3 The meeting discussed all the agenda items listed above and the outcomes are documented in the AFI VOLCEX/SG1 meeting report provided in Appendix 2. The meeting also discussed the update of the TOR and the future work programme of the AFI VOLCEX/SG. The meeting then formulated the following six decisions accordingly as contained in the report.

VOLCEX/SG1 Draft Decision 1/01: Election of the Chairperson of the Group.

That, in order to guide the work of the AFI VOLCEX Steering Group, Fredrick Etemesi from Kenya is elected as Chairperson of the Group.

VOLCEX/SG1 Draft Decision 1/02: Approval of the AFI VOLCEX 21/01 Report

That, in order to benefit from lessons learnt from the first volcanic ash exercise,

- a) **the AFI VOLCEX 21/01 Report is approved.**
- b) **the Exercise Leader is urged to consider the issues raised during the first AFI VOLCEX as contained in the AFI VOLCEX 21/01 Report and report on the implementation to the AFI VOLCEX/SG2 Meeting.**

VOLCEX/SG1 Draft Decision 1/03: Approval of the updated Terms of reference of AFI VOLCEX Steering Group and the AFI VA Exercises Operational Instructions (VOLCEX OPINS).

That; in order to provide additional guidance on attributes of the AFI VOLCEX/SG including the composition, administration and functions of the group, the updated TOR of the AFI VOLCEX Steering Group and the AFI VA Exercises Operational Instructions (VOLCEX OPINS) are endorsed as per Appendices 2 and 3 to the AFI VOLCEX/SG1 Report.

VOLCEX/SG1 Draft Decision 1/04: Conduct of the AFI VOLCEX 23/01 exercise.

That; to prepare for the conduct of the AFI VOLCEX 23/01 exercise, the Exercise Leader State is urged to develop the 2023 Exercise Directives and Schedule it for submission to the APIRG IIM/SG5 Meeting.

VOLCEX/SG1 Draft Decision 1/05: Conduct of the AFI VOLCEX 23/01 exercise in the AFI Region.

That, to conduct the second volcanic ash exercise of the AFI region, the Democratic Republic of Congo is designated as the State Leader of AFI VA Exercise 23/01.

VOLCEX/SG1 Draft Decision 1/06: Future Work programme of AFI VOLCEX SG.

That, to enable the VOLCEX/SG to achieve the group's objectives for 2022/2023, the updated work programme of the Group is endorsed as per Appendix 4 to AFI VOLCEX/SG1 Report for submission to the IIM/SG5 meeting and to APIRG/25.

- 2.4. The terms of reference of the AFI VOLCEX/SG, as adopted by the Twenty-fourth Meeting of the AFI Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG/24), through its Decision 24/02 were reviewed and updated by the SG and these are contained in Appendix B to this Paper. In addition, the Work schedule of the AFI VOLCEX SG was updated and is contained in Appendix C to this Paper.

3. Actions by the meeting.

3.1. The meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the information provided in this Paper.
- b) Review AFI VOLCEX/SG1 report for submission to APIRG/25 Meeting.
- b)c) Consider the following Decision

3.2. Draft ~~Conclusion~~/Decision 5/xx: Outcomes of the First Meeting of AFI Volcanic Ash Exercise Steering Group

That, to guide the conduct of the second AFI Volcanic ash exercise in 2023, the outcomes of the First Meeting of AFI Volcanic Ash Exercise Steering Group, held virtually in July 2022 are endorsed for submission to the APIRG/25 meeting through the APCC/7.

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