

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION



FIRST MEETING OF THE AFI VOLCANIC ASH EXERCISE STEERING GROUP (AFI VOLCEX/SG1)

REPORT

(Virtual 5 July 2022)

*Prepared by the Secretariat
July 2022*

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LIST OF DECISIONS

Volcex/SG1 Draft Decision 1/01	Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Sub-Group
Volcex/SG1 Draft Decision 1/02	Approval of the AFI VOLCEX 21/01 Report
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)
Volcex/SG1 Draft Decision 1/04	Conduct of the AFI VOLCEX 23/01 exercise
Volcex/SG1 Draft Decision 1/05	Conduct of the AFI VOLCEX 23/01 exercise in the AFI Region
Volcex/SG1 Draft Decision 1/06	Future Work programme of AFI VOLCEX SG

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: List of Participants

Appendix 2 : AFI VA Exercises Operational Instructions (VOLCEX OPINS)

Appendix 3 : Terms of Reference of the AFI Volcanic Ash Exercise Steering Group

PART I - HISTORY OF THE MEETING

1. VENUE AND DATE

1.1 The First Meeting of the Steering Group of the AFI Volcanic Ash Exercise was held virtually on 5 July 2022.

2. LANGUAGE AND DOCUMENTATION

2.1 The discussions were conducted in both English and French languages. Meeting documentation was also issued in the English and French languages.

3. ATTENDANCE

3.1 Twenty-four participants, representing five Volcano Observatory States, one Airline and ESAF and WACAF Offices attended the meeting. The list of participants is provided at **Appendix 1** to this report.

4. OPENING OF THE MEETING

4.1 Mr. Barry Kashambo, RD, ESAF Regional Office welcomed the participants, and then officially opened the Sixth Meeting of APIRG APCC.

5. AGENDA

5.1 The meeting adopted the following Agenda:

- 1. Election of the Chairperson and adoption of the agenda;**
- 2. Debrief and Review of Volcanic Ash Exercise VOLCEX 21/01;**
- 3. Review of the ToRs of the AFI VOLCEX SG;**
- 4. Planning for ICAO Volcanic Ash Exercise in the AFI Region in 2023;**
- 5. Future Work Schedule of AFI VOLCEX SG;**
- 6. Any Other Business;**
- 7. Closing Remarks.**

PART II - REPORT ON AGENDA ITEMS

AGENDA ITEM 1: Adoption of the Agenda and Election of the Chairperson of the VOLCEX SG:

1.1 The meeting adopted the agenda as attached to the invitation letter for the AFI VOLCEX/SG1 Meeting.

1.2 In accordance with the guidance provided in ICAO Doc 9766, a volcanic ash exercises steering group may be established by a PIRG to coordinate all aspects of the organization and conduction of the exercises. The steering group should have representatives from, as a minimum, the concerned volcanic ash advisory centres (VAACs), air navigation service providers (ANSPs), airspace users and regulators. The Decision 24/02 of the Twenty-fourth Meeting of APIRG held virtually from 1-8 November 2021 established the AFI Volcanic Ash Exercise Steering Group (AFI VOLCEX/SG) to play the role of coordinating the volcanic ash exercise activities in the Region in accordance with the provisions of the Steering Group. In this regard, the meeting elected a chairperson from the representatives of States to coordinate the activities of Group. The meeting formulated the following decision accordingly:

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.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Debrief and Review of Volcanic Ash Exercise VOLCEX 21/01:

The ICAO AFI volcanic ash exercise conducted in November 2021, named AFI VOLCEX 21/01, simulated the eruption of Fogo volcano (volcano number: 384010, position Lat: 14° 56' N; Long: 24° 20' W) located on Fogo Island, Cabo Verde affecting Sal and Dakar Flight Information Regions (FIRs).

The meeting reviewed the report of the AFI VOLCEX 21/01 and acknowledged the efforts made by Cape Verde to conduct this regional event in its capacity of the Exercise Leader State. The overall objective of AFI VOLCEX 21/01 was to maintain enhanced safety, regularity, and efficiency in support of aviation industry in the event of a volcanic eruption by demonstrating the provision/exchange of volcanic ash information to support flexible airspace management, improved situational awareness and collaborative decision making, and dynamically optimized flight trajectory planning.

The meeting call for consideration of the lessons learnt from the first exercise and nominate the Lead State for the 2023 VOLCEX. The following decision was formulated accordingly:

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;**
- c) **Report on the implementation to the AFI VOLCEX/SG2 Meeting.**

AGENDA ITEM 3: Review of the ToR of the AFI VOLCEX SG.

The terms of reference of the AFI VOLCEX/SG, was approved by the Twenty-fourth Meeting of the AFI Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG/24), through its Decision 24/02 - Establishment of a Volcanic Ash Exercises Steering Group in the AFI Region.

The meeting reviewed and updated the terms of reference of the AFI VOLCEX/SG to this paper to provide additional guidance on attributes of the AFI VOLCEX/SG including the composition, administration, and functions of the group. The meeting updated the Volcanic Ash Operation Instructions accordingly. The following decision was formulated.

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.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Planning for ICAO Volcanic Ash Exercise in the AFI Region in 2023.

Under this item, the meeting discussed the matters related the planning of the AFI volcanic ash exercise. According to the AFI Volcanic Ash Exercise Operational Instructions (AFI VOLCEX OPINS) and Directives endorsed by the Decision 24/ 28 of APIRG/24 to guide the conduct of the volcanic ash exercise in the AFI region, the volcanic ash exercise should be planned and conducted every two years in the AFI region. As the first exercise was conducted in November 2021, the meeting formulated the following decision.

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.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Future Work programme of AFI VOLCEX SG.

The meeting reviewed the work programme of the Steering Group, identified relevant tasks and proposed a work program of the Steering for 2023. The meeting then developed a list of 17 tasks contributing towards the overall work plan and objectives of the group for 2022/2023. The meeting also discussed the matter related to the leader of the 2023 exercise and nominated Democratic Republic of Congo as the Exercise Leader of the AFI VOLCEX 23/01. The meeting formulated the following decisions accordingly.

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/SG Report for submission to the IIM/SG5 meeting and to APIRG/25.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Any other business

There was no discussion under this Agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Closing.

5.1. The meeting adjourned at 0300 UTC after the Closing Remarks by the ICAO ESAF Regional Director.