



**Twenty First Meeting of the Africa-Indian Ocean Planning and Implementation Regional Group  
(APIRG/21)  
(Nairobi, Kenya, 9 – 11 October 2017)**

**Agenda Item 5: Regional Air Navigation Issues**

**5.2: Industry initiatives and other air navigation issues**

**PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE AFI VACP**

*(Presented by Secretariat)*

**SUMMARY**

This information paper propose improvements to the AFI VACP following the Regional Awareness Seminar on the AFI Air Traffic Management (ATM) Volcanic Ash Contingency Plan (VACP) which was conducted as an ICAO Special Implementation Project (SIP) approved by the Council to provide assistance pursuant to APIRG Conclusion 18/53, and was hosted by Cameroon Civil Aviation Authority at the Hotel Sawa in Douala, Cameroon, from 4 to 7 September 2017.

**Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3**

**REFERENCE(S):**

- Doc 4444
- Doc 976,
- Doc 9691
- APIRG/18 and APIRG/19 Reports
- EUR/NAT VACP
- IP/13

**Related ICAO Strategic Objective(s):** *A – Safety, B – Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency, D – Economic Development of Air Transport, and E – Environmental Protection.*

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Following APIRG Meeting Conclusion 19/19 which requires States in the AFI region to develop Volcanic Ash Contingency Plans and append them to their ATM Contingency Plan; and APIRG Meeting Conclusion 18/53 which directs ICAO Regional Offices of Dakar and Nairobi through the ATM/MET Task Force, to conduct regional awareness seminars on the AFI ATM Volcanic Ash Contingency Plan in view of:

- a) Making all aviation stockholders in the AFI region aware of ATM VACP
- b) Supporting its implementation
- c) Proposing further improvements to the plan

1.2 A Regional Awareness Seminar on the AFI Air Traffic Management Volcanic Ash Contingency Plan was conducted as an ICAO Special Implementation Project (SIP) in Douala, Cameroon, from 4 to 7 September 2017 and hosted by Cameroon Civil Aviation Authority.

## **2. DISCUSSION**

2.1 The Regional Awareness Seminar on the AFI Air Traffic Management Volcanic Ash conducted a review of the VACP which was adopted by APIRG.

2.2 The participants were presented with the EUR/NAT VACP, which was compared with the AFI VACP. They provided comments regarding the future amendments to be undertaken in the AFI VACP and highlighted the deficiencies in communication at regional level which is an obstacle to ensuring reliable and efficient coordination among the agencies during an event of crisis.

2.3 Pursuant to APIRG 18/53 (c), the seminar constituted a Small Working Group (SMG) that reviewed the AFI Volcanic Ash Contingency Plan for improvements and proposed a draft AFI VACP attached as Appendix to this information paper for further consideration by the APIRG Sub-groups.

## **3. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The meeting is invited to note the information contained in this information paper and the Appendix.