



DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION-MIDDLE EAST REGION

Third Meeting (DGCA-MID/3) (Doha, Qatar, 27-29 April 2015)

Agenda Item 5: Aviation Safety

COORDINATION BETWEEN MIDANPIRG AND RASG-MID

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper highlights the need for a more formalized and improved mechanism for coordination between MIDANPIRG and RASG-MID.

Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 While RASGs have been established to initially deal with safety issues directly related to flight operations, planning should be initiated as soon as circumstances permit to adopt systems approach so that RASGs address safety issues from an integrated perspective that includes flight operations, aerodrome and ATM safety.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Since the establishment of the RASG-MID the subject of necessary coordination between MIDANPIRG and RASG-MID was addressed. In this respect, it was highlighted that while MIDANPIRG does review safety issues, its mandate is to deal with air navigation plans at a regional level with ICAO playing a key leadership role. It is expected that States will provide advice on how the safety issues to be covered by the RASG-MID and those that should remain with MIDANPIRG. The coordination between MIDANPIRG and RASG-MID is reflected also in the terms of reference (TOR) for RASG-MID, where it is stated that the ICAO Middle East Regional Director will be serving as Secretary of the RASG and PIRG to balance the Secretariat responsibilities between these two regional groups. The ICAO Secretariat was also requested to ensure that the safety issues raised by MIDANPIRG and RASG-MID are fully coordinated.

2.2 Based on the above, the meeting may wish to note that RASG-MID and MIDANPIRG have been coordinating some safety-related issues such as mitigation measures for Controlled Flight Into Terrain CFIT (unstabilized approaches) and call sign confusion and similarity. Other subjects of interest to both groups have been identified, in particular those related to ATM safety such as SMS implementation for ANS/ATM, Language Proficiency for Air Traffic Controllers, RVSM safety monitoring, etc.

2.3 The ICAO Secretariat has been presenting on regular basis working papers to the MIDANPIRG meetings highlighting the relevant RASG-MID activities and the subjects which need to be coordinated between both Groups and vice-versa.

2.4 The meeting may wish to note that the Second PIRG-RASG Meeting was held in ICAO Headquarters, Montreal on 5 February 2015. The meeting was apprised of the APAC experience with regard to the coordination mechanism between APANPIRG and RASG-APAC.

2.5 The RASG-MID/4 meeting (Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 30 March – 1 April 2015) was apprised of the outcome of the Second PIRG-RASG Meeting. It was highlighted, in particular, that each region should establish a mechanism for PIRG-RASG coordination and include a description of this mechanism in the PIRG and RASG Procedural Handbooks by December 2015. The coordination should include, in addition to the existing cross-participation and briefing between regional groups by its Chairpersons, a list of subject areas in which both Groups may have an interest with a clear assignment of leadership, based on the most relevant expertise among the membership of the two Groups and also their past and ongoing related activities.

2.6 In order to further improve the coordination mechanism between MIDANPIRG and RASG-MID and considering the outcome of the Second PIRG-RASG Meeting and the experience of other Regions, in particular the Asia-Pacific Region, the following is proposed:

- the Chairperson(s) of MIDANPIRG should attend the RASG-MID meetings;
- the Chairperson(s) of RASG-MID should attend the MIDANPIRG meetings;
- the ICAO MID Regional Office to organize on a yearly basis a MIDANPIRG-RASG-MID Coordination meeting to be attended by the Chairpersons of both Groups and their subsidiary bodies, in order to follow-up on the activities being coordinated between the two Groups, agree on the level of involvement of the relevant subsidiary bodies, address any roadblocks and identify additional subjects, which need to be addressed by/coordinated between both Groups; and
- a list of subject areas in which both Groups may have an interest, with a clear assignment of leadership, would be first presented to the MIDANPIRG/15 meeting (Bahrain, 8-11 June 2015) and endorsed at a later stage by the First MIDANPIRG-RASG-MID Coordination meeting.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to agree:

- a) on the proposals in para. 2.5 and 2.6; and
- b) that the procedural handbooks of MIDANPIRG and RASG-MID be updated before the end of 2015 to include the agreed coordination mechanism.