



## DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION-MIDDLE EAST REGION

### Sixth Meeting (DGCA-MID/6) (Abu Dhabi, UAE, 1-3 November 2022)

#### Agenda Item 5: Aviation Safety and Air Navigation

#### MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT AND INCIDENT INVESTIGATION REGIONAL COOPERATION MECHANISM - MENA ARCM

(Presented by Saudi Arabia)

#### SUMMARY

This paper presents background of establishing and the progress achieved by the Middle East and North Africa Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation Regional Cooperation Mechanism (MENA ARCM) towards its defined objectives. It also points out the objectives of the MENA ARCM and the benefits for the Member States. Actions by the meeting are stipulated at paragraph 3.

#### REFERENCES

- Report of the First Meeting of The MENA ARCM Committee (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 9-11 May 2022).
- Report of the Second Meeting of The MENA ARCM Committee (Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 11-12 September 2022).
- MIDANPIRG/18 & RASG-MID/8-WP/13 (01/02/2021).

### 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Strategy for the enhancement of cooperation among the MENA States in the provision of AIG functions was endorsed by the DGCA-MID/4 meeting (Muscat, Oman, 17 – 19 October 2017).

1.2 The DGCA-MID/5 (Kuwait, 4 – 6 November 2019) meeting, through Conclusion 5/4, endorsed the MENA AIG Regional Cooperation Mechanism (MENA ARCM).

1.3 The RSC/7 meeting (Cairo, Egypt, 3 – 5 March 2020), through Conclusion 7/13, endorsed MENA AIG Regional Cooperation Mechanism (MENA ARCM) Action Plan.

1.4 The AIIG/1 virtual meeting (7-9 September 2021) reviewed the Draft MENA ARCM MoU and agreed to its presentation to the 5th DGCA-MID virtual meeting for endorsement.

1.5 The meeting may wish to note that the 5<sup>th</sup> virtual DGCA-MID meeting reviewed and endorsed the MENA ARCM MoU.

1.6 The meeting may also wish to note that the MENA AIG Regional Cooperation Mechanism (MENA ARCM) MoU (in both languages Arabic and English) has been circulated to the States for signature through a State Letter SL File Ref.: ME 4/1.9 - 21/182, dated 1 November 2021 and a reminder dated 13 January 2022.

1.7 The meeting may wish to note that during the Future Aviation Forum in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 9-11 May 2022, the number of States that signed the MENA ARCM MoU reached fourteen, namely Djibouti, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, UAE, and Yemen. In addition, the MENA ARCM started officially its operation during the Future Aviation Forum in Riyadh.

## **2. DISCUSSION**

2.1 The disparity level in the area of AIG between the MENA ARCM Member States offers a great opportunity for initiating capacity-building initiatives and sharing best practices across the entire region. Aviation is not border delimited and accordingly, the focus should be on the aviation development of the entire region, highlighting the streamline of available resources and mutualisation of means.

2.2 The MENA ARCM is a mechanism, which will foster the cooperation among MENA Member States for the provision of AIG functions. The ARCM will create a platform to support States requesting assistance for fulfilling their investigation obligations. This will make investigation capabilities and outcomes of the investigation within the Region more effective.

2.3 The ARCM is NOT an entity with legal status, and its work will be with no financial implications. Any expenses for applying this ARCM provisions will be covered by the Member State requesting such services or as agreed by both parties (requestor and provider(s)).

2.4 The main objectives of the MENA ARCM are to:

2.4.1 Increase and facilitate cooperation and collaboration among ARCM Member States with respect to aircraft accident and incident investigation;

2.4.2 Make utmost use of AIG resources available in the MENA Member States, including expertise, training capabilities, equipment, investigation know-how and information, standards and guidance, etc.;

2.4.3 Facilitate actions aiming at increasing the qualifications and experience of accident investigators in MENA Member States;

2.4.4 Encourage the development of investigation common standards, rules and regulations consistent with the ICAO provisions. The MENA Member States will also be encouraged to use a standard Template of investigation regulations for the development of their National Regulations; and

2.4.5 Encourage the development of a common accident and incident database for the MENA Member States and utilize this database for identifying operational safety risks and their corresponding controls.

2.5 The First Meeting of Middle East and North Africa Aircraft Accident and incident Investigation Regional Cooperation Mechanism (MENA ARCM) Committee was successfully held during the Future Aviation Forum in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 9-11 May 2022 at King Abdulaziz International Conference Centre, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

2.6 The Second Meeting of Middle East North Africa Aircraft Accident and incident Investigation Regional Cooperation Mechanism (MENA ARCM) Committee was held at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia from 11 to 12 September 2022. Twelve of the member States attended, and work is in progress to develop the MENA ARCM database and implementation mechanisms.

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

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the updated progress on MENA ARCM establishment and operation;
- b) encourage States that didn't yet sign the MENA ARCM MoU to highly consider it; and
- c) urge all States to support activities of MENA ARCM.

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