



*International Civil Aviation Organization*

## **MIDANPIRG/18 and RASG-MID/8 Virtual Meetings**

*(15 – 22 February 2021)*

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### **Agenda Item 6: Dates and Venue of MINDAPIRG/19 and RASG-MID/9**

#### **DATES AND VENUE OF MINDANPIRG/19 AND RASG-MID/9**

*(Presented by the Secretariat)*

##### **SUMMARY**

The aim of this paper is to agree on the dates and venue of the Nineteenth meeting of the Middle East Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Group (MIDANPIRG/19) and Ninth Meeting of the Regional Aviation Safety Group – Middle East (RASG-MID/9), taking into consideration the new Terms of Reference of the PIRGs and RASGs.

Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The meeting may wish to recall that the DGCA-MID/5 meeting (Kuwait, 4-6 November 2019), through DGCA-MID/5 Conclusion 5/2 “Frequency of the MIDANPIRG and RASG-MID Meetings”, agreed that the MIDANPIRG and RASG-MID should meet on biennial basis (every two years), concurrently (similar to the MIDANPIRG/17 and RASG-MID/7), to the extent possible, around March-April of the odd years (2021, 2023, 2025, etc.). The MIDANPIRG Steering Group and the RASG-MID Steering Committee should meet also on biennial basis during the even years (2020, 2022, 2024, 2026, etc.).

1.2 During the 40th Session of the ICAO Assembly, it was decided to align the meeting schedule of the Planning and Implementation Regional Groups (PIRGs) and Regional Aviation Safety Groups (RASGs) with the annual reporting requirement to the Council. Accordingly, the Council, (C-DEC 219/7), during the Review of Assembly Resolutions and Decisions working paper (C-WP/14983, Rev. 2), implemented the Assembly decision and on 7 August 2020, the President of the ICAO Council approved the amendment of the Terms of Reference of the PIRGs and RASGs to include annual meetings.

### **2. DISCUSSION**

2.1 The Seventh Meeting of the MIDANPIRG Steering Group (MSG/7), which was held virtually from 1 to 3 September 2020, noted with concern that, despite the Council Decision (C-DEC 208/14), which stated clearly that *the regional groups should have the flexibility to apply the most effective and efficient organizational structure and meeting modalities that best suit the characteristics of each region’s implementation work programme, while maintaining alignment with the regional work programme, Global Plans and Council mandate given to the Group*; the new TOR for PIRGs and RASGs approved by the President of the Council on 7 August 2020 included the requirement for PIRGs and RASGs to meet on an annual basis.

2.2 It was recalled that Assembly Resolution A40-5, bullet 7 “*Instructs the Council to ensure that PIRGs and RASGs report on an annual basis implementation progress as well as challenges experienced*”; and does not require the PIRGs and RASGs to meet on an annual basis.

2.3 In this respect, it was highlighted that the First Vice-Chairperson of MIDANPIRG, who represented the Group when the subject was discussed during the Global Forum on PIRGs and RASGs, (Montreal, 13 December 2017), the ANConf/13 (Montreal, 9-19 October 2018) and A40 (Montreal, 24 September – 4 October 2019), made it very clear that considering the MID Region specificities and available resources and facilities in both the MID States and MID Regional Office, it would be impossible for MIDANPIRG to meet on an annual basis.

2.4 Based on all the above, the MSG/7 meeting agreed through its Draft Decision 7/2, that *considering the new generic Terms of Reference of PIRGs approved by the President of the Council on 7 August 2020 mandating the need for PIRGs to meet on annual basis the MIDANPIRG be organized on annual basis in an alternate manner between face-to-face and virtual meetings, pending final approval by MIDANPIRG.*

2.5 With respect to the venue of the MIDANPIRG and RASG-MID, the meeting may wish to recall that MIDANPIRG/18 & RASG-MID/8 were to be hosted by Saudi Arabia. However, they are held on a virtual basis due to restrictions on face-to-face meeting resulted from COVID-19 pandemic. It's to be highlighted that according to the new Terms of Reference of the PIRGs and RASGs, the hosting of MIDANPIRG and RASG-MID outside the ICAO Regional Offices would need an approval by the President of the ICAO Council

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

3.1 The meeting is invited to agree on the dates and venue of the MIDANPIRG/19 and RASG-MID/9 meeting, taking into consideration the new Terms of Reference of the PIRGs and RASGs and outcome of the MSG/7 meeting on the subject.