



International Civil Aviation Organization

**Middle East Air Navigation Planning and
Implementation Regional Group**

**Fifteenth Meeting (MIDANPIRG/15)
(Bahrain, 8 – 11 June 2015)**

Agenda Item 5.2.2: Specific Air Navigation issues

**LACK OF AFTN MONITORING AND ESCALATION PROCEDURES
IN THE ICAO MIDDLE EAST REGION**

(Presented by IATA)

SUMMARY

IATA Member Airlines continue to experience disruptions and instabilities of the AFTN network particularly from the ICAO Middle East Region to the East African Region. Not only does there appear to be a lack of monitoring of the AFTN messaging flows but also limited regional oversight to resolve. These on-going issues represent a significant and increasing safety risk.

Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 During the past 24 months, IATA member Airlines have experienced disruptions and failures of the AFTN network specifically from the ICAO Middle East Region to the East African Region – ATS-FPLs and FPL associated messages sent through the AFTN network were not received at the recipient's end, which is a safety concern.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 IATA Member Airlines have experienced disruptions and instabilities of the AFTN network specifically from the ICAO Middle East Region to the East African Region. Should a disruption exist with the consequence that ATS-FPLs and FPL associated messages cannot be sent through the AFTN network, this represents a safety concern.

2.2 Brining up the topic to the attention of the local AIS/Communication Centre showed a lack of a clear process to escalate and to identify the location/root cause of the problem that causes the AFTN messaging traffic disruption.

2.3 There seems to be a further issue with a lack of continuously monitoring the status of AFTN messaging connectivity on the ANSP side. It appears that the relevant ATS/AIS Authority is unaware of any problem until an airline raises an issue or complains.

2.4 The IATA Member Airlines request to see a clear process in case of an AFTN message disruption.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) discuss the information contained in this paper; and
- b) establish MID-Region wide processes among all ANSPs in case of the notice of an AFTM message disruption:
 - to identify the root cause;
 - to inform all stakeholders of the problem and to conduct investigation to rectify the problem; and
 - to consider ad-hoc contingency scenarios;

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