



*International Civil Aviation Organization*

**MIDANPIRG/21 and RASG-MID/11 Meeting**

*(Abu Dhabi, UAE, 4 - 8 March 2024)*

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**Agenda Item 4.2: Outcomes of the AIIG/MENA ARCM Meetings**

OUTCOMES OF THE AIIG/MENA ARCM MEETINGS

*(Presented by the Secretariat)*

<b>SUMMARY</b>
This paper presents the outcome of the MENA ARCM meetings. Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.
<b>REFERENCES</b>
- MIDANPIRG/20-RASG-MID/10 Report - MENA ARCM/3&4 Reports



**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The Third Meeting of Middle East North Africa Aircraft Accident and incident Investigation Regional Cooperation Mechanism (MENA ARCM) Committee was held at Dubai, UAE from 2 to 4 May 2023 back-to-back with “The Future of Aviation safety and Aircraft Accident Investigation” Symposium.

1.2 The Third MENA ARCM meeting was attended by a total of thirty-seven (37) participants from nine (9) MENA ARCM Member States (Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco Oman, Saudi Arabia, and UAE), one (1) from other States (Qatar) and two (2) Organizations (ACAO and ICAO).

1.3 The Fourth Meeting of Middle East North Africa Aircraft Accident and incident Investigation Regional Cooperation Mechanism (MENA ARCM) Committee and Workshop was held at Rabat, Morocco, from 10 to 12 July 2023. The workshop theme: “The Prevention of Aircraft Accidents and Incidents through the Collection & Analysis of Safety Data & Safety Information.

1.4 The meeting was attended by a total of Thirty-six (36) participants from nine (9) MENA ARCM Member States (Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco Oman, Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Yemen), one (1) from other States (Qatar) and Four (4) Organizations (ACAO, ECAC, ICAO, and IFALPA).

## 2. DISCUSSION

### *MENA ARCM/3 Meeting*

#### *DATABASE ENHANCEMENT*

2.1 The MENA ARCM/3 meeting was apprised with appreciation of the work progress achieved on the MENA ARCM database management. Accordingly, the meeting noted, with appreciation:

- The update on the database work progress provided by the MENA ARCM Coordinator.
- Analysis of the responses provided by the States on the database questionnaire presented by the MENA ARCM Coordinator.
- The analysis shows that eight (8) States out of the 14 Member States responded to the questionnaire and provided an updated information. Therefore, MENA ARCM States which did not so are urged to complete and send the questionnaire to the MENA ARCM Coordinator at the earliest.
- The (7) seven areas and (26) twenty-six subareas of cooperation were presented including human resources and technical capabilities of the Member States.

The MENA ARCM/3 also agreed on the following:

- The criteria and parameters of the Database presented by the MENA ARCM Coordinator.
- Initially use a shared folders (excel sheet) for data collection and management. ACAO will assist in developing and hosting the shared-folder, and the MENA ARCM Coordinator to manage and update it.
- The MENA ARCM Coordinator to draft a technical and financial project proposal in coordination with ACAO and ICAO. In addition, ICAO & ACAO to support in identifying the resource mobilization and funds for the project.
- Establish an online platform for the management of the database and the technical assistance activities.

#### *Technical Assistance*

2.2 The MEN ARCM/3 meeting was provided with a progress update on the MENA ARCM technical assistance and noted the following:

- The technical assistance process based on the UAE proposal has been presented. It includes two parallel mechanisms using excel sheet or online platform. Dedicated forms have been established for that process.
- Mauritanian and Libyan representatives requested for training support in the field of accident investigation. It has been recommended to use the excel sheet process for that purpose.
- Moroccan AIB kindly offered free seats for MENA ARCM member states to participate in Aircraft accident investigation training course planned for 2023.
- Oman Transport Safety Bureau (OTSB) kindly offered free seats for MENA ARCM Member States to participate in the upcoming specialized courses related to Air Accident investigation organized with the support of International Society of Air Safety Investigators (ISASI).

- The technical assistance process has been insightfully discussed, and the decision has been taken to use it as it is and to review it based on the lessons learnt.
- The Key Performance Indicators has been presented and validated.
- The Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) has been presented and the need for it was discussed. However, as paragraph 6 of the MENA ARCM MoU refers, it has been agreed that there is no need for NDA signature by the MENA ARCM States especially with the consideration that the signature would require a complicated process at national level. This shall not prevent States from signing it or signing any equivalent statement for a case-by-case bilateral assistance program.

#### ***Event Risk Classification Methodologies workshop***

2.3 The MENA ARCM/3 meeting noted, with appreciation, the workshop provided by ICAO MID Office on the Aviation Risk Management Solution – Event Risk Classification (ARMS - ERC) and European Risk Classification Scheme (ERCS) to support States to identify the precursors to a safety event before they contribute to an accident or serious incident; a way of estimating how close it was to the potential accident outcome; enable a harmonized assessment of aviation safety risks across the different technical domains; and enable States and organizations to assess and compare the relative risks associated with different activities and adjust their oversight and safety mitigation strategies. It also enables competent authorities to identify high risk or high severity occurrences that require immediate action.

#### ***ICAO & GCAA Symposium: The Future of Aviation safety and Aircraft Accident Investigation***

2.4 The meeting may wish to note that the General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), in cooperation with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has successfully organized the 1st "Future of Aviation Safety and Aircraft Accident Investigation" Symposium in Dubai, during 3 to 4 May 2023. Experts and authorities from States, international organizations, and industry discussed the challenges of aviation safety and accident investigation in the face of technological advancements and new types of operations.

2.5 The symposium highlighted the importance of international cooperation in addressing global issues and improving aviation safety standards. The event included keynote speeches, presentations, and panel discussions on topics such as Unmanned Traffic Management and commercial space operations. The symposium provided a forum for experts to exchange ideas and best practices to enhance aviation safety worldwide.

#### ***MENA ARCM/4 Meeting***

##### ***Updated Progress on Database***

2.6 The MENA ARCM/4 meeting was informed about the analysis of the responses received from the States on the database questionnaire.

2.7 The meeting noted that the analysis shows that Nine (9) States out of the 14 Member States responded to the questionnaire and provided updated information. Therefore, MENA ARCM States which did not so are urged to complete and send the questionnaire to the MENA ARCM Coordinator at the earliest.

2.8 The MENA ARCM/4 meeting also noted that (7) seven areas and (26) twenty-six subareas of cooperation were presented including human resources and technical capabilities of the Member States.

***Update on MENA ARCM Technical Assistance Process***

2.9 The MENA ARCM/4 meeting agreed to establish a Logo for MENA ARCM to strengthen the MENA ARCM identity. In addition, the meeting noted that The MENA ARCM Member States are invited to send their Logo proposals to the MENA ARCM Coordinator by the end of September 2023 for consideration. The MENA ARCM Chairpersons, coordinator, ACAO and ICAO will select the appropriate one.

2.10 The MENA ARCM/4 meeting noted with appreciation IFALPA kindly offered for the use of IFALPA Training capabilities for the purpose of aircraft accident investigation.

2.11 The MEN ARCM/4 meeting was informed that a biannual MENA ARCM progress status report to be submitted to the Chairpersons by the MENA ARCM Coordinator for their perusal. Then once finalized, it will be circulated to the MENA ARCM Members for information.

2.12 The MENA ARCM/4 meeting also noted with appreciation the updated progress on MENA ARCM Technical Assistance process. To assess the effectiveness of such process, it was decided the use of onsite training case between the Moroccan AIB and KSA AIB for trial.

2.13 The MENA ARCM/4 meeting was also informed that the MENA ARCM Technical Assistance Standard Operation procedures (SOP) is being developed and will be shared by the MENA ARCM Coordinator.

***Shared folders and online platform update***

2.14 The MENA ARCM/4 meeting noted that ACAO established an online Share-folder for data collection and management. A demonstration of the share-folder has been provided in order to familiarize the users with the tool.

2.15 The MENA ARCM/4 meeting was informed that for ease of the use of the share-folder, a testing phase will be organized in the upcoming months including awareness virtual training.

2.16 The meeting agreed to allow the sharing of future events via the share-folder as requested by Oman.

2.17 The MENA ARCM/4 meeting also noted that the technical assistance Form will continue to be used through emails awaiting the official launch of the use of the share-folder.

2.18 The meeting MENA ARCM/4 also agreed that the Share-folder access and use be only limited for MENA ARCM Member States considering the data sensitivity and protection.

2.19 The meeting MENA ARCM/4 noted that the cost estimation related to the MENA ARCM online database platform to be prepared by MENA ARCM Coordinator, ACAO, and ICAO and be shared with Chairpersons by the end of the 2023 for consideration.

2.20 The meeting MENA ARCM/4 also agreed that the States which will be hosting the upcoming MENA ARCM meetings may consider the establishment of the interpreter system from English language to Arabic language during the meetings.

***RASG-MID/10 Meeting Outcome***

2.21 The MENA ARCM/4 meeting was informed about the outcome of RASG-MID/10.

2.22 The MENA ARCM/4 meeting recognized the importance of AIG personnel participation during the RASG-MID meetings and requested the ICAO MID office to extend the

invitation letter to the accident investigation authorities (AIAs) to attend and participate in the upcoming RASG-MID meetings. For the aircraft accident investigation managed under CAAs, it will be indicated in the SLs the extension of the invitation for the AIG personnel as well to participate in the RASG-MID meetings.

### ***ICAO Annex 19 Amendment 2 Proposals***

2.23 The MENA ARCM/4 meeting noted with appreciation the latest update on Safety Management activities, including the content of Amendment 2 to Annex 19 and the 5th edition of the Safety Management Manual ICAO Doc 9859.

### ***The Prevention of Aircraft Accidents and Incidents Through the Collection & Analysis of Safety Data & Safety Information Workshop***

2.24 The meeting may wish to note that the Fourth Meeting of Middle East North Africa Aircraft Accident and incident Investigation Regional Cooperation Mechanism (MENA ARCM) Committee was held at Rabat, Morocco from 10 to 12 July 2023 back-to-back with “The Prevention of Aircraft Accidents and Incidents through the Collection & Analysis of Safety Data & Information” Workshop.

2.25 The workshop was attended by a total of hundred and twelve (112) participants from States, international organizations, and industry and discussed the challenges faced in the collection of safety data & safety information and explored various aspects of safety data collection and analysis. The main outcome of the workshop:

- Highlighted that advanced technologies and digital systems provide us with real-time monitoring, maintenance records, flight data, and numerous other valuable sources. Nevertheless, having data alone is not enough.
- Encouraged States and industry for the development of robust frameworks and mechanisms to collect, collate, and analyze safety data and safety information effectively.
- Urged states and industry to embrace a culture of data-driven safety, create and promote a non-punitive safety culture, and foster a culture of transparency and collaboration among all stakeholders.

### ***MENASASI Seminar***

2.26 The meeting may wish to note that the MENASASI Seminar was hosted in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia (8-9 Nov 2023) back-to-back with the Health & Safety Hazards in Air Accidents Response and Evidence Awareness for Air Accidents Responders workshop provided by Cranfield University on 7 Nov 2023.

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

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the progress made by the MENA ARCM & AIIG;
- b) continue to support the MENA ARCM & AIIG activities and meetings; and
- c) encourage States to sign the MENA ARCM MoU, if not yet done.