



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION
AFI PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION REGIONAL GROUP (APIRG)
FIRST MEETING OF THE ATM/MET TASK FORCE (ATM/MET/1)
(Nairobi, Kenya, 10-11 June 2013)

Agenda Item 3: Review and update the draft AFI ATM Volcanic Ash Contingency Plan (VACP)

UPDATING THE DRAFT AFI ATM
VOLCANIC ASH CONTINGENCY PLAN ADOPTED BY APIRG/18

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper reviews the AFI ATM volcanic ash contingency plan (VACP) adopted by the eighteenth meeting of the AFI Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG/18). The VACP is reviewed to reflect the VACP template provided by the International volcanic ash task Force (IVATF) using the structure of the APIRG ATM Contingency Plan template.

1. **Introduction**

1.1 The meeting will recall that in response to the unprecedented disruptions to commercial air traffic in Europe caused by the eruption of Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull volcano in April 2010, ICAO has established an International Volcanic Ash Task Force to drive the development of a global safety risk management framework and urge regional implementation groups (PIRGs) to improve existing regional volcanic ash contingency plans and establish new plans where such plans do not exist.

1.2 In this regard, the EUR/NAT regions combined and improved their existing contingency plans and the CAR/SAM and ASIA/PAC regions developed new contingency plans. The remaining regions were urged to develop their plans by 2012. To this end a draft volcanic ash contingency plan for the AFI region was developed by the MET and APIRG ATM/AIS/SAR Sub-groups and adopted by APIRG/18 through Conclusion 18/14. The above mentioned Sub-groups were urged to finalize the development of the AFI volcanic Ash Contingency Plan and to distribute the finalized Plan "to States for implementation, without awaiting the next meeting of APIRG.

1.3 The AFI VACP given in **Appendix A** to this paper, is reviewed and adapted to the template provided by International volcanic ash task Force (IVATF), for consideration by the meeting. The sections or parts of the draft VACP highlighted in yellow are adapted parts of the AFI VACP on the IVAT Template.

2. Discussion

2.1 APIRG/18 recalled that within and adjacent to the AFI Region there were areas of volcanic activity which were likely to affect flight operation in the AFI Region. In this regard, the Group agreed to the development of the AFI Volcanic Ash Contingency Plan (VACP).

2.2 A draft VACP was initially developed by adapting the EUR/NAT VACP in the AFI environment and then adopted by APIRG/18 in April 2012 through Conclusion 18/14. In August 2012, the International Volcanic Ash Task Force (IVATF) developed a VACP Template given in **Appendix B**, to harmonize the VACPs within ICAO regions. The Template was then distributed to all ICAO regional offices for use by the PIRGs to improve their VACPs.

2.3 Due to the immediate need for the AFI VACP, the Group urged MET and ATM/AIS/SAR Sub-groups to finalize the development of the AFI VACP and to distribute the finalized Plan to States for implementation, without awaiting the next meeting of APIRG.

2.4 For a better review and updates of the draft AFI VACP, the APIRG MET and ATM/AIS/SAR Sub-groups are submitting the revised VACP for approval and distribution to AFI States. As an ATM contingency plan, the AFI VACP should have the structure of the APIRG ATM Contingency Plan template. In this regard, the Task Force may wish to formulate the following decision:

Decision 1/xx: Adoption of the AFI VACP

That, the contingency plan given at Appendix A is revised in accordance with the IVATF VACP and APIRG ATM Contingency Plan Templates, and submitted to the ATM/AIS/SAR Sub-group for distribution to AFI States.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The task Force is invited to:

- a) Note the information in this paper,
- b) Review Appendix A to this paper and,
- c) decide on the above Decision proposed for the Task Force consideration.