



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

**Fourth meeting of the AFI Volcanic Ash Exercises Steering Group
(AFI VOLCEX/SG4)***(Virtual, 1 April 2025)***Agenda Item 3.2 : Planning for future ICAO volcanic ash exercises in the AFI region****WP3.2A Exercise Leader and Directing Staff***(Presented by the Secretariat)*

SUMMARY
<p>This paper provide an update on the roles of the Exercise Leader and the Directing Staff while also providing an overview of the Directing Staff's composition.</p> <p>Action by the meeting in paragraph 3</p>
<p>REFERENCE(S):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ APIRG/27 Report▪ Doc 9766 Handbook on the IAVW▪ AFI VA Exercises Directive for Exercise VOLCEX 21-01 Rev0.1▪ AFI VAA Exercises Operational Instructions VOLCEX OPINS Rev0.1▪ Terms of Reference of the AFI VOLCEX Steering Group
<p>Related ICAO Strategic Objective(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A – <i>Safety</i>, B – <i>Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency</i>

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. As per the provisions of the AFI Volcanic Ash Exercise Operational Instructions, the Exercise Leader is proposed by the Steering Group to the AASPG IIM Sub-Group.
- 1.2. The Exercise Leader is in charge of coordinating the technical preparation of the exercise, including the production of the Exercise Directive and Final Exercise Report.
- 1.3. He is responsible for:
 - a) Providing reports during debriefing meetings on volcanic ash exercise events in the AFI Region.
 - b) Publishing the exercise directive.
 - c) Reporting lessons learned and recommending improvements for the regional volcanic ash ATM contingency plan and ICAO related provisions.
 - d) Making the GO/NO-GO decision for the volcanic ash exercise.
 - e) Serving as the supervisor of the Directing Staff in the exercise.

2. DISCUSSION

Volcanic ash exercise Leader

- 2.1 The APIRG/25 meeting, held in Kigali, Rwanda from 7 to 11 November 2022, through Decision 25/18, endorsed the report of the first AFI volcanic ash exercise conducted in November 2021 under the leadership Cabo Verde as the Exercise Leader State.
- 2.2 The AFI second volcanic ash exercise was successfully conducted on 7 December 2023 under the lead of the Democratic Republic of Congo. This exercise aimed to enhance coordination, message distribution, and contingency management.
- 2.3 The APIRG/27 meeting, while commending the work accomplished by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, approved Kenya's proposal to lead the third volcanic ash exercise in 2025.
- 2.4 Coordination is ongoing with Kenya to provide contact details of the State's focal points (one from the Civil Aviation Authority and another from the Air Navigation Services Provider) for the 2025 volcanic ash exercise.
- 2.5 AFI Volcano Observatory States, ANSPs, Regulators, SAR, Airlines, International Organizations, etc., are urged to participate in the third exercise scheduled in November 2025.

Directing Staff

- 2.6 The Directing Staff comprises experts from Meteorological Watch Offices, Volcanic Ash Advisory Centres, NOTAM Offices, ANSPs, Regulators, SAR, etc.
- 2.7 They design the exercise scenario, conduct the exercise, debrief, and draft the Initial Exercise Report.
- 2.8 The list of contacts of the Directing Staff members is established using the Template provided in the AFI OPINS and in Appendix 1 to this working paper.

3. ACTIONS BY THE MEETING

- 3.1. The meeting is invited to:
 - a) Note the information in this paper; and
 - b) Comment and provide guidance as appropriate, regarding the §2.5.

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Appendix 1: Directing Staff Contacts Details

<i>Organization</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Contact name</i>	<i>Contact position</i>	<i>Primary telephone number</i>	<i>Secondary telephone number</i>	<i>Fax number</i>	<i>e-mails address</i>
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