



## 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: 0.1. Planning for future ICAO volcanic ash exercises in the AFI region****WP3.2B Participating Agencies***(Presented by the Secretariat)*

SUMMARY
This paper provides an update on the participating agencies in a volcanic ash exercise and their key roles. Action by the meeting in paragraph 3
<b>REFERENCE(S):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Doc 9766 Handbook on the IAVW</li><li>▪ AFI VA Exercises Directive for Exercise VOLCEX 21-01 Rev0.1</li><li>▪ AFI VAA Exercises Operational Instructions VOLCEX OPINS Rev0.1</li><li>▪ Terms of Reference of the AFI VOLCEX Steering Group</li></ul>
<b>Related ICAO Strategic Objective(s):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>A – Safety, B – Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency</b></li></ul>

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. As per the provisions of the AFI Volcanic Ash Exercise Operational Instructions, a volcanic ash exercise is directed by an Exercise leader and administrate by a multi-disciplinary technical team known as the Directing Staff.
- 1.2. The Directing Staff play a key role in the preparation of the exercise, including the design of the exercise scenario. They assist in the schedule of the exercise and the specifications of actions to be taken by each participating agency.

**2. DISCUSSION*****Participating Agencies***

- 2.1 Participating agencies in a volcanic ash exercise typically include several stakeholders, depending on the region and the specific exercise objectives.
  - a) **Civil Aviation Authorities (CAAs)** – Ensuring safety regulations are followed.
  - b) **Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs)** – Managing air traffic and issuing advisories to pilots.
  - c) **Meteorological Offices** – Providing volcanic ash advisories and forecasts.

- d) **Volcanic Ash Advisory Centers (VAACs)** – Monitoring volcanic activity and issuing ash advisories.
- e) **Volcano Observatory States** – Monitoring and Detection of Volcanic Activity and providing Timely Eruption Alerts/Information.
- f) **Airlines and Aircraft Operators** – Implementing operational measures to mitigate volcanic ash hazards related risks.
- g) **Airport Authorities** – Managing airport operations and safety during volcanic ash events.
- h) **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)** – Coordinating regional and global response frameworks.
- i) **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** – Supporting meteorological data sharing and coordination.
- j) **Geological and Volcanological Institutes** – Providing scientific assessments of volcanic activity.
- k) **Military and Defense Organizations** – Assisting in emergency response and airspace management.
- l) **Search and Rescue (SAR) and Emergency Response Agencies** – Responding to any incidents related to volcanic ash.

2.2 A template for establishing the list of participating agencies is provided in Appendix A of this working paper.

### 3. ACTIONS BY THE MEETING

3.1. The meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the information in this paper; and
- b) Provide guidance as appropriate.

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**Appendix A: Participating agencies in the Second Volcanic Ash Exercise in the AFI REgion**

Area Of Responsibility	Agency	Country	Unit/Division	Website	Contact details
Volcano activity alerting	OVG	DR of the CONGO	Volcano Observatory		
Volcanic ash advisory information	VAAC Toulouse	France	Met Services for Aviation Operations Head		
SIGMET	MWO Kinshasa	DR of the CONGO	Meteorological Watch Office		
	MWO Brazzaville	CONGO	Meteorological Watch Office		
	MWO Kigali	RWANDA	Meteorological Watch Office		
	MWO Entebbe	UGANDA	Meteorological Watch Office		
	MWO Dar es Salam	TANZANIA	Meteorological Watch Office		
NOTAM	NOF Kinshasa	DR of the CONGO	NOF		
	NOF Brazzaville	CONGO	NOF		

Area Of Responsibility	Agency	Country	Unit/Division	Website	Contact details
	NOF Kigali	RWANDA	NOF		
	NOF Dar es Salam	TANZANIA	NOF		
ATM	ACC Kinshasa	DR of the CONGO	ACC		
	ACC Brazzaville	CONGO	ACC		
	ACC Kigali	RWANDA	ACC		
	ACC Dar es Salam	TANZANIA	ACC		
Airlines	Busy Bee	DR of the CONGO	OPS		
Regulatory	CAA	DR of the CONGO	Exercise Leader		