International Civil Aviation Organization

MIDANPIRG Communication, Navigation and Surveillance Sub-Group

Thirteenth Meeting (CNS SG/13)
(*Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 20 – 23 October 2024)*

Agenda Item 5: CNS Planning and Implementation Framework in the MID Region

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTION OF AUTOMATED DATA EXCHANGE SYSTEMS WITHIN MUSCAT FIR

(Presented by Sultanate of Oman)

SUMMARY

This paper presents Oman's initiatives and progress in implementing ADE and AFTN connectivity with neighboring ATS units, highlighting ongoing efforts to resolve technical issues with neighboring FIRs for enhanced integration.

Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.

REFERENCES

- CANSO Best Practice Guide for ANSPs: Automation Interface Between Flight Information Regions, 2016
- EUROCONTROL Guidelines for On-Line Data Interchange (OLDI), Ed. 1.1, 2020
- ICAO MID Region Guidance for the Implementation of AIDC/OLDI, Doc 006, Ed. 1.2, 2019
- MIDANPIRG/20. WP 74. Initiatives in Implementing Automated Data Exchange System in Oman

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 ICAO encourages Member States to implement Automated Data Exchange (ADE) systems as part of the Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP) and ASBU framework.

1.2 Oman is committed to enhancing cross-FIR flight safety and efficiency by implementing ADE systems, such as AIDC and OLDI, which improve coordination, flight notification, and transfer of control.

1.3 By adopting ADE, Oman aims to reduce ATC workload, minimize coordination errors, and fulfill global and regional obligations in line with ICAO's guidance.

1.4 Oman has extended its collaborative efforts with the authorities of neighboring FIRs to enhance connectivity, aiming to significantly reduce coordination-related LHDs and improve ATM safety.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The ICAO MID office plays a key facilitating role in the region and has developed guidance to implement AIDC/OLDI in a more efficient and harmonized manner.

2.2 In line with regional efforts, CAA Oman has initiated the implementation of ADE in consultation with the authorities of neighboring FIRs and has executed various activities to ensure proper alignment in a planned way.

2.3 Additional collaborative efforts are necessary for the seamless implementation of ADE at both regional and inter-regional levels.

Current Connectivity Status

2.4 OLDI connectivity with UAE has been successfully established since 2018 and continues to operate efficiently with no significant issues.

2.5 OLDI trials with Saudi Arabia (Jeddah) were successfully conducted twice in 2023, with no issues encountered. Regulatory approvals have been obtained, and the LOA has been updated. However, further progress is currently on hold due to an unserviceable AFTN link caused by telecommunication issues.

2.6 AIDC trials with India (Mumbai) have been conducted multiple times: once in 2019, once in 2021, and twice in 2023, with issues related to message format and system incompatibilities encountered. India is currently upgrading its ATM system, and connectivity tests will resume once the system is ready.

2.7 AIDC communication with Pakistan (Karachi) has been established after an ATM Coordination Meeting in 2024. Both parties have agreed to implement AIDC, and readiness for testing is now awaited from the Pakistan side.

2.8 The exchange of AFTN-based EST messages has been agreed upon with Iran (Tehran), and both parties are able to transmit and receive these messages. However, verbal coordination remains the primary means. A trial plan is being developed to make AFTN the main coordination tool, with discussions on the relevant SOP scheduled by 2024.

2.9 Communication and coordination with Yemen (Sanaa) have been planned for 2025 to explore the potential for automated data exchange mechanism within both parties.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

a) note the information contained in this paper;

b) strengthen collaboration for the seamless implementation of ADE at regional and inter-regional level; and

c) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate.

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