

**MENA ARCM COMMITTEE/5 -REPORT**



**REPORT OF THE MIDDLE EAST NORTH AFRICA AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT AND  
INCIDENT INVESTIGATION REGIONAL COOPERATION MECHANISM  
(MENA ARCM) COMMITTEE**

**(MENA ARCM Committee/5)**

***(Muscat, Oman, 7-9 May 2024)***

The views expressed in this Report should be taken as those of the RASG Steering Committee and not of the Organization. This Report will, however, be submitted to the RASG-MID and any formal action taken will be published in due course as a Supplement to the Report.

Approved by the Meeting  
and published by authority of the Secretary General

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### **APPENDIX**

Appendix 2A

### **ATTACHMENT**

List of Participants ..... Attachment A

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## **PART I – HISTORY OF THE MEETING**

### **1. PLACE AND DURATION**

1.1 The Fifth Meeting of Middle East North Africa Aircraft Accident and incident Investigation Regional Cooperation Mechanism (MENA ARCM) Committee meeting and AIIG/3-Conference was held at *Muscat, Oman, from 7 to 9 May 2024*. The conference theme: “*Assistance to Aircraft Accident victims and their families (AAAVF)*”.

### **2. OPENING**

2.1 The meeting was opened by Capt. Aysha Mohammed Al Hamil, Assistant Director-General - Air Accident Investigations, UAE who welcomed all the participants to Oman and thanked them for their participation.

2.2 Capt. Aysha thanked Accident investigation Directorate of Egypt for joining the MENA ARCM and encouraged States which did not yet join the MENA ARCM to join and support the MENA ARCM.

2.3 Finally, Capt. Aysha thanked all the participants for their attendance and wished the meeting every success in its deliberations.

### **3. ATTENDANCE**

3.1 The meeting was attended by a total of Thirty-six (36) participants from seven (7) MENA ARCM Member States (Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and UAE), two (2) other States (Qatar & USA) and two (2) Organizations (ACAO and ICAO). The list of participants is at **Attachment A**.

3.2 The conference was attended by a total of two hundred (200) participants from MD States, other States, international organizations, and industry.

### **4. OFFICERS AND SECRETARIAT**

4.1 The meeting was chaired by Capt. Aysha Mohammed Al Hamil, Assistant Director-General - Air Accident Investigations, UAE.

4.2 Mr. Mohamed Chakib, RO/SAF-IMP was the Secretary of the meeting supported by Mr. Hicham Bennani, Safety & Air Navigation Expert, ACAO.

### **5. LANGUAGE**

5.1 The discussions were conducted in the English language and documentation was issued in English.

### **6. AGENDA**

6.1 The following Agenda was adopted:

Agenda Item 1: Adoption of the Provisional Agenda

Agenda Item 2: Regional Performance Framework

- Updated Progress on Areas of Cooperation
- Update on MENA ARCM Technical Assistance
- MENA ARCM Shared folders and online platform update
- RASG-MID/11 Meeting outcomes
- 2026-2028 GASP Edition update progress
- Annex 13 Amendments
- GASOS

Agenda Item 3: Conference: “*Assistance to Aircraft Accident Victims and their Families*”.

Agenda Item 4: Future Work Programme

Agenda Item 5: Any other Business

## 7. CONCLUSIONS AND DECISIONS – DEFINITION

7.1 The MENA ARCM Committee/5 records its actions in the form of Conclusions and Decisions with the following significance:

- a) **Conclusions** deal with matters that, according to the Group’s terms of reference, merit directly the attention of States and its stakeholders/partners, or on which further action will be initiated by the Secretary in accordance with established procedures; and
- b) **Decisions** relate solely to matters dealing with the internal working arrangements of the Group and its subsidiary bodies.

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**PART II: REPORT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

**REPORT ON AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1.1           The subject was addressed in WP/1 presented by the Secretariat.

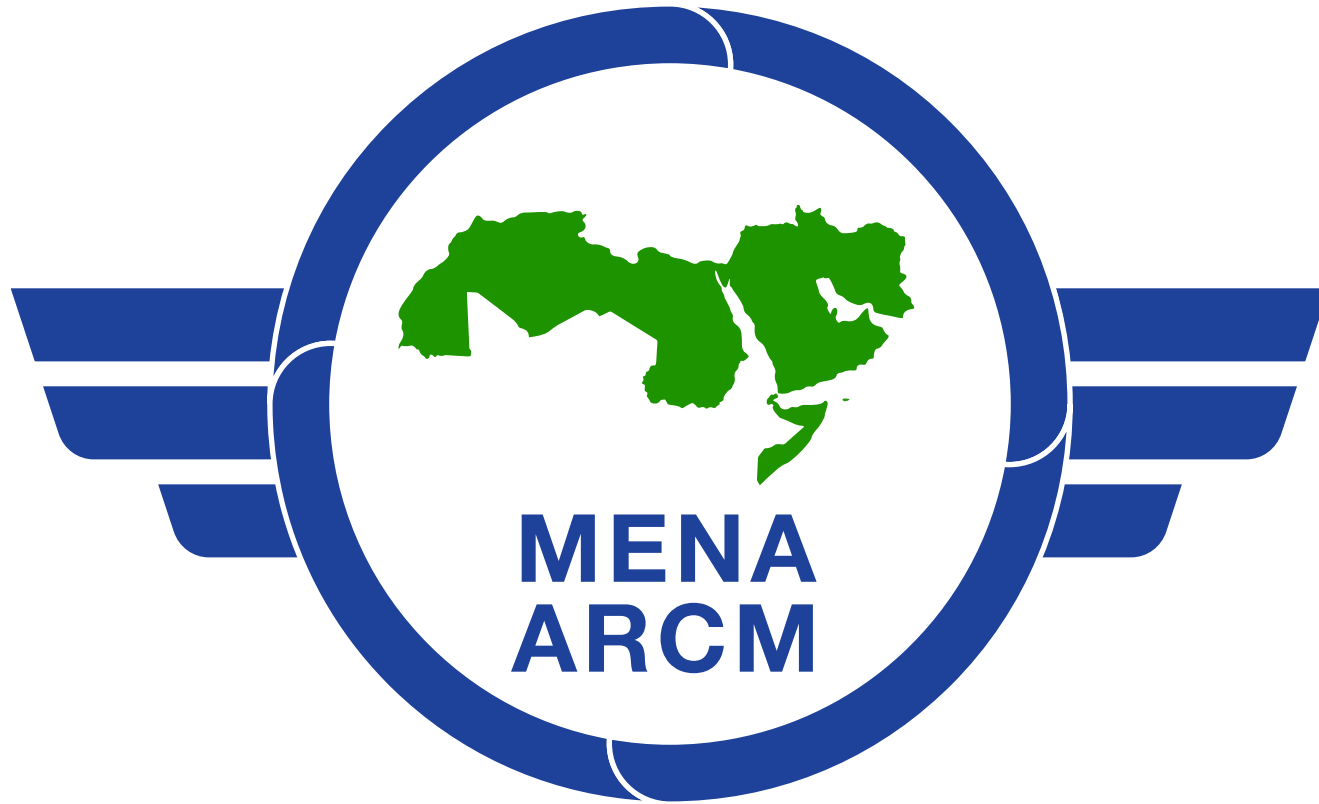
1.2           The meeting also reviewed and adopted the Provisional Agenda as at paragraph 6 of the History of the Meeting.

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**REPORT ON AGENDA ITEM 2: REGIONAL PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK**

- 2.1 The subject was addressed in PPT/1 presented by the MENA ARCM Coordinator.
- 2.2 The meeting was apprised with appreciation of the work progress achieved on the MENA ARCM database management, Technical Assistance, and share folder.
- 2.3 The meeting noted with appreciation the updated progress made since the MENA ARCM/4 meeting.
- 2.4 The meeting was informed that an on the Online share folder demonstration to manage MENA ARCM database and activities has been conducted in February 2024. The meeting was also provided with a presentation on the registration process and ways to use the Share folder.
- 2.5 The meeting encouraged MENA ARCM Members States to register and use the online Share Folder as part of the Technical Assistance process and procedure. The share folder registration link to be accessed through: <https://mena-arcm.acao.org.ma/>
- 2.6 The meeting agreed to explore further options for sponsoring the development of an online platform.
- 2.7 The meeting was apprised by the MENA ARCM logo design demonstration. Accordingly, the meeting agreed to modify the design taking into consideration the feedback provided.
- 2.8 The meeting was informed about the final decision taken after voting process during the last day of the conference related to the selected MENA ARCM Logo at **Appendix 2A**.
- 2.9 The subject was addressed in PPT/2 presented by the Secretariat. The meeting noted with appreciation the outcome of RASG-MID/11 including the main activities achievements, the MID Region safety priorities (Regional operational safety risks, Organizational issues, and emerging issues), and safety performance targets.
- 2.10 The subject was addressed in PPT/3 presented by the Secretariat. The meeting was apprised by the GASP 2026-2028 progress update including the process to identify the global safety issues and the proposed GASP Goals 2026-2028.
- 2.11 The subject was addressed in PPT/4 presented by the Secretariat. The meeting was informed on the latest update on ICAO Annex 13 amendments including Investigations involving unmanned aircraft, Release of investigative information, Global Aeronautical Distress Safety System (GADSS) data and information, Consultation period of Final Reports, Publication of Final Reports as well as AIG/7 & 8 proposed recommendations.
- 2.12 The subject was addressed in PPT/5 presented by the ACAO representative. The meeting was informed on the latest update on the GASOS (Global Aviation Safety Oversight System) as well as its associated assessment programme RRAP (the Regional Safety Oversight Organizations (RSOOs) and Regional Accident & incident Investigation Organizations (RAIOs) Assessment Programme). The meeting was also provided with information on the existing four RAIO & two Investigation Cooperation Mechanisms.
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**REPORT ON AGENDA ITEM 3: AAVF CONFERENCE SUMMARY OUTCOME**

3.1 The Fifth Meeting of Middle East North Africa Aircraft Accident and incident Investigation Regional Cooperation Mechanism (MENA ARCM) Committee and AIIG/3 meeting were held at Muscat Oman from 7 to 9 May 2024 back-to-back with “Assistance to Aircraft Accident victims and their families (AAVF)” Conference.

3.2 The conference opened under the patronage of H.E Dr. Hilal bin Ali al Sabti, Minister of Health, in the presence of H.E Said bin Hamood al Mawali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology. Then opening address have been made by Capt. Majid Saif M. Al-Barhi Director of Oman Transport Safety Bureau (OTSB); Capt. Aysha Mohammed Al Hamil, Acting Assistant Director-General - Air Accident Investigations, UAE; Mr. Mohamed Chakib, Regional Officer, Safety Implementation, ICAO MID Office; and Mr. Hicham Bennani, Safety/Air Navigation Expert, ACAO.

3.3 The conference was attended by a total of two hundred (200) participants from MD States, other States, international organizations, and industry.

3.4 The main purpose of the conference was to explore how best to assist the aircraft accident victims and their families.

3.5 The event included speeches, presentations, and discussions. In addition, Two- days Conference provided an overview on shared experiences from regulators, accident investigation authorities, and industry perspective as well as best practices in the communication of sensitive information on aircraft accidents, information management.

3.6 The main outcome of the conference as follows:

3.7 Participants noted the Assembly Resolutions A39-1 & A40-16, adopted at the 39th & 40th Sessions of the ICAO Assembly, recognizing the need to provide assistance to victims and their families. which urged States to establish legislation, regulations and policies to support victims of civil aviation accidents and their family members.

3.8 Participants noted that:

- ICAO Council established 20 February as the International Day Commemorating Air Crash Victims and their Families in coordination with associations representative of victims and their families.
- ICAO elevated an existing Recommended Practice to a Standard 8. 47 in 2022, thus heightening the responsibility on States to establish legislation, regulations and policies in support of assistance to aircraft accident victims and their families.
- ICAO developed training course to help regulators set out appropriate family assistance legislation.

3.9 Participants underlined the development of comprehensive assistance programs involving all stakeholders including governments entities, airlines, regulators, airports, emergency responders. It also requires careful planning, resources, and time. It is essential that assistance be practical, adapted to need, and sustained for as long as it is required. It is also important that the service providers consider the culture, religion, family values of the victims.

3.10 Participants emphasized the critical need for comprehensive support systems to address the diverse needs of aircraft accident victims and their families. This includes psychological, financial, legal, and logistical assistance.

3.11 Participants underscored the importance of providing long-term support to aircraft accident victims and their families, as the impacts of such events can be enduring. This includes ongoing psychological support, financial assistance, and access to healthcare services.

3.12 There was a consensus amongst participants on the importance of coordination and collaboration among various stakeholders, including governments entities, airlines, airports, emergency responders, NGOs, and international bodies. Effective communication and cooperation are essential for providing timely and effective assistance.

3.13 Media management and press release.

3.14 Participants stressed the need for training programs and capacity-building initiatives for personnel involved in providing assistance to aircraft accident victims and their families as well as the need for organizing workshops and seminars/conferences. This includes training for emergency responders, healthcare professionals, mental health counsellors, legal advisors, and volunteers.

3.15 Effective information sharing and communication channels are vital during and after aviation disasters. It is essential to keep the affected individuals and families informed about developments, support services, and their rights throughout the recovery process. Information and any findings that have been made should be conveyed to the families.

3.16 Governments and airlines should ensure that adequate legal and financial assistance is available to aircraft accident victims and their families. This includes assistance with compensation claims, insurance coverage, and access to legal representation.

3.17 Given the global nature of aviation accidents, international cooperation and collaboration are essential. States need to work together to share resources, expertise, and lessons learned to enhance the effectiveness of assistance efforts worldwide.

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**REPORT ON AGENDA ITEM 4: FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME**

4.1 The subject was addressed in WP/2 presented by the Secretariat.

4.2 The meeting agreed that the venue and dates of the MENA ARCM/7 & AIIG/4 meeting will be discussed during the MENA ARCM/6 meeting.

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## MENA ARCM/5 Meeting and AIIG/3 – Conference

*(Muscat, Oman, 7-9 May 2024)*

| State/ Org                         | Contact                                | Title   |
|------------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Djibouti</b>                    | Mr. Abdebaset Omar Hamadou             | Aircraft Accident Investigator                                |
| <b>Egypt</b>                       | Capt. Shehab El Din Khaled             | Assistant Head of Accident Investigation Directorate          |
|                                    | Ms. Mona Ahmed Arafa Ramadan           | Aircraft Accident Investigation General Manager               |
| <b>Iran</b>                        | Mr. Seyed Mohammad H. Sajad            | Iran AAIB & Senior Investigator                               |
|                                    | Mr. Hassan Rezaeifar                   | Director of Aircraft Accident Investigation Board             |
|                                    | Mr. Mohammad Hossein Taghibeygi        | Aircraft Accident & Incident Investigator                     |
| <b>Morocco</b>                     | Mr. Mbarek Lfakir                      | Head of Air Accident Investigation Bureau                     |
|                                    | Samir Attatebi                         | Head of air investigation Service                             |
|                                    | Mr Benslim Zouhair                     | Head of department of Flight Safety                           |
|                                    | Mr El Hantit Benachir                  | Military Aviation Authority                                   |
| <b>Oman</b>                        | Capt. Majid Saif M. Al-Barhi           | Director of Oman Transport Safety Bureau                      |
|                                    | Mrs. Ziyana Ali S. Al Said             | Head of Air Accident Investigation                            |
|                                    | Mr. Peter Butie Mashaba                | Air Accident Investigator                                     |
|                                    | Mr. Maitsiedi Frank Masoga             | Air Accident Investigator                                     |
|                                    | Mr. Sulaiman Said Al Rashdi            | Air Accident Investigator                                     |
|                                    | Mr. Anwar Khalfan S. Al Matani         | Air Safety Specialist   |
|                                    | Capt Khalifa Mohammed S. A- Abdali     | Air Accident Investigator                                     |
|                                    | Capt Ammar Al Kendi                    | Air Accident and Incident Investigator                        |
| Capt Said Nassir Al-Noomani        | Air Accident and Incident Investigator |   |
| <b>Qatar</b>                       | Mr. Alvaro Eduardo Correia Neves       | Head of Qatar Air Accident Investigation Unit                 |
|                                    | Ms. Mashale Ali A. Al-Khater           | Admin Assistant Head of Qatar Air Accident Investigation Unit |
| <b>Saudi Arabia</b>                | Mr. Abdulelah Felemban                 | Director General, AIB   |
|                                    | Mr. Meshal Ali Alzahrani               | Capt. Aviation Safety Analysis                                |
|                                    | Mr. Mohammed A. Aldhahri               | Director, Safety Analysis                                     |
|                                    | Mr. Khalid Bukhari                     | Head of Risk Assessment and Analysis                          |
|                                    | Mr. Hammam Abalary                     | Meteorology Engineer  |
|                                    | Ms. Lolwa Albalawi                     | External Affairs & Communications Specialist                  |
|                                    | Omer F Sonbol                          |   |
| <b>Saudi Arabia<br/>(Flyadeal)</b> | Ms. Shatha Ali Alahmari                | Senior Safety Specialist                                      |
|                                    | Mr. Maad Hassan Jar                    | Crises Management Plan Specialist                             |



| State/ Org  | Contact                        | Title  |
|-------------|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>UAE</b>  | Capt Aysah Mohammed Al Hamili  | Assistant Director Air Accident Investigation                      |
|             | Mr. Mohammed M. Amin Al-Khayat | Acting Assistant Manager – Air Operations Investigation            |
|             | Ms. Haneen Omar Alkarbi        | Officer – Quality, Standard & Publications                         |
| <b>USA</b>  | Mr. Mohammad Kushan            | Senior Representative<br>Abu Dhabi Office of International Affairs |
| <b>ACAO</b> | Mr. Hicham Bennani             | Safety & Air Navigation Expert                                     |

- END -