



C-DEC 225/10
11/3/22

COUNCIL — 225TH SESSION

TENTH MEETING

(HYBRID MEETING ON FRIDAY, 11 MARCH 2022, AT 1000 HOURS)

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

OPEN MEETING

Proposal for amendment of the Air Navigation Plan – Middle East Region (Doc 9708) concerning the establishment of a Doha Flight Information Region (FIR) / Search and Rescue Region (SRR)

1. The Council considered this item on the basis of an oral report from the President of the Council, which presented an update on the status of the ongoing discussions concerning the proposed establishment of the Doha Flight Information Region (FIR) and Search and Rescue Region (SRR). In so doing, the Council agreed to waive Rule 26 b) of the *Rules of Procedure for the Council* (Doc 7559) pertaining to the timeline requirement for the issuance of oral reports, since in this case the oral report had been issued less than three working days in advance of the meeting.

2. Following consideration, the Council:

- a) recalled its previous decision on the matter (C-DEC 223/9, refers), whereby the Council agreed, in principle, with the establishment of a Doha FIR/SRR drawing on Qatar's proposal that would include Qatar's sovereign airspace and, to optimize safety and efficiency of the regional airspace, other contiguous airspace over the high seas and in this connection, had invited Bahrain and Qatar, as well as surrounding States with an interest in this matter, to discuss cooperatively under the auspices of the President of the Council, to agree on appropriate technical arrangements for the implementation of the Doha FIR/SRR;
- b) took note of the information contained in the oral report of the President of the Council, on the progress made to develop potential options for reaching an agreement between the parties, and welcomed the ongoing high-level consultations amongst the Parties, as facilitated by the President of the Council, in order to find an amicable and sustainable resolution of this issue in accordance with the provisions of Assembly Resolution A40-4, Appendix G and Appendix H, as well as Annex 11 to the Convention;
- c) took account of information presented by States concerning uncertainty regarding territory adjacent to the common Bahrain/Emirates FIR boundary, and noted that any approval by the Council of an agreement relating to the provision of air traffic services does not imply recognition of sovereignty of the State over the airspace concerned, as provided for in Assembly Resolution A40-4, Appendix G;
- d) acknowledged that although progress had been made in clarifying the concerns and requirements of each State and in establishing common ground that could serve as a basis for consensus, a technical or operational solution had not yet been identified that could be mutually and formally agreed upon by all the parties, and in this regard,

welcomed the proposal of the President of the Council as outlined in paragraphs 10.1, 10.2, 10.3 and 10.4 of his oral report, which aims to resolve most of the concerns expressed by the parties, taking note that certain concerns were expressed in relation to the final sentence of paragraph 10.3, which were taken into account in the course of the discussion by the Council on this item;

- e) further acknowledging the challenges to reaching a mutually satisfactory solution over the short-term, and in reaffirming that good relations, collaboration and mutual respect between States was fundamental to ensuring seamless air services with a high level of safety and quality, agreed to proceed with the establishment of the Doha FIR on the basis of the phased approach presented in the oral report;
 - f) *Phase One*: approved the dimensions of the Doha FIR/SRR, including revised dimensions of the Bahrain FIR/SRR as described in the Appendix to this C-DEC;
 - g) urged States concerned to take necessary measures to ensure the safe, effective and timely implementation of the ICAO Council's decision on the matter, taking particular care that the FIR boundaries do not impact the operational utilization of the current Bahrain terminal area (TMA);
 - h) requested the Secretary General to provide implementation guidance and support, including the facilitation of coordination among the States concerned in the development of revised letters of agreement;
 - i) *Phase Two*: agreed that within two years, upon satisfactory implementation of the first phase and without prejudice to regional technical studies, would decide on the implementation of the second phase of the proposal; and
 - j) encouraged the States concerned to progress the proposal for amendment to the MID ANP (Serial No. MID Basic ANP 13/03 — ATM/SAR) in accordance with procedures for amendments of regional air navigation plans.
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APPENDIX

PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENT OF THE AIR NAVIGATION PLAN — MIDDLE EAST REGION, VOLUME I

FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DOHA FIR/SRR

a) **Plan** *Air Navigation Plan - Middle East Region (Doc 9708, Volume I)*

b) **Proposed amendment:** Editorial note: Amendments are arranged to show “deleted text” using strikeout (~~text to be deleted~~), and “added text” with grey shading (text to be inserted).

Amend the list in the MID ANP Table GEN I-1 to add the Doha FIR.

Add the requirements for the Doha Flight Information Region (FIR) and Doha Search and Rescue Region (SRR) to the MID ANP Table ATM I-1 and Table SAR I-1, respectively, (cf. Charts: ATM I-1 and SAR I-1) in accordance with the following:

25°38'01"N 052°57'44"E 25°02'24"N 052°30'54"E 24°59'59"N 052°18'37"E 24°50'46"N 052°22'15"E 24°49'00"N 052°00'00"E 24°42'47"N 051°34'22"E 24°38'17"N 051°26'08"E 24°37'47"N 051°24'21"E 24°37'31"N 051°24'06"E then follow the limit of territorial waters and the sovereign boundary between Qatar and Saudi Arabia then follow the limit of Qatar and Bahrain territorial waters to 26°11'02"N 050°55'03"E 26°13'30"N 050°55'13"E 26°16'09"N 051°00'16"E 26°21'17"N 051°04'20"E 26°23'40"N 051°12'20"E 26°21'34"N 051°23'01"E 26°13'56"N 051°38'49"E 25°38'01"N 052°57'44"E

FIR vertical limit: SFC to UNL

AND

26°04'00"N 053°57'00"E 25°49'00"N 053°06'00"E 25°38'01"N 052°57'44"E 26°13'56"N 051°38'49"E 26°44'40"N 051°43'59"E

FIR vertical limit: SFC to FL245.

Amend the requirements for the boundary of Bahrain FIR and Bahrain SRR in accordance with the following:

... 28°44'00"N 049°40'00"E 27°05'00"N 050°55'00"E 26°55'00"N 051°10'00"E 26°44'40"N 051°43'59"E 26°13'56"N 051°38'49"E 26°21'34"N 051°23'01"E 26°23'40"N 051°12'20"E 26°21'17"N 051°04'20"E 26°16'09"N 051°00'16"E 26°13'30"N 050°55'13"E 26°11'02"N 050°55'03"E then follow the limit of Qatar and Bahrain territorial waters then follow the sovereign boundary and limit of territorial waters between Qatar and Saudi Arabia to 24°37'31"N 051°24'06"E 24°37'47"N 051°24'21"E 24°38'17"N 051°26'08"E 24°42'47"N 051°34'22"E 24°49'00"N 052°00'00"E 24°50'46"N 052°22'15"E 24°03'00"N 051°47'00"E then follow the sovereign boundary between Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to 22°42'00"N 055°12'00"E ...

AND

25°02'24"N 052°30'54"E 24°59'59"N 052°18'37"E 24°50'46"N 052°22'15"E 25°02'24"N 052°30'54"E

FIR vertical limit: SFC to UNL.

Bahrain FIR also includes the airspace defined by 26°04'00"N 053°57'00"E 25°49'00"N 053°06'00"E 25°38'01"N 052°57'44"E 26°13'56"N 051°38'49"E 26°44'40"N 051°43'59"E

FIR vertical limit: FL245 to UNL.

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