Air traffic in the Middle East is growing at a high rate and the region’s pivotal position at the crossroads of East and West ensures that it will play a crucial role in global aviation as the world emerges from the current economic crisis.

While ANSPs are essential to the delivery of safe and efficient Air Navigation Services, CANSO Middle East Members recognise the need to involve airspace users and all partners in the aviation value chain to develop and implement a strategy for greater airspace capacity and ANS performance.

The optimisation of Middle Eastern airspace is a vital goal that requires unprecedented effort and coordination from all stakeholders, including enhanced civil-military cooperation. The participants at the CANSO Middle East High Level Meeting therefore strongly support the Middle East CANSO CEO Committee (MEC3) RED SEA vision to ‘Realise, Enhance and Develop Seamless Efficient Airspace’, the seven-pillar High-Level Strategy, and the work programme of the four CANSO ME Workgroups.

The seven pillars of the high-level strategy

1. Safety Enhancement
2. Airspace Management
3. Customer Consultation
4. Regional HR Development
5. CNS/ATM Improvement
6. Institutional Transformation
7. Performance-based ANS

The four CANSO Middle East Workgroups

1. ME Strategic Cooperation Committee
2. ME Safety Workgroup
3. CNS / ATM Infrastructure Improvement Workgroup
4. ME Airspace Planning Coordination Workgroup

ATM in the Middle East is facing unprecedented challenges, which must be successfully tackled if the aviation expectations of the region are to be met in the coming decade. The participants of the CANSO Middle East High Level Meeting call for all States to accept that action is required and for greater involvement and cooperation from all Middle East ANSPs and the wider aviation community, to ensure the successful transformation of ATM in the region.