



International  
Civil Aviation  
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Международная  
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авиации

منظمة الطيران  
المدني الدولي

国际民用  
航空组织

Tel.: +1 514-954-8219 ext. 6659

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**Subject:** Safety of civil aircraft operating in  
Damascus FIR

**Action required:** Communicate to national civil aircraft  
owners and operators, intending to operate within the  
Damascus FIR, the need to fully assess the potential for  
risks to flight safety

Sir/Madam,

1. I have the honour to address you as the appropriate State Authority of aircraft operator(s) which may use the airspace of the Syrian Arab Republic.
2. Taking into consideration the armed conflict that is currently taking place in the Syrian Arab Republic, I draw your attention to the possible existence of serious risks to the safety of international civil flights operating within the Damascus flight information region (FIR).
3. Information received by ICAO from certain States, based on reports originating from their operators, indicates that incidents have recently taken place involving civil aircraft transiting the Damascus FIR. Such incidents include situations whereby civil aircraft unexpectedly found themselves in close proximity to munitions and missile firings. In addition, unsubstantiated reports in the public media would suggest that munitions firings were also directed at an aircraft during its final approach to an aerodrome in the Syrian Arab Republic.
4. It has also come to my attention that several operators have already taken the decision, based on their assessments of the level of risk involved, to circumnavigate the Damascus FIR, availing themselves of alternate routings in neighbouring FIRs. An increase in the level of traffic on these alternative routings is expected to have a limited impact on the overall capacity of the system.
5. ICAO continues to actively coordinate with authorities of the Syrian Arab Republic and other States in the region as regards developments as they unfold, specifically those which could impact flight safety.
6. ICAO will continue to monitor the situation and I will notify you of any significant developments.

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Raymond Benjamin  
Secretary General