



ICAO

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

Extraordinary Meeting of the APIRG and RASG-AFI (APIRG & RASG-AFI/EO)

Libreville, Gabon, 19 July 2024

Agenda Item 02 b): Summary of the actions taken by the Secretariat on the APIRG/26 & RASG-AFI/9 Decision 5/05

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY	
<p>The APIRG/26 and RASG-AFI/9 Joint Session held in Cotonou (Benin) in November 2023, agreed on the Decision APIRG/26 & RASG-AFI/9 Decision 5/05 on the Enhancement of APIRG and RASG-AFI Structure. This paper provides an update on the actions taken by the Secretariat on the APIRG/26 & RASG-AFI/9 Decision</p> <p>Action to be taken by the Meeting is provided at paragraph 3 of the Paper.</p>	
REFERENCE(S)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APIRG and RASG-AFI Terms of Reference and Procedural Handbooks • The Global Aviation Safety and the Global Air Navigation Plans • Doc 7474, Air Navigation Plan - Africa-Indian Ocean Region • APIRG/25 & RASG-AFI/8 Joint meetings Report • APIRG/26 & RASG-AFI/9 Joint meetings Report
Strategic Objective(s)	<p><i>A – Safety, B – Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency, D – Economic Development of Air Transport, and E – Environmental Protection</i></p>

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The meeting may recall that the APIRG/22 and RASG-AFI/5 meetings held in July/August 2019, noted with interest the outcome of the Council’s review of the terms of reference of the PIRGs and RASGs and welcomed the structure provided by the approved generic ToR sought by the Council to improve the performance and expected results. Accordingly, the ICAO Secretariat was tasked to update the PIRG and RASG handbooks (APIRG/22 & RASG-AFI/5 Decision 1/03).
- 1.2. The meeting will also recall that the Joint Session of APIRG/25 and RASG-AFI/8, noting that with the experience gained by hosting the APIRG and RASG-AFI back-to-back, in view of the high number of common areas and subsequent coordination layers, called for a study on the feasibility of combining APIRG and RASG-AFI into a single entity in the future, as discussed in 2019 during APIRG/22.

- 1.3. The result of the study was presented at the joint session of APIRG/26 and RASG-AFI/9 with the proposal of the combined entity. The meeting upon discussions, took Decision APIRG/26 & RASG-AFI/9 Decision 5/05 on the Enhancement of APIRG and RASG-AFI Structure formulated as follows:

APIRG/26 & RASG-AFI/9 Decision 5/05: Enhancement of APIRG and RASG-AFI Structure

That, in order to finalize the study on the integrated approach to APIRG and RASG-AFI in combining them into one entity, the Secretariat to:

- a) expedite the finalization of the study based on stakeholders' comments, including the development of the Procedural Handbook as well as the schedule of the transition period and other related arrangements by June 2024; and*
 - b) coordinate with APIRG and RASG-AFI Chairpersons, for an extraordinary APIRG and RASG-AFI joint meeting to review and approve the proposals*
- 1.4. This paper will update on the actions taken by the Secretariat on the APIRG/26 & RASG-AFI/9 Decision formulated above.

2. DISCUSSION

- 2.1. The meeting may recall that the APIRG/26 and RASG-AFI/9 Joint Session, upon the discussions on the proposal of the two structures in combining the two Groups in one entity as presented in the WP2A, agreed on the structure 1 containing the former two APIRG Sub-Groups (Infrastructure and Information Management Sub-Group (IIM/SG) and Airspace and Aerodrome Operations Sub-Group (AAO/SG)) and a new Sub-Group named Safety Oversight and Management Sub-Group (SOM/SG).
- 2.2. In the view of above, the Secretariat, through several coordination meetings review and finetuned the Structure 1's proposal.
- 2.3. The draft Procedural Handbook was therefore developed based on the consolidated organizational structure of the merged Group.
- 2.4. In developing the Draft Procedural Handbook of the Group and new Working Methods, the following considerations were considered:
- Ensure alignment with the generic terms of reference of the PIRGs and RASGs approved by the Council to improve the performance and expected results;
 - Ensure the consistency of the draft procedural Handbook with the agreed organizational structure;
 - Ensure consistency in the membership, the role and responsibilities of the Programme Review and Coordination Committee (PRCC);
 - Consider the alignment of the meetings schedule of the Planning and Implementation Regional Groups (PIRGs) and Regional Aviation Safety Groups (RASGs) with the annual reporting requirement to the Council; and
 - Provide more clarity on the Projects management approach through the conciseness of the ToRs of the Sub-Groups and related Projects.

- 2.5. The initial merged group proposed name ‘ESAF & WACAF Aviation Safety, Planning and Implementation Regional Group (EWASPIRG)’ was also revised and reframed to be proposed as ‘Africa – Indian Ocean Aviation System Planning and Implementation Group (AASPG)’. This reframed name is consistent with new evolutions of aviation, provisions of the terms of reference of the merged group, the terms of reference of the subgroups and the projects linked to the subgroups.
- 2.6. The revised Organization structure and the related draft Procedural Handbook will be presented to the meeting through the WP2C.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the contents of this Working Paper; and
- b) Provide further guidance on the actions undertaken by the Secretariat on the implementation of the Decision 05/5 of the APIRG/26 and RASG-AFI/9 Joint Session.