



# ICAO

## INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

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

*Libreville, Gabon, 19 July 2024*

#### Agenda Item 03: Discussion of transitional arrangements for the Groups

*(Presented by the Secretariat)*

<b>SUMMARY</b>	
<p>This paper highlights the implications of the new organizational structure and working methods as envisaged by the APIRG/26 &amp; RASG-AFI/9 Joint Session through its Decision 05/5 on the enhancement of APIRG and RASG-AFI Structure. It also proposes arrangements for the transition that reduce or avoid implementation disruptions while facilitating progress in relation to the provisions of the approved Procedural Handbook of the Africa – Indian Ocean Aviation System Planning and Implementation Group.</p> <p>Action to be taken by the Meeting is provided at paragraph 3 of the Paper.</p>	
<b>REFERENCE(S)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APIRG and RASG-AFI Terms of Reference and Procedural Handbooks</li> <li>• The Global Aviation Safety and the Global Air Navigation Plans</li> <li>• Doc 7474, Air Navigation Plan - Africa-Indian Ocean Region</li> <li>• APIRG/25 &amp; RASG-AFI/8 Joint meetings Report</li> <li>• APIRG/26 &amp; RASG-AFI/9 Joint meetings Report</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Objective(s)</b>	<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. With the experience gained by hosting the APIRG and RASG-AFI back-to-back, the joint session of APIRG/25 and RASG-AFI/8, 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, as discussed in 2019 during APIRG/22.
- 1.2. The result of the study was presented to the joint session of APIRG/26 and RASG-AFI/9 with the proposal of the combined entity. The meeting discussed the proposal and tasked the secretariat to expedite its finalization, for approval by an extraordinary meeting.

- 1.3. The final organizational structure of the merged Group and its related Procedural Handbook were discussed by this APIRG & RASG-AFI Extraordinary meeting in the agenda item 2.

## 2. DISCUSSION

### *Mandate of the Group*

- 2.1. The adoption of the merged Group, the *Africa – Indian Ocean Aviation System Planning and Implementation Group (AASPG)* and its new working methods does not necessarily obviate implementation based on the Regional Performance Objectives. The AASPG has the obligation to apply the most effective and efficient organizational structure and meeting modalities that best suit the characteristics of the AFI region's implementation work programme, while maintaining to the extent possible, alignment with the Termes of Reference, the regional work programme, the Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP, Doc 9750), the Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP, Doc 10004), as well as taking into account aspects of Global Aviation Security Plan (GASeP) by ensuring effective coordination and cooperation between all States and stakeholders.
- 2.2. The AASPG is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of its primary regional plans namely the AFI Air Navigation Plan (ANP, ICAO Doc 7474) and the Regional Aviation Safety Plan (RASP).
- 2.3. The Group is also responsible for the identification and resolution of deficiencies pertaining to safety oversight and implementation activities. It is a planning and coordination mechanism and, while implementation is the responsibility of States, AASPG can play a significant role in supporting the implementation of Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) as well as regional requirements.
- 2.4. AASPG will build on the work already done by APIRG and RASG-AFI as well as States, ICAO Regional Offices and existing regional and sub-regional organizations to support the development, maintenance and implementation of the regional plans.

### *Approval of the AASPG by the ICAO Council*

- 2.5. Both APIRG and RASG-AFI are regional Groups established by the ICAO Council.
- 2.6. The APIRG was set up by the Council of ICAO, in 1980, as recommended by the Sixth AFI Regional Air Navigation Meeting (AFI/6) held in 1979.
- 2.7. The ICAO Council at the fourth meeting of its 190<sup>th</sup> Session held on 25 May 2010, through the Decision C-DEC 190/4, approved the establishment of RASGs including the RASG-AFI for the Africa-Indian Ocean Region, with the aim of supporting a regional performance framework for the management of safety.
- 2.8. The new Group (AASPG) replacing APIRG and RASG-AFI will be submitted to the ICAO Council for endorsement.

***Interim arrangements***

2.9. The meeting may wish to agree on the following principles of interim arrangements:

- a) The APIRG and RASG-AFI, and their contributory bodies, to continue their activities until the approval of the AASPG by the ICAO Council;
- b) After the Council approval of the AASPG, the IIM and AAO sub-groups under the APIRG framework to continue their activities under the AASPG in normal course, for reporting to the AASPG through the PRCC; and the new SMO sub-group to start its activities with a first meeting that should report to the first ordinary meeting of the AASPG through the PRCC;
- c) After the Council approval of the AASPG, a first extraordinary meeting of the AASPG to be convened by the current secretary of APIRG who should ensure its secretariat; The said meeting should ensure continuity of business from APIRG and RASG-AFI to the new Group; It would be chaired by the Chairperson of APIRG assisted by the Chairperson of RASG-AFI.
- d) The APIRG and RASG-AFI should cease existence after the first meeting of the AASPG to be held in 2025 and the relevant outstanding matters of the so terminated Groups should be taken over by the AASPG.
- e) The first extraordinary meeting of the AASPG should elect its Chair and Vice-chairs who would take over business of the Group at the closure of the meeting.

**3. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1. The meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the information provided in this Working Paper;
- b) Agree on the transitional arrangements therein; and
- c) provide further guidance as necessary.