

APIRG & RASG-AFI/EO - REPORT



| ICAO

**REPORT OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE AFRICA-
INDIAN OCEAN PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION REGIONAL
GROUP & THE REGIONAL AVIATION SAFETY GROUP FOR
AFRICA - INDIAN OCEAN (APIRG&RASG-AFI/EO)**

(Libreville, Gabon, 19 July 2024)

PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIAT

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AANDD	AFI Air Navigation Deficiencies Database
AANRT	AFI Air Navigation Reporting Team
AAO SG	Airspace and Aerodrome Operations Subgroup
AASPG	Africa-Indian Ocean Aviation System Planning and Implementation Group
AFCAC	African Civil Aviation Commission
AFI	Africa- Indian Ocean
AFI-RASP	AFI Regional Aviation Safety Plan
AFTN	Aeronautical Fixed Telecommunication Network
AIXM	Aeronautical Information Exchange Systems
AMHS	Aeronautical Message Handling System
ANB	Air Navigation Bureau
ANSP	Air Navigation Service Provider
ANS-SST	Air Navigation Service – Safety Support Team
APCC	APIRG Projects Coordination Committee
APIRG	AFI Planning and Implementation Group
ARC-TF	APIRG/RASG-AFI Coordination Task Force
ATM	Air Traffic Management
CAA	Civil Aviation Authority
CNS	Communication Navigation Surveillance
ESAF	Eastern and Southern African Office
EWASPIRG	ESAF and WACAF Aviation Safety, Planning and Implementation Regional Group
GANP	Global Air Navigation Plan
GASP	Global Aviation Safety Plan
IATA	International Air Transport Association
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
iSTARS	integrated Safety Trend Analysis and Reporting System
IIM SG	Infrastructure and Information Management Sub-Group
MET	Aeronautical Meteorology (MET)
NCPI	National Coordinator for Planning and Implementation
PBN	Performance Based Navigation
PBCS	Performance Based Communication and Surveillance
PQ	Protocol Question
PRCC	Programme Review and Coordination Committee
RASC	RASG-AFI Steering Committee
RASG-AFI	AFI Regional Aviation Safety Group
SAP	State Action Plan
SAR	Search and Rescue
SOM/SG	Safety Oversight and Management Sub-Group
WACAF	Western and Central African Office

LIST OF APPENDICES

APIRG & RASG-AFI EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

Appendix 1A	List of participants
Appendix 2A	Agenda and Work Programme
Appendix 2B	Organizational Structure of the merged APIRG and RASG-AFI
Appendix 2C	Draft Procedural Handbook of the Africa-Indian Ocean Aviation System Planning and Implementation Group

LIST OF CONCLUSIONS AND DECISIONS

DEFINITIONS

RASG-AFI and APIRG record their actions in the form of Conclusions and Decisions as follows:

- a) **Conclusions** deal with matters which, in accordance with the Groups' terms of reference, merit directly the attention of States or, on which further action is required to be initiated by the Secretary in accordance with established procedures.
- b) **Decisions** relate to the internal working arrangements of the Groups and their subsidiary bodies.

APIRG & RASG-AFI EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

APIRG&RASG-AFI/EO Decision EO/01	Endorsement of the Structure of AASPG
APIRG & RASG-AFI/EO Decision EO/02	Finalization of the Procedural Handbook of the AASPG

PART I:

INTRODUCTION

PART I: INTRODUCTION

Place and duration

- 1.1. The Extraordinary Meeting of the Africa – Indian Ocean Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG) and the Regional Aviation Safety Group for Africa – Indian Ocean (RASG-AFI) was held on 19 July 2024 in Libreville, Gabon.

Attendance

- 1.2. The meeting was attended by three hundred and sixty-three (363) participants from AFI States, the ICAO Headquarters and Regional Offices, international and regional Organizations, industry and other partners and stakeholders. The list of participants is provided as **Appendix 1A** to this Report.

Officers and Secretariat

- 1.3. The Extraordinary meeting of the APIRG and RASG-AFI was co-chaired by Mrs. Paule Assoumou Koki, Director General of the Cameroon Civil Aviation Authority and Chairperson of the APIRG, and Mr. Fred K. Bamwesigye, Director General of the Uganda Civil Aviation Authority and Chairperson of the RASG-AFI.
- 1.4. Mr. Prosper Zo’o Minto’o, Regional Director, ICAO Western and Central African Office, and Ms. Lucy Mbugua, Regional Director, ICAO Eastern and Southern African Office served as Secretary to the meeting. They were supported by Mr. Arthemon Ndikumana, Deputy Regional Director, ICAO Eastern and Southern African Office and Mr. Nika Meheza Manzi, Deputy Regional Director, ICAO Western and Central African Office, with the participation of Mr. Marco Merens, Chief, Implementation Support Section, from the Air Navigation Bureau (ANB), ICAO Headquarters. The following Officers from ICAO ESAF and WACAF Regional Offices supported the meetings:

<i>Mr. Milton Tumusiime</i>	<i>RO/AIR, ESAF Office, Nairobi</i>
<i>Mr. François-Xavier Salambanga</i>	<i>RO/CNS, WACAF Office, Dakar</i>
<i>Mr. Kebba Lamin Jammeh</i>	<i>RO/FS, WACAF Office, Dakar</i>
<i>Mr. Elisha Omuya</i>	<i>RO/AGA, ESAF Office, Nairobi</i>
<i>Ms. Sonia Freitas</i>	<i>RO/SI, WACAF Office, Dakar</i>
<i>Mr. Zewdu Aregawi</i>	<i>RO/SI, ESAF Office, Nairobi</i>
<i>Ms. Chinga Mazhetese</i>	<i>RO/MET/ENV, ESAF Office, Nairobi</i>
<i>Mr. Ilboudo Goama</i>	<i>RO/MET, WACAF Office, Dakar</i>
<i>Mr. Serge Guy Tchanda</i>	<i>RO/ATM, WACAF Office, Dakar</i>
<i>Mr. Rene Tavares</i>	<i>RO/FS-AIR, WACAF Office, Dakar</i>
<i>Mr. Fanfe Bamba</i>	<i>RO/AIM-SAR, WACAF Office, Dakar</i>
<i>Mr. Eyob Estifanos</i>	<i>RO/AFI PLAN, ESAF Office, Nairobi</i>

Working Languages

- 1.5. The meetings' discussions were conducted in the English and French languages with simultaneous interpretation services. The documentation was made available on the ICAO ESAF and WACAF Offices websites in both languages.

Opening of the meeting

- 1.6. The opening session of the extraordinary meeting of APIRG and RASG-AFI took place on Friday 19 July 2024.
- 1.7. During the opening session, statements were delivered by General de Brigade Eric Tristan Moussavou, Director General of the Civil Aviation Authority of Gabon; Mr Prosper Zo'o Minto'o, ICAO Regional Director for Western and Central Africa (WACAF) Office; and Mrs. Paule Assoumou Koki, Chairperson of APIRG. In their remarks, all the guest speakers expressed their gratitude to the Authorities and people of the Gabonese Republic for hosting the event and the wonderful coordination of this meeting.
- 1.8. Mr. Moussavou, Director General of the Civil Aviation Authority (DGCAA) of Gabon, expressed deep reverence in addressing the extraordinary meeting of APIRG and RASG-AFI during the Africa Aviation Week in Libreville, Gabon. He highlighted the importance of revising the structure of APIRG and RASG-AFI to better address challenges encountered in the region and extended his gratitude to the State authorities, particularly the Head of State, General Brice Clotaire OLIGUI NGUEMA, and to the attendees for their commitment to advance African aviation. The Director General concluded by wishing the meeting productive discussions and fruitful deliberations.
- 1.9. Mr. Prosper Zo'o Minto'o, on behalf of the President of the Council of ICAO Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano, the Secretary General of ICAO, Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar, his colleague, Mrs. Lucy Mbugua, Regional Director, ICAO ESAF and Secretary of RASG-AFI, and on his own behalf, welcomed attendees to the extraordinary meeting of APIRG and RASG-AFI. He expressed his gratitude to the Government of the Gabonese Republic for hosting the event and commend the significant participation of key representatives. He recalled the meeting's purpose, which is to review and approve the new framework that will enhance air navigation and safety systems in the AFI region. The Regional Director emphasized the importance of the meeting's outcomes for the future of aviation in the region. He extended his sincere appreciation to States and Organizations, reflected by the good attendance and participation in this extraordinary meeting which will mark a turning point in the evolution of aviation in the region. He ended his statement by wishing everyone a successful meeting.
- 1.10. Ms. Paule Assoumou Koki, Chairperson of the APIRG, welcomed participants to the Extraordinary Meeting of the AFI Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG) and the Regional Aviation Safety Group for the AFI Region (RASG-AFI),

thanking the Gabonese Republic for hosting this meeting. She recalled that the meeting brings together key representatives to address challenges in air navigation and aviation safety in Africa. Chairperson emphasized the crucial role of APIRG in improving air navigation services and highlighted the ongoing efforts to merge APIRG and RASG-AFI into a single entity, following previous meetings' discussions. She recalled the meeting objectives and encourage participants to make decisive contributions. Ms. Paule Assoumou Koki, also expressed gratitude to the participants' governments and organizations, and the Secretariat, and declared the joint extraordinary meeting APIRG/RASG-AFI officially open.

PART II:

**EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF
THE APIRG AND RASG-AFI**

AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND WORK PROGRAMME

- 1.1. The agenda and the work programme adopted by the meeting is provided in **Appendix 2A** to this Report.

AGENDA ITEM 2: UPDATES ON THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE APIRG AND RASG-AFI STRUCTURE

2.1 Overview of APIRG/26 and RASG-AFI/9 Decision 5/05

- 2.1.1 The meeting was updated on the rationale of the APIRG/26 and RASG-AFI/9 Decision 5/05. on the enhancement of APIRG and RASG-AFI Structure which read 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*
- 2.1.2 The meeting was reminded that the Africa-Indian Ocean Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG) and the Regional Aviation Safety Group (RASG-AFI) for Africa - Indian Ocean were established by the ICAO Council to address air navigation planning and implementation as well as safety related issues in the Africa-Indian Ocean Region.
- 2.1.3 The APIRG/22 and RASG-AFI/5 meetings in 2019 noted the Council's review of the PIRGs and RASGs terms of reference, leading to an update of their respective procedural handbooks. Subsequently, during the 40th ICAO Assembly, it was decided to align the meeting schedules of PIRGs and RASGs with the annual reporting to the Council. This decision was implemented in 2020, with the ICAO Council approving an amendment to the Terms of Reference to mandate annual meetings.
- 2.1.4 With the experience gained by hosting the APIRG and RASG-AFI meetings 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 in the future, as discussed in 2019 during APIRG/22.
- 2.1.5 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 under two types of structure.

Structure 1, includes three sub-groups as follows:

- Infrastructure and Information Management Sub-Group (IIM/SG);
- Airspace and Aerodrome Operations Sub-Group (AAO/SG); and
- Safety Oversight and Management Sub-Group (SOM/SG).

Structure 2, includes the following five sub-groups:

- Information Management Sub-Group (IM/SG);
- Aerodrome Operations Planning Sub-Group (AOP/SG);
- Air Traffic Management & Search and Rescue Sub-Group (ATM-SAR/SG);
- CNS Infrastructure & Technology Sub-Group (CIT/SG); and
- Safety Oversight and Management Sub-Group (SOM/SG).

2.1.6 In evaluating the two proposed structures, many States and Organizations supported the Structure 1. The meeting directed the Secretariat to consider additional States and stakeholders' further comments on the proposal, develop a Procedural Handbook by June 2024, and a plan for the transition period. The Secretariat was also instructed to coordinate an extraordinary joint meeting of APIRG and RASG-AFI to review and endorse the proposals.

2.2 *Summary of the action taken by the Secretariat on the APIRG/26 & RASG-AFI/9 Decision 5/05*

2.2.1. The meeting was informed on the actions taken by the Secretariat on the APIRG/26 & RASG-AFI/9 Decision 5/05 on the Enhancement of APIRG and RASG-AFI Structure.

2.2.2. The meeting was recalled that the APIRG/26 and RASG-AFI/9 Joint Session agreed to merge the two existing in a single structure made up of the Programme Review and Coordination Committee (PRCC), the two former sub-groups (Infrastructure and Information Management Sub-Group (IIM/SG) and Airspace and Aerodrome Operations Sub-Group (AAO/SG)), and a third sub-group called the Safety Oversight and Management Sub-Group (SOM/SG).

2.2.3. The Secretariat, after several coordination meetings, refined this new structure, leading to the development of a draft Procedural Handbook. 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.

2.2.4. The group's name was also revised from "EWASPIRG" (ESAF and WACAF Aviation Safety, Planning and Implementation Regional Group) to "AASPG" (Africa – Indian Ocean Aviation System Planning and Implementation Group) to reflect these updates.

2.2.5. The meeting took note of the actions taken and commended the work done by the Secretariat.

2.3 *Presentation, Discussion and Approval of a revised Structure based on of the Proposals developed by the Secretariat and Stakeholders’ feedback, including the review of the related Draft Procedural Handbook of the Group and new Working Methods.*

2.3.1. The Secretariat presented the revised Structure, the related Draft Procedural Handbook of the Group and new Working Methods for consideration by the APIRG & RASG-AFI Extraordinary Meeting.

2.3.2. The rationale for enhancing the APIRG and RASG-AFI Structure and the summary of actions taken by the Secretariat on the APIRG/26 & RASG-AFI/9 Decision 5/05 related to the enhancement of the structure of the two groups are provided in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 of this report.

Review of the Structure of the enhanced Body “Africa – Indian Ocean Aviation System Planning and Implementation Group (AASPG)”

2.3.3. The meeting agreed on the name of the merged Entity known as the “Africa – Indian Ocean Aviation System Planning and Implementation Group (AASPG)”. The new structure of AASPG was developed following deep analysis of the organizational structures, the Terms of Reference, and mandates of APIRG and RASG-AFI as well as of their contributory bodies.

2.3.4. The AASPG structure aims at rationalizing scarce resources (human, financial, time, etc.) and ensuring tight linkage and harmonization in planning, implementation, operation, and oversight of the civil aviation activities in the region. The AASPG structure as provided in Appendix B is made up of the following Contributory Bodies:

- The Programme Review and Coordination Committee (PRCC): The PRCC is mandated by AASPG to carry out specific functions in order to coordinate and guide planning and implementation and safety related activities within the framework of AASPG, to facilitate the activities of AASPG in its Sessions, and to facilitate coordination with other PIRGs and RASGs, other Regional Groups and international organizations identified by AASPG. The PRCC shall specifically ensure continuity between the AASPG meetings and take necessary action to avoid implementation delays in between meetings of AASPG.
- The Infrastructure and Information Management Sub-Group (IIM/SG): The IIM/SG is established and mandated by AASPG to support the implementation of ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and carry out specific activities aimed to enable AASPG to discharge its functions and responsibilities in the areas of CNS, AIM and MET.
- The Airspace and Aerodrome Operations Sub-Group (AAO/SG): The AAO/SG is established and mandated by AASPG to support the implementation of ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and carry out specific activities aimed to enable AASPG to discharge its functions and responsibilities in the areas of AOP, ATM and SAR.
- The Safety Management and Oversight Sub-Group (SMO/SG): The SMO/SG is established and mandated by AASPG to support the implementation of ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and carry out specific activities

Extraordinary meeting of the Africa – Indian Ocean Planning and Implementation Regional Group & the Regional Aviation Safety Group for Africa – Indian Ocean

aimed to enable AASPG to discharge its functions and responsibilities in the areas of Safety management and Safety oversight.

2.3.5. The meeting after discussions endorsed the revised Structure as proposed by the Secretariat. The meeting therefore agreed on the following.

<i>APIRG & RASG-AFI/EO – Decision EO/01: Endorsement of the Structure of AASPG</i>					
Why:	<i>To improve the performance of APIRG and RASG-AFI, rationalizing scarce resources (human, financial, time, etc.) and ensuring tight linkage and harmonization in planning, implementation, operation, and oversight of the civil aviation activities in the region;</i>				
What:	<i>a) The APIRG and RASG-AFI are merged into a single entity named as “Africa – Indian Ocean Aviation System Planning and Implementation Group (AASPG)”;</i> and <i>b) The organizational structure of the AASPG is endorsed as per Appendix 2B to the report.</i>				
Who:	<i>APIRG and RASG-AFI</i>				
When:	<i>19 July 2024</i>				
Implementation following-up					
Follow-up required	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Metrics	Metric 1: Approved structure of the AASPG	Means to collect	Mean 1: N/A

Review of the draft Procedural Handbook of the AASPG

2.3.6. The secretariat presented to the meeting the draft Procedural Handbook of the AASPG. The Handbook is organized in Sections and Part headings describing the terms of reference, composition, position in ICAO, working arrangements, rules of procedure and practices governing the conduct of business. The framework of Section and Part headings, as well as the page numbering has been devised to provide flexibility, facilitating the revision or the addition of new material.

2.3.7. The First Edition of the AASPG Procedural Handbook reflects recommendations from various ICAO bodies, including the Air Navigation Commission and the Special AFI Regional Air Navigation Meeting, to align strategies for implementing ATM systems and improving the performance of PIRGs and RASGs. It also incorporates the merging of APIRG and RASG-AFI into a single regional group, following ICAO Council recommendations and updates. The proposed draft is included in Appendix C.

2.3.8. The meeting commended the work done by the Secretariat. The meeting tasked the Secretariat to consider comments and inputs made by the participants on the proposal, circulate to States the revised draft Procedural Handbook for further inputs and comment by September 2024. The final draft of the AASPG Procedural Handbook will be submitted for the consideration of the APIRG and RASG-AFI Meeting to be held in November 2024 in South Africa. The following Decision was therefore formulated.

APIRG & RASG-AFI/EO - Decision EO/02: Finalization of the Procedural Handbook of the AASPG

Why:	<i>To expedite the operationalization of the Africa – Indian Ocean Aviation System Planning and Implementation Group (AASPG),</i>
What:	<i>The secretariat to circulate the draft Procedural Handbook to States and stakeholders, collect their additional contributions by 30 September 2024, and finalize the Handbook, for consideration by the next APIRG&RASG-AFI meeting.</i>
Who:	<i>The Secretariat</i>
When:	<i>30th of September 2024,</i>

Implementation following-up					
Follow-up required	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Metrics	Metric 1: Finalized AASPG Handbook	Means to collect	Mean 1: SL

AGENDA ITEM 3: DISCUSSION ON TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE GROUPS

Mandate of the Group

- 3.1. The meeting recalled that the Africa – Indian Ocean Aviation System Planning and Implementation Group (AASPG) has the obligation to adopt an organizational structure and meeting methods that effectively suit the AFI region's implementation needs while staying aligned with global and regional plans, such as the GANP, GASP, and GAsEP. It must also ensure coordination and cooperation among all States and stakeholders.
- 3.2. The AASPG is responsible for developing and maintaining the AFI Air Navigation Plan and Regional Aviation Safety Plan. 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.
- 3.3. 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

- 3.4. The meeting recalled that both APIRG and RASG-AFI are regional Groups established by the ICAO Council.
- 3.5. 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, while the ICAO Council, at the fourth meeting of its 190th 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.
- 3.6. The new Group (AASPG) replacing APIRG and RASG-AFI will therefore be submitted to the ICAO Council for endorsement.

Interim arrangements

- 3.7. The meeting discussed the proposed interim arrangements, which includes the continuation of APIRG and RASG-AFI activities until the ICAO Council approves the AASPG.
- 3.8. After approval, the IIM and AAO sub-groups will continue under the AASPG, while the new SMO sub-group will begin its work.
- 3.9. The first AASPG meeting will be convened in 2025 to ensure a smooth transition from APIRG and RASG-AFI to AASPG, after which the former groups will cease to exist, and the AASPG will take over their responsibilities. The AASPG will elect its Chair and Vice-Chairs during this meeting.

- 3.10. The meeting agreed to deliberate on the transitional arrangements during the upcoming APIRG and RASG-AFI Meeting to be held in November 2024 in South Africa.

AGENDA ITEM 4: REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF THE CONCLUSIONS AND DECISIONS OF THE APIRG AND RASG-AFI EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

- 4.1. The meeting reviewed and adopted the Decisions of the APIRG and RASG-AFI Extraordinary Meeting as presented in the text of the report.

AGENDA ITEM 5: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 5.1. The meeting was reminded that the next APIRG/27 and RASG-AFI/11 meetings will be held from 4 to 8 November 2024 in South Africa.
- 5.2. During the closing session, statements were delivered by Mr. Prosper Zo'o Minto'o, Regional Director, ICAO WACAF Office, Mr. Fred K. Bamwesigye, Chairperson of the RASG-AFI and Ms. Paule Assoumou Koki, Chairperson of APIRG.
- 5.3. In his closing remarks, Mr. Prosper Zo'o Minto'o, Regional Director, ICAO WACAF Office, thanked the Gabonese Republic for hosting the APIRG and RASG-AFI Extraordinary meeting. He highlighted the meetings achievements, emphasizing that the Secretariat will circulate the Draft first edition of the AASPG Procedural Handbook for review and inputs by States and stakeholders as agreed by the meeting.
- 5.4. The Chairperson of the RASG-AFI Mr. Fred K. Bamwesigye commended the meeting for the effective participation and inputs that contributed to the deliberations.
- 5.5. The Chairperson of APIRG, Ms. Paule Assoumou Koki expressed her gratitude to the Gabonese Republic for hosting the meeting. She wished all the participants safe journey back home and officially closed the meeting.

_____END_____