



ICAO

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

**Fifth Meeting of the Africa-Indian Ocean Planning and Implementation Regional Group
Projects Coordination Committee (APCC/5)
(Virtual, 5 November 2020)**

Agenda Item 1: Presentation of the format of APIRG/RASG-AFI meetings under the revised terms of reference

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY	
This working paper presents the format of APIRG/RASG-AFI meetings under the ICAO Council revised terms of reference.	
The action by the Meeting is in paragraph 3	
Strategic Objectives	This working paper relates to the Strategic Objectives A, B, C, D and E

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. The meeting may recall that the APIRG/22 and RASG-AFI/5 meeting requested the APIRG/RASG-AFI Task Force (ARC-TF) to conduct an in-depth analysis and develop proposals for the structural changes and timelines for the implementation of the integrated approach in the AFI Region, together with the consequential amendments to the Procedural Handbooks. Hence the following decision was formulated:

APIRG/22 & RASG-AFI/5 Decision 1/01: Transition to an integrated approach to PIRGs and RASGs

That the APIRG / RASG-AFI Task Force (ARC-TF):

- a) *Conduct an analysis of the PIRGs/RASGs enhancement strategy addressing organizational challenges, infrastructure, operational risks and performance measurement, and propose the structural changes required for its implementation in the AFI Region; and*
 - b) *Present the results to an Extraordinary Meeting of APIRG and RASG-AFI to be convened during the first quarter of 2020.*
- 1.2. Furthermore, the second meeting of the APIRG/RASG-AFI Coordination Task Force (ARC-TF/2) held in Accra, Ghana, discussed on the elements that would have an impact on the terms of reference and the APIRG and RASG-AFI Handbooks. The main elements identified included the format, venue, frequency and structure of meetings, and the reporting cycle.

2 DISCUSSION

- 2.1. The APIRG/22 and RASG-AFI/5 meeting recognized that the Task Force needs more time to analyze the impact of the identified elements and other provisions and agreed to the timelines for the development of proposals, together with the structural changes to be implemented.
- 2.2. The Task Force was particularly requested to present the initial proposals to the APIRG Projects Coordination Committee (APCC) and the RASG-AFI Steering Committee (RASC) by mid-September 2019 and subsequently to the Extraordinary Meeting to be convened in the first quarter 2020. The Extraordinary meeting would also consider and adopt the structural changes to be implemented and ensure AFI Regional Groups' compliance with the Council approved PIRGs/RASGs ToR.
- 2.3. Unfortunately, the Extraordinary Meeting APIRG and RASG AFI/EO, convened in Nairobi, Kenya, from 23 to 24 April 2020, through by a State invitation letter Ref.: ES AN 1/6 – 0116 dated 4 March 2020 was postponed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic outbreak and related restrictions that brought global activities to halt.
- 2.4. In discussing the format of the APIRG/22 and RASG-AFI/5 meetings, and in particular the joint and parallel sessions as compared to the usual back-to-back approach, the plenary identified challenges that included logistical constraints, cost implications and inability of some States and Organizations to cover parallel meetings among other issues. It was therefore agreed to request the ARC Task Force to evaluate the efficiency and suitability of the new meeting format.
- 2.5. According to the Council approved ToR, APIRG meetings would be convened in the Regional Offices, to the extent possible, to facilitate proper access by States. Approval to host PIRG meetings outside of the Regional Office must be obtained from the President of the Council. It has been noted that the AFI Region is unable to comply with the preferred location of meetings due to the unavailability of resources and adequate facilities to host the meetings in the adopted format, at Regional offices.
- 2.6. The meeting may note that with the current COVID19 outbreak, the possibilities of complying with requirements for hosting and organizing physical meetings are seriously affected and convening of meeting virtually should be considered as the modus operandi to the extent possible, until such a time as physical meetings can be convened. Furthermore, virtual meetings have the benefits of being flexible in increasing attendance by States' participants, cost effective and relatively easier logistics.

2.7. After consideration of the APIRG/22 and RASG/5 meetings and related challenges and considering the virtual nature of the upcoming events occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Secretariat recommends the following option as preferred order for effective conduct of the upcoming meetings.

- i. Joint APIRG & RASG-AFI opening session,
- ii. APIRG back-to-back with RASG-AFI, and
- iii. Joint APIRG & RASG-AFI closing session.

3 ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the information contained in the WP;
- b) Adopt the conduct of APIRG and its contributory bodies meetings virtually to the extent possible until such time when the situation will allow physical meetings; and
- c) Allow the format of conducting the APIRG & RASG-AFI meetings as follows: Joint APIRG & RASG-AFI opening session, APIRG back-to-back with RASG-AFI, and Joint APIRG & RASG-AFI closing session.