

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

**Seventh Meeting of the APIRG Airspace and Aerodrome Operations Sub-Group
(AAO/SG7)***Nairobi, Kenya, 12 - 16 August 2024***Agenda Item 9: Terms of reference and Work programme****UPDATE ON THE ENHANCEMENT OF APIRG AND RASG-AFI STRUCTURE***(Presented by the Secretariat)*

SUMMARY	
<p>This paper provides an update on the actions taken with regard to the enhancement of APIRG and RASG-AFI structure.</p> <p>Action to be taken by the Meeting is provided in 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)	<i>A – Safety, B – Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency, D – Economic Development of Air Transport, and E – Environmental Protection</i>

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The AFI Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG) was set up by the Council of ICAO, in 1980, as recommended by the Sixth AFI Regional Air Navigation Meeting (AFI RAN/6), in 1979.

- 1.2. APIRG is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of the AFI Air Navigation Plan (ANP, ICAO Doc 7474), as well as the identification and resolution of air navigation deficiencies. It is a planning and coordination mechanism and, while implementation is the responsibility of States, APIRG plays a significant role in supporting the implementation of Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) as well as regional requirements.
- 1.3. The ICAO Council, at the fourth meeting of its 190th Session held on 25 May 2010 (C-DEC 190/4), approved the establishment of the RASGs, including the RASG-AFI, for the Africa-Indian Ocean Region, with the aim of supporting a regional performance framework for safety management.
- 1.4. In 2019, the ICAO Council reviewed the terms of reference of the PIRGs and RASGs, and a generic structure was adopted to improve the performance and expected results of PIRGs and RASGs of all regions. APIRG/22 and RASG-AFI/5 meetings requested that their respective Secretariats update the PIRG and RASG handbooks (APIRG/22 & RASG-AFI/5 Decision 1/03) for alignment with the generic ToRs.
- 1.5. Furthermore, during the 40th Session of the ICAO Assembly, it was decided to align the meeting schedule of the Planning and Implementation Regional Groups (PIRGs) and Regional Aviation Safety Groups (RASGs) with the annual reporting requirement to the Council. The PIRGs and RASGs meetings were therefore conducted annually.
- 1.6. In view of the significant number of common areas and subsequent coordination requirements, the joint session of APIRG/25 and RASG-AFI/8 called for a study on the feasibility including advantages and disadvantages of combining APIRG and RASG-AFI into a single entity in the future.

2. DISCUSSION

- 2.1. The APIRG/25 & RASG-AFI/8 joint session, through its Decision 4/04—Enhancement of APIRG and RASG-AFI Structure, tasked the Secretaries of the two groups with studying the feasibility of combining APIRG and RASG AFI into one entity and submitting the result to the next meeting of the groups for consideration.
- 2.2. The result of the study was presented at the joint session of APIRG/26 and RASG-AFI/6 in November 2023 with the proposal of the combined entity into two options.
- 2.3. In evaluating the advantages and disadvantages identified for each of the two options, many States and Organizations supported Structure 1 (see attachment), and the meeting tasked the Secretariat to develop a draft Procedural Handbook of the future body June 2024, as well as establish the timeline and other related arrangements for the transition.
- 2.4. An Extraordinary Joint Meeting of APIRG and RASG-AFI was held in Libreville, Gabon on 19 July 2024. The meeting reviewed and endorsed the new Structure of APIRG and RASG-AFI and discussed the related Draft Procedural Handbook of the Group and the new Working Methods.
- 2.5. The meeting requested that the Secretariat 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 and RASG-AFI meeting.

***Mandate of the future
AASPG Group***

- 2.6. The Africa- Indian Ocean Aviation System Planning and Implementation Group (AASPG) will have the responsibility of the AFI region's implementation work programme, by maintaining to the extent possible, alignment between 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) and by ensuring effective coordination and cooperation between all States and stakeholders.
- 2.7. The AASPG will be 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).
- 2.8. The Group will also be responsible for the identification and resolution of deficiencies pertaining to safety oversight and implementation activities.
- 2.9. 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.

Transitional arrangements

- 2.10. Transitional arrangements will be discussed at the next meetings of APIRG and RASG-AFI to be held in November 2024 in South Africa.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the contents of this Working Paper; and
- b) Encourage States and organizations to review the draft Procedural Handbook once circulated.

Appendix A: Organizational Structure of the Group

