



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the Africa-Indian Ocean Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG/26) & Ninth Meeting of the Regional Aviation Safety Group for the AFI Region (RASG-AFI/9) – Joint sessions 6 and 10 November 2023

Agenda Item 3: APIRG and RASG-AFI Coordination

3.4 - Enhancement of APIRG and RASG-AFI Structure

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the results of the work of the small group established by the APIRG/25 & RASG-AFI/8 Joint session to study the feasibility of combining APIRG and RASG-AFI into a single entity in the future, as discussed in 2019 during APIRG/22.

Action by the Meeting is provided in **paragraph 3**

REFERENCES

- 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
- Joint APIRG and RASG-AFI Reports

Strategic Objectives

A – Safety, B – Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency, D – Economic Development of Air Transport, and E – Environmental Protection.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The APIRG/25 & RASG-AFI/8 joint session, recalling previous discussions on the geographical area of coverage of the two groups, agreed that the definition of the geographical area of applicability of APIRG and RASG-AFI should be based on the areas of accreditation of the ICAO ESAF and WACAF Offices, as stated in its *Decision 4/03 - New Designation of the Air Navigation Area covered by APIRG and RASG-AFI*.
- 1.2. The joint session, through its *Decision 4/04 - Enhancement of APIRG and RASG-AFI Structure*, tasked the Secretaries of the two groups to coordinate with the Chairpersons and the ARC-TF supported by a small group, to study the modalities of an integrated approach to APIRG and RASG-AFI in combining them into one entity; and submit the result to the next meeting of the groups for consideration.
- 1.3. The proposal as presented in this Paper has been coordinated with the Chairpersons and the ARC-TF as called by the Decision 4/04.

2 DISCUSSIONS

- 2.1. The mandate of the small team called for by the APIRG/25 & RASG-AFI/8 Decision 4/04 is limited to the study for combining the two groups into a single entity. Therefore, the study did not go beyond the current scopes of APIRG and RASG-AFI.
- 2.2. The team analyzed the organizational structures, the Terms of Reference and mandates of APIRG and RASG-AFI as well as of their subsidiary bodies, to propose the merging of the two regional groups, aiming at rationalizing scarce resources (human, financial, time, etc.) and ensuring tight linkage and harmonization in planning, implementation, operation, and oversight of the civil aviation industry in the region. The proposal for combining APIRG and RASG-AFI is submitted for consideration by the meeting, through the Concept Note in **Appendix A** to this working paper.
- 2.3. The Concept Note proposes the merged group called **ESAF & WACAF Aviation Safety, Planning and Implementation Regional Group (EWASPIRG)**, with three sub-layers as follows:
 - i. Programme Review and Coordination Committee (PRCC): *responsible for coordinating the activities of the Group;*
 - ii. Subgroups: *to discharge the Group responsibilities in technical matters related to planning, implementation, and safety oversight of aviation industry;*
 - iii. Projects: *to carry out specific and technical work by 'teams' of subject matter experts.*
- 2.4. Two scenarios of structure are proposed for consideration:
 - a) The scenario 1 includes three sub-groups as follows:
 - Infrastructure and Information Management Sub-Group (**IIM/SG**)
 - Airspace and Aerodrome Operations Sub-Group (**AAO/SG**)
 - Safety Oversight and Management Sub-Group (**SOM/SG**)
 - b) The scenario 2 includes the following five sub-groups:
 - Information Management Sub-Group (**IM SG**)
 - Aerodrome Operations Sub-Group (**AOP/SG**)
 - Air Traffic Management & Search and Rescue Sub-Group (**ATM-SAR/SG**)
 - CNS Infrastructure & Technology Sub-Group (**CIT/SG**)
 - Safety Oversight and Management Sub-Group (**SOM/SG**)

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

- 3.1. The meeting is invited to:
 - a) take note of the information presented in this working paper; and
 - b) review the Concept Note on the enhanced structure of APIRG and RASG-AFI as presented;
 - c) agree on a principle of an extraordinary APIRG and RASG-AFI meeting in 2024 to adopt the new structure; and
 - d) Provide further guidance as appropriate.

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