

**INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION****FIRST MEETING OF THE APAC CIVIL AVIATION COMMISSION
TASK FORCE***Bangkok, Thailand, 22 to 23 June 2015***Agenda Item 3: Adoption of the Terms of Reference****FEASIBILITY OF AN ASIA PACIFIC CIVIL AVIATION COMMISSION –
TASK FORCE DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE**

(Presented by Australia)

SUMMARY

Australia welcomes proposals to examine the feasibility of the formation of an Asia Pacific Civil Aviation Commission (the Commission).

To assist further development of the feasibility of this proposal, Australia presents draft terms of reference for the Task Force's consideration to help guide the Task Force's examination of the significant issues associated with establishing the Commission.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 At the 51st Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Conference held in Hong Kong, China in November 2014, the Deputy Administrator of the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) highlighted that a Task Force should be established to examine the feasibility of an Asia Pacific Civil Aviation Commission.

1.2 Australia supported the establishment of the Task Force and acknowledged the previous efforts of India and Indonesia and the Information Paper of New Zealand at the last DGCA Conference, amongst others, which have supported the case for examining the establishment of such a Commission.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 With ICAO's endorsement of the Global Aviation Navigation Plan (GANP) and Global Aviation Navigation Plan (GASP) in 2013 and 2014 respectively there is now in place an international aviation framework which sets out the importance of integrated global, regional and State aviation planning and operations.

2.2 The GANP and the GASP have also further emphasized the importance and need for greater regional co-operation and coordination in aviation.

2.3 With the Asia-Pacific Region forecast to have the highest global air traffic growth rates for the foreseeable future, the growing need for increased seamless air traffic operations in the region creates a strong case for examining the establishment of a regional organization for civil aviation, complementary to the work of the ICAO Regional Office in the Asia-Pacific.

2.4 In examining proposals that would support the establishment of a high level Civil Aviation Commission in the Asia Pacific Region; we propose that the Task Force's deliberations cover off the following key issues which could be included in a Terms of Reference for the Taskforce.

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

2.5 The Task Force will examine the following matters in considering the feasibility of the formation of an Asia Pacific Civil Aviation Commission:

- the role, scope and key objectives and priorities of the Commission;
- the governance arrangements and organizational structure of the Commission, including Commission membership;
- a sustainable funding model for the Commission;
- the location and size, structure and role of a Commission Office or Secretariat to support the Commission;
- the ability of the Commission to enhance engagement of all member States in the region;
- the relationship of the Commission with ICAO and the ICAO Regional Office, DGCA and other regional aviation groups that are already established; and
- in undertaking this work, the Taskforce examine the role, structure and operations of other regional Commissions in the world to determine their suitability for the Asia-Pacific Region.

2.6 The establishment of an Asia Pacific Civil Aviation Commission needs to complement the work of existing regional organizations and the ICAO Regional Offices to avoid overlapping roles and duplication of finite resources and expertise in the region.

2.7 Australia recognizes that "civil aviation" covers a wide range of activities and suggests that in pursuing the feasibility of the formation of the Commission, the initial focus of the role and scope of the Commission should be on the key priorities set out in the GANP and the GASP.

2.8 As a State that has experience in establishing strong aviation governance arrangements, Australia looks forward to working with other States in the region to progress consideration of the feasibility of this proposal.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper; and
- b) consider the draft terms of reference for the Taskforce as set out in Paragraph 2.5 of the Paper.