



ICAO

Twenty Fourth Meeting of the Africa-Indian Ocean Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG/24) & Seventh Meeting of the Regional Aviation Safety Group for the AFI Region (RASG-AFI/7) – Joint sessions

(Virtual, 1 and 8 November 2021)

Agenda item 2 : Review of the action taken by the ANC and the Council on the report of APIRG/23 and RASG-AFI/6 meetings

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY	
<p>The Air Navigation Commission (ANC) and the Air Navigation Bureau (ANB) jointly present a consolidated annual report on Planning and Implementation Regional Groups (PIRGs) and Regional Aviation Safety Groups (RASGs), covering the period from April 2020 to March 2021 including APIRG/23 and RASG-AF/6.</p> <p>The action by the Meeting is in paragraph 3.</p>	
<i>Strategic Objectives</i>	This working paper relates to the Strategic Objectives A and B

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning and Implementation Regional Groups (PIRGs) and Regional Aviation Safety Groups (RASGs) have established regional priorities, implementation indicators and targets in aviation safety and air navigation for the regional implementation of the Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP) and the Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP). They also address regional safety and air navigation concerns. This is reflected in the work programmes of PIRGs and RASGs.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The Commission noted that, because of the relevant analyses carried out and the challenges identified related to the effectiveness and efficiency of the meeting format previously applied, this meeting was structured with a joint APIRG and RASG-AFI opening session followed by an APIRG Meeting held back-to-back with a RASG-AFI Meeting. The APIRG and RASG-AFI expressed their appreciation to the President of the Air Navigation Commission for his active participation and address to the joint closing session of APIRG/23 and RASG-AFI/6 Meetings.

2.2 The Commission noted with satisfaction that the APIRG/23 Meeting and the RASG-AFI/6 Meeting were very well attended with more than 500 and 400 participants respectively, from AFI States, regional/international organizations and industry. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the participation at the sub-group level has also increased. The Commission noted that the AFI Region may benefit from more regular ministerial meetings under the auspices of the African Union (AU).

2.3 The Commission noted the serious challenges related to the economic recovery of ANSPs and aerodromes operators from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the impact on States and their industry capabilities and resources. It was highlighted that there are insufficient commitments and technical/financial resources in some States to improve compliance with provisions of ICAO SARPs and corrective action plans implementation.

2.4 With regard to the outstanding rotation of the PIRG and RASG Secretaries as mandated by the Council, the Commission noted that the Secretary General has designated Mr. Prosper Zo'o Minto'o, Regional Director (RD), WACAF as the Secretary of APIRG, and Mr. Barry Kashambo, RD, ESAF as the Secretary of RASG-AFI with effect from 1st April 2021.

2.5 With regard to the actual geographical area of APIRG and RASG-AFI, the Commission noted that the Africa-Indian Ocean (AFI) Region is currently defined as the area embracing Africa and associated oceanic areas and land masses between 25 degrees west and 75 degrees east and south to the South Pole. The Commission was informed that this is highly confusing when the AFI Region is referred to, but it is not the membership area of APIRG and RASG-AFI.

2.6 The Commission noted that the alignment of the definition of coverage area may also have an impact related to ongoing regional programmes and initiatives. This definition may have an impact on the AFI Regional Monitoring Agency (ARMA), AFI Plan, Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Security and Facilitation in Africa (AFI SECFAL Plan), African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), AFI- Cooperative Inspectorate Scheme (AFI CIS), and AFI Security and Facilitation Cooperative Experts Scheme (CES), or other arrangements such as the AFI Group, which were established earlier for the AFI Region.

2.7 The Commission noted that, although this item was identified by the APIRG/RASG-AFI, other regions could experience similar difficulties related to accreditation, amongst other items, and this issue could be considered a global challenge. The Commission requested the Secretariat to develop holistic proposals for consideration by the ANC and Council related to the definition of the Africa Indian Ocean Region. This would include, if necessary, the revision of relevant ICAO documentation in coordination with all stakeholders, i.e. the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC) and Arab Civil Aviation Organization (ACAO).

2.8 The Council identified the definition of the AFI Region as a common challenge that will be addressed.

2.9 With regard to the low levels of State Safety Programme (SSP) implementation as reported, the Commission recalled that it had already been identified as a common challenge in the Consolidated Annual Report of PIRGs/RASGs in 2020, and that Council tasked the ANC to identify the cause of underlying issues. The Commission identified the need and requested the Secretariat to expedite this work.

3 ACTION BY THE MEETING

The meeting is invited to:

- a) take action, as required; and
- b) note the action taken by the Council related to the APIRG/23 and RASG-AFI/6 reports.

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