International Civil Aviation Organization

**Sixth Meeting of the APIRG Communications, Navigation
and Surveillance Sub-group (CNS/SG/6)**

Dakar, Senegal, 18 – 22 May 2015

Agenda Item 3: Review the outcome of the APIRG Extraordinary Meeting

SUMMARY
This working paper reviews the outcome of the APIRG Extraordinary meeting held in Lusaka, Zambia from from 10 to 11 July 2014, identifies actions to be taken by the meeting for the future programme of APIRG CNS related Sub group activities;
Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.
RERENCE 　▪　Report of the Seventh Africa-Indian-Ocean Regional Air Navigation 　　　○　AFI / RAN /7 Meeting **(Doc 9702)** 　▪　Report on the AFI SP AFI / RAN /8 Meeting 　▪　Reports on APIRG 18 and EO Meetings *Note: References can be downloaded from www.icao.int/wacaf.*
Related **ICAO Strategic Objectives**: A: *Safety; B: Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency*

1-Introduction

The Africa-Indian Ocean (AFI) Planning and Implementation Regional Group Extraordinary Meeting (APIRG/EO) was held, at Mulungushi International Conference Centre in Lusaka, Zambia, from 10 to 11 July 2014.

The meeting was attended by 114 participants from AFI States and 8 regional and international organizations.

2- Discussion

2.1. The meeting reviewed the current Structure of APIRG and recalled that the Special Regional Air Navigation Meeting of 2008 (SP AFI/08 RAN) recognized the need to have a clearly defined strategy to implement Air Traffic Management (ATM) systems and to align work programmes of States, regions and ICAO Headquarters. Accordingly, the SP AFI/08 RAN Meeting had agreed that APIRG should review its structure to determine if changes would be beneficial in light of performance based approach to air navigation planning.

The Group also recalled that the Twelfth Air Navigation Conference (AN-Conf/12) under Recommendation 6/1–Regional performance framework–planning methodologies and tools, inter alia, requested States and PIRGs to focus on implementing the ICAO Aviation System Block Upgrades (**ASBUs**) Block 0 Modules according to their operational requirements.

In this regard, the APIRG/19 Meeting agreed that, within the ASBU framework, due consideration should be given to planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting aspects and furthermore, project management principles should be applied by the APIRG and contributory bodies for ASBUs, as necessary.

Accordingly the APIRG/19 Meeting had agreed on Decision 19/48: *Re-organization of APIRG* and APIR EO noted that in reviewing the report of the APIRG/19 and RASG-AFI/2 meetings, the Air Navigation Commission (AN-WP/8820, 17/2/2014) welcomed the adoption by APIRG of the Fourth Edition of the GANP within its work programme, as well as its decision to consider a project based work programme when reviewing its organizational structure.

2.2 The Secretariat presented to the meeting two reorganization options based on the four Performance Improvement   Areas (PIAs) of the ICAO Aviation System Block Upgrades (**ASBUs**) methodology.

The group discussed the merits in the options presented by the Secretariat, particularly issues relating to the achievement of synergies and harmonization of work volumes between the Sub-Groups that would be established. In this regard the Group agreed on the following:

a)   **APIRG Projects Coordination Committee (APCC)** – establishment of the APCC to undertake tasks that have hitherto been an increasing challenge. These include reducing the volume of material for consideration by APIRG meetings to manageable levels, carrying out certain tasks in between the APIRG meetings in order to facilitate continuity and efficiency in implementation, and supporting the required coordination between APIRG and RASG-AFI. The APCC will be composed of elected Chairperson and Vice-chairpersons, the Secretary of APIRG, elected Officials from Sub-groups States and Secretaries of the Sub-Groups.

b) **Sub-Groups of APIRG –** The Group discussed two options of the establishment of Sub-Groups, as well and various combination thereof. It was noted that historically, while there had been varying degrees of consolidation from time, the APIRG Sub-Groups had predominantly been focused on areas of air navigation. However, the Group recognized the impact of the Fourth Edition of the GANP, in particular the ASBUs methodology therein, the need to reduce costs of activities within the framework of APIRG, as well as adoption of the project management approach. The Group agreed on the following two Sub-Groups:

- **Airspace and Aerodrome Operations Sub-Group (AAO/SG).** Establishment of this Sub-Group recognizes the absolute necessity for effective coordination between various areas of ANS and AGA, with particular respect to the ASBUs Performance Improvement Area (PIA) 1 (Airport Operations), PIA 3 (Optimum Capacity and Flexible Routes), PIA 4 (Efficient Flight Paths).

- **Infrastructure and Information Management Sub-Group (IIM/SG).** Establishment of this Sub-Group focuses on implementation in the context of PIA 2 (**Globally Interoperable Systems and Data**) and focuses on the role of digital processing and management of aeronautical information, meteorological

information and the data link communications in support of the provision of air traffic services (ATS). In addition, this grouping is in alignment with the Technology Roadmaps in the GANP (Doc 9750).

- **AFI Traffic Forecasting Group (AFI TFG)** – The Group noted that the AFI TFG had a facilitative role to the primary work of APIRG and that its functions are subject to coordination between ICAO Headquarters and the AFI Regional Offices. In this respect the meeting agreed to retain the AFI TFG.

The APIRG new proposed structure is presented at **Appendix** to this working paper.

2.3   The Group agreed that with the envisaged functions of APIRG under the adopted project management approach, there would no longer be a requirement for "**standing**" structural bodies below the Sub-Groups. In this regard, in order to carry out the work of the Sub-Groups, 'projects' will be identified by the Group, to be executed by '**teams'** of experts and Champions reporting to the Sub-Groups. Project Teams shall elect from among them, Project Team Coordinators (**PTCs**) who shall facilitate and coordinate the activities including deliberations of the Project Teams and report to the Sub-Groups. Each Project Team will be supported by a Facilitator designated by the Secretary of APIRG from among members of the ICAO Secretariat. Additional members of the Secretariat may be assigned to support a Sub-Group as necessary.

The Projects will be derived from the ASBU Modules and the agreed regional performance objectives. A Project Team may carry out one or more projects. Furthermore, based on the nature of a project, the Group may decide that the team to carry it out should report to Group rather than the Sub-Group.

2.4   The Group was also mindful that consistent with GANP, where applicable, in defining the scope of projects, consideration will be given to the concept of homogeneous ATM areas or major traffic flows/routing areas as established in the GANP. In the same vein, a project involving a few FIRs may be identified in the context of addressing seamlessness of a specific area of routing.

2.5   The Group recognized that many Projects may not necessitate physical meetings, but may carry out their tasks through electronic correspondence and other media such as teleconferences. Similarly, even in those Projects where physical meeting will be necessary, more work should be carried out through electronic media, in order to reduce the costs

2.6   In order to align with and support the reorganized APIRG and its methods, pursuant to the Group's Decision 19/48, the Group concurred that the APIRG Procedural Handbook which contains methods and working procedures of the APIRG should be updated in order to effect the agreed changes and tasked the Secretariat to undertake revision of the APIRG Procedural Handbook to reflect the reorganization of APIRG and working methods as adopted by the APIRG-EO meeting, as well as other relevant changes in ICAO, and circulate the revised Handbook to APIRG Members for review and comments before the next APIRG meeting, or the

new organization and working methods become effective, whichever comes first.
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2.7	The Group was also mindful that the transition from the current APIRG structure to the new structure and working methods would have to take into consideration the need for continuity in its functions. In particular the meeting considered transition issues to be tackled such as:

- existing activities of APIRG, considered to still be essential should continue without any undue disruption;

- it is essential that coordination be carried through existing APIRG structures and the Regional Offices' efforts, to facilitate functional appreciation of the new structure and working methods;
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- parties (States, organizations and officials), who are to participate and to operationalize the new structure, may best be identified through a regular meeting of APIRG, at which an agenda item on this aspect will have been circulated to States and organization in advance;
- it is important not to delay implementation of the Fourth Edition of the GANP, specifically the ASBUs; and
- there is no mandate, under the APIRG Decision 19/48 for the Extraordinary Meeting of the APIRG to vary current Conclusions and Decisions of APIRG beyond the structure and working methods of the Group.

2.8	For easy reference, the detailed Working and Information Papers and the preliminary Report on APIRG EO meeting can be downloaded @: http://www.icao.int/ESAF/Pages/apirg-eo.aspx

3. Action by the meeting

The meeting is invited:
a) To take note of the information given above;
b) Identify in its current Terms of Reference and work prorgamme, components to be included in the activities of the new APIRG Sub Goups