



*INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION*

**FIRST MEETING OF THE EXPERT GROUP OF APAC CIVIL AVIATION  
COMMISSION TASK FORCE**

*Bangkok, Thailand, 11-12 November 2015*

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**Agenda Item 3: Adoption of the Terms of Reference of Expert Group**

**EXPERT GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE**

(Presented by Australia)

**SUMMARY**

This Paper proposes a suggested draft Terms of Reference for consideration by the Expert Group to help guide its future work and report to the APAC Civil Aviation Task Force.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Noting Working Paper 3 provided by the Secretariat, Australia also provides the following points for consideration by the Expert Group.

1.2 At the APCACTF/1 Meeting of 22-23 June 2015 the Task Force agreed on Terms of Reference (TOR) with regard to a study on the feasibility of the establishment of an Asia Pacific Civil Aviation Commission (APCAC).

1.3 That TOR outlined that the Task Force may establish an Expert Group to assist with its work, including the conduct of a survey on the feasibility study.

1.4 The Task Force agreed that the Expert Group should draw up its own TOR.

**2. DISCUSSION**

2.1 On the basis of the initial meeting of the APCAC Task Force, Australia suggests that the following range of matters be considered for inclusion in the TOR for the Expert Group:

- identification of the key objectives, priorities and challenges for States within the Asia Pacific Region regarding cooperation, coordination and assistance on operational and technical matters in the areas of aviation safety and air navigation;
- identification and analysis of current Asia Pacific Regional support and coordination mechanisms that address the key objectives, priorities and challenges identified above and identifying opportunities to strengthen and improve that existing regional cooperation, coordination and assistance framework;

- An examination of objectives, priorities and challenges that could be more appropriately or effectively managed using other fora including the establishment of a new APCAC. This examination would look at the costs and benefits of establishing a new forum and in undertaking this work, have regard to the work done by existing international Civil Aviation Commission/Conferences in Europe, Africa and South America;
- where an APCAC is considered beneficial, an analysis of the resourcing and logistical issues involved, including:
  - (a) Funding
  - (b) Staffing
  - (c) Location
  - (d) Role and scope of work
  - (e) Governance arrangements, and
  - (f) Interaction with other Regional and ICAO fora

2.2 In undertaking this work, Australia notes the paper developed by Pakistan for APCACTF/1 (WP/9) and suggests that this provides a good support for consideration of a future APCAC.

2.3 Australia also suggests Paper DGCA-51/IP/3.6/8, submitted by New Zealand to the 51<sup>st</sup> Directors General of Civil Aviation Conference (DGCA), and Paper DGCA-50/DP/7/11, submitted to the 50<sup>th</sup> DGCA by Indonesia would be useful background advice; as is ICAO's Policy on Regional Cooperation.

2.4 Australia suggests that at this first meeting of the Expert Group a list of objectives, priorities and challenges be set out by the member States present in regard to cooperation, coordination and assistance on aviation safety and air navigation operational and technical matters; and use this as a starting point to investigate views more broadly throughout the Region, potentially as the basis of a survey of all members throughout the region.

2.5 Australia also suggests that a potential role of the APCAC should include the ability to coordinate common Asia-Pacific positions on key priorities for future ICAO Conferences and Assembly Meetings similar to the common approaches put forward by the European Civil Aviation Commission (ECAC) at these major international policy and regulatory making events.

### **3. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- (a) Review the suggested attached Terms of Reference to help guide the work of the Expert Group and suggest any modifications; and
- (b) At this initial meeting of the Expert Group develop a list of key objectives, priorities and challenges regarding aviation safety and air navigation issues in the Asia Pacific region to assist the Group in its consideration of strengthening current regional cooperation, coordination and assistance frameworks and the potential future role of an APCAC.

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**DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Asia Pacific Civil Aviation Commission Expert Group (APCACEG)**

**Deliverable**

Report to the APCAC Task Force on the outcomes of a study into the feasibility of the establishment of an Asia Pacific Civil Aviation Commission (APCAC) having regard to existing cooperation, coordination and assistance mechanisms in the Asia Pacific.

**Scope**

- (1) Identification of the key objectives, priorities and challenges for States within the Asia Pacific Region regarding cooperation, coordination and assistance on operational and technical matters in the areas of aviation safety and air navigation.
- (2) Identification and analysis of current Asia Pacific Regional support and coordination mechanisms for addressing the key objectives, priorities and challenges identified in terms of reference (1) and identifying opportunities to strengthen and improve the existing regional cooperation, coordination and assistance framework.
- (3) An examination of objectives, priorities and challenges that could be more appropriately or effectively managed using other fora including the establishment of a new APCAC. This examination would look at the costs and benefits of establishing a new forum and in undertaking this work, have regard to the work done by existing international Civil Aviation Commission/Conferences in Europe, Africa and South America.
- (4) Where an APCAC is considered beneficial, an analysis of the resourcing and logistical issues involved in establishing such a Commission in the Asia-Pacific region, including:
  - (a) Funding;
  - (b) Staffing;
  - (c) Location;
  - (d) Role and scope of work;
  - (e) Governance arrangements, and
  - (f) Interaction with other Regional and ICAO fora.
- (5) Any other related matters as requested by the APCAC Task Force.

**Composition**

The Expert Group will be composed of representatives from the Asia Pacific ICAO member States as nominated through the APCAC Task Force. The Expert Group may seek assistance and advice as appropriate from the ICAO Asia-Pacific Regional Office and other international aviation commissions and expert groups.

**Conduct of the work and schedule**

The Expert Group will present the outcomes of its feasibility study to the APCAC Task Force by 30 June 2016.