

## **Asia and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Civil Aviation (Delhi)**

- 1) We, the Ministers from the Asia and Pacific States responsible for Civil Aviation, met in New Delhi, India, from 11-12 September 2024, on the occasion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation and the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention), organized by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), to reaffirm the obligations as the Contracting States to the Chicago Convention signed on 7 December 1944 to ensure the safety, security, efficiency and continuity of civil aviation;
- 2) Recalling that Ministers met at the 1<sup>st</sup> Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation in Beijing, China, from 31 January to 1 February 2018, and endorsed a landmark declaration (Beijing Declaration) underpinning the importance of air transportation for social and economic development and the shared commitments and vision of Asia and Pacific Ministers to build Regional momentum to realize the implementation of Aviation Safety priorities and targets and Asia/Pacific Seamless Air Traffic Management (ATM) Plan (now renamed as the Asia/Pacific Seamless Air Navigation Service (ANS) Plan) with the collaboration of States/Administrations and active participation of the aviation industry;
- 3) Acknowledging the extraordinary circumstances during COVID-19 pandemic which impeded States/Administrations from effectively implementing the Beijing Declaration commitments while noting updated safety and air navigation targets have emerged to better support States/Administrations in the Asia and Pacific Region;
- 4) Recognizing that the recovery of air transportation is progressing and that passenger and freight demand in the Asia and Pacific Region is forecast to regain higher growth rates requiring a concerted effort of States/Administrations and the aviation industry to meet the increasing demand while enabling a safe, secure, efficient and a more resilient aviation sector, and minimizing the adverse effects of international civil aviation on the global climate, which supports the realization of United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- 5) Identifying that key priorities exist in the Asia and Pacific Region requiring collaboration and that States/Administrations need to develop capabilities to improve safety, security and building of additional capacity to address emerging Regional and global challenges to sustain the Regional civil aviation growth forecast;
- 6) Noting that over half of the States/Administrations in the Asia and Pacific Region which have had an ICAO audit under the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme – Continuous Monitoring Approach (USOAP – CMA) have an effective implementation (EI) of the critical elements (CEs) of a State safety oversight system lower than the global average;
- 7) Noting that over half of the States/Administrations in the Asia and Pacific Region which have had an ICAO audit under the Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP) have an EI of the CE of a State aviation security oversight system lower than the global average;
- 8) Acknowledging that the ICAO Assembly 41<sup>st</sup> Session endorsed the Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP) 2023 – 2025 edition and the Seventh Edition of the Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP) as the global strategic directions for safety and air navigation respectively, and urged Member States to demonstrate the political will necessary to implement remedial actions to resolve safety concerns and air navigation deficiencies in a timely manner as well as integrate aviation in the national development plans;

9) Appreciating that HR development strategies combined with adequately funded and quality assured training and accompanying investment in training infrastructure is essential for developing and maintaining a qualified and competent workforce to manage all aviation activities and to meet ICAO's strategic objectives;

10) Realizing the benefits of working in partnership with ICAO and aviation stakeholders through interactive platforms for closer coordination to identify opportunities for innovation and the adoption and integration of new technologies, such as Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) to keep pace with global advancement in information technology, artificial intelligence, etc. and future evolving technologies and sciences;

11) Recognizing that only universal participation in the international air law treaties adopted under the auspices of ICAO would secure and enhance the benefits of unification of the international rules which they embody, with particular priority to be given to the Protocols of Amendment to the Convention on International Civil Aviation which have not yet entered into force;

12) The Second Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference, therefore, agrees to the Asia and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Civil Aviation (Delhi) and the Ministers commit to the following:

### **1.0 Reaffirming Asia and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Civil Aviation (Beijing)**

1.1 Support and continue efforts towards the realization of the Beijing Declaration commitments, especially pursuing cooperative progress on commitments relating to aviation safety oversight capability, State Safety Programme (SSP) implementation, certification of aerodromes used for international operations, the timely implementation of the Asia/Pacific Seamless Air Navigation Service (ANS) Plan, and supporting the establishment of independent accident investigation authorities.

### **2.0 Effective Implementation of ICAO Global Plans**

2.1 Undertake to support the effective implementation of the ICAO Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP), Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP) and Global Aviation Security Plan (GASeP) and associated Regional plans, which include detailed guidance to assist States/Administrations in complying with ICAO's Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs).

### **3.0 Aviation Safety**

3.1 Continue efforts and cooperation to uphold aviation safety as a key priority, carrying out effective safety oversight and safety management activities, joining forces to share safety information and fostering a strong and positive safety culture.

3.2 Strive to achieve the current GASP, in particular, prioritize and commit resources to achieve the following goals:

- a) Improve scores for the effective implementation (EI) of the critical elements (CEs) of the States/Administrations safety oversight system;
- b) Work towards an effective SSP;

- c) Endeavour not to have any Significant Safety Concerns (SSCs) under the USOAP Continuous Monitoring Approach (CMA) and to resolve any future SSCs within the time frame agreed with ICAO;
- d) Collaborate with States/Administrations and the aviation industry through the Regional Aviation Safety Group (RASG) to organize capability-building events for the Region and implement Safety Enhancement Initiatives (SEIs) as stipulated in the Regional Aviation Safety Plan (RASP); and
- e) Develop and publish a National Aviation Safety Plan (NASP).

#### **4.0 Air Navigation Services**

4.1 Commit to resources in modernization and innovation in Air Navigation Services, in tandem with developments in the airport and airline capacity, to support recovery and meet future demand for air travel and new entrants.

4.2 Commit to implement the ICAO Standards and Procedures for Air Navigation Services (PANS), and the Asia/Pacific Seamless ANS Plan (including prioritized GANP elements) and its subsidiary plans to enhance ANS capacity and harmonization in the Asia and Pacific Region focusing on as a matter of priority:

- a. Phase I, II and III of the Asia/Pacific Regional Aeronautical Information Management (AIM);
- b. Improved Airspace Safety and Capacity through the implementation of more efficient Air Traffic Control (ATC) separation minima;
- c. Performance Based Navigation (PBN) implementation in accordance with ICAO Assembly Resolution A37-11 on Global PBN Goals;
- d. Common Ground/Ground Telecommunication Infrastructure to support ANS applications;
- e. Expediting the implementation of ICAO provisions related to System Wide Information Management (SWIM);
- f. Enhanced civil/military cooperation;
- g. Enhanced Surveillance capability for improved Safety and Efficiency;
- h. Air Traffic Flow Management (ATFM) and Airport Collaborative Decision Making (A-CDM) implementation;
- i. Air Traffic Management (ATM) contingency planning, in coordination with neighbouring States/Administrations;
- j. Air navigation in national planning frameworks such as National Development Plans (NDPs) supported by National Air Navigation Plans (NANP); and
- k. Enhancement of safety risk assessment capability.

4.3 Share best practices, resources and capability in the provision of ANS, including Aeronautical Search and Rescue (SAR), Meteorological Services for International Air Navigation (MET) and Air Traffic Flow Management (ATFM) through Regional cooperation and enhanced coordination.

4.4 Work collaboratively through ICAO and Regional collaborative platforms towards Seamless ANS, including Flight and Flow Information for a Collaborative Environment (FF-ICE) and Trajectory-Based Operations (TBO) to support future traffic growth and sustainability.

## **5.0 Aviation Security**

5.1 Commit to continuing efforts and cooperation to uphold aviation security as a key priority, carry out effective aviation security oversight, enhance compliance with relevant ICAO aviation security and security-related Standards, joining forces to share security information as appropriate and foster a positive security culture.

5.2 Strive to achieve the aspirational goal of the GAsEP as established, in particular, prioritize and commit resources to achieve the following objectives:

- a) Improve score for the effective implementation (EI) of the critical elements (CEs) of the States/Administrations security oversight system;
- b) Endeavour not to have any Significant Security Concerns (SSECs) under the USAP Continuous Monitoring Approach (CMA) and to resolve any future SSECs within the time frame agreed with ICAO;
- c) Collaborate through Regional multilateral Forums such as; the Regional Aviation Security Coordination Forum (RASCF) to assist States/Administrations to achieve compliance with the relevant aviation security and security-related Standards.

## **6.0 Facilitation**

6.1 Consistent with the facilitation-related Decisions of the ICAO 41<sup>st</sup> Assembly Session in October 2022 and the outcomes of ICAO's High-Level Conference on COVID-19 in 2021, strive to ensure coordination between civil aviation and various stakeholders, including the health authorities, to allow seamless implementation of ICAO Annex 9 — *Facilitation* and the ICAO's Facilitation Programme, including relevant health related provisions and the five key elements of the ICAO Traveller Identification Programme Strategy, and taking into account a multi-layered risk-based approach to establish national health and other facilitation measures.

## **7.0 Gender Equality**

7.1 Demonstrate States/Administrations commitment to promote and encourage the aviation sector to take the necessary measures to strengthen gender equality by supporting policies, as well as the establishment, development and improvement of strategies and programmes to further women's careers within the aviation sector.

## **8.0 Resourcing for Civil Aviation**

8.1 Commit to providing Civil Aviation Authorities/Administrations in the Region with the necessary autonomy and powers, sustainable sources of funding and resources to carry out effective safety and security oversight and regulation of the aviation industry or alternatively, as may be appropriate, consider establishing and delegating responsibilities to an RSOO (Regional Safety Oversight Organization) that can effectively support regulatory oversight for aviation safety and security.

8.2 Urge Asia and Pacific States /Administrations, other ICAO Member States, international assistance and donor partners, as well as financial institutions to enhance cooperation and provide technical expertise, resources and funding support for technical assistance, capacity-building initiatives and the implementation of the above commitments/actions in the Asia and Pacific Region.

## **9.0 Aviation Environment Protection**

9.1 Encourage Asia and Pacific States/Administrations to continue their efforts and work together to reduce emissions and other environmental impacts of aviation.

## **10.0 Ratification of International Air Law Treaties**

10.1 Encourage Asia and Pacific States, which so far have not done so, to ratify the Amendments to the *Convention on International Civil Aviation*, in particular, the amendments to Articles 50 (a) and 56 adopted by the ICAO Assembly 39<sup>th</sup> Session in 2016, as soon as possible.

10.2 Encourage Asia and Pacific States to consider becoming parties to the international air law treaties that they have not yet ratified.

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