



ICAO

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

Twenty Third Meeting of the Africa-Indian Ocean Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG/23) & Sixth Meeting of the Regional Aviation Safety Group for the AFI Region (RASG-AFI/6) – Joint sessions

(Virtual, 23 November and 2 December 2020)

Agenda Item 1: Presentation of the format of APIRG/RASG-AFI meetings under the revised terms of reference

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY	
This working paper presents the format of APIRG/RASG-AFI meetings under the ICAO Council revised terms of reference.	
The action by the Meeting is in paragraph 3	
Strategic Objectives	This working paper relates to the Strategic Objectives A, B, C, D and E

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The meeting may recall that the APIRG/22 and RASG-AFI/5 meeting requested the APIRG/RASG-AFI Task Force (ARC-TF) to conduct an in-depth analysis and develop proposals for the structural changes and timelines for the implementation of the integrated approach in the AFI Region, together with the consequential amendments to the Procedural Handbooks. Hence the following decision was formulated:

APIRG/22 & RASG-AFI/5 Decision 1/01: Transition to an integrated approach to PIRGs and RASGs

That the APIRG / RASG-AFI Task Force (ARC-TF):

- a) *Conduct an analysis of the PIRGs/RASGs enhancement strategy addressing organizational challenges, infrastructure, operational risks and performance measurement, and propose the structural changes required for its implementation in the AFI Region; and*
 - b) *Present the results to an Extraordinary Meeting of APIRG and RASG-AFI to be convened during the first quarter of 2020.*
- 1.2. Furthermore, the second meeting of the APIRG/RASG-AFI Coordination Task Force (ARC-TF/2) held in Accra, Ghana, discussed on the elements that would have an impact on the terms of reference and the APIRG and RASG-AFI Handbooks. The main elements identified included the format, venue, frequency and structure of meetings, and the reporting cycle.

2 DISCUSSION

- 2.1. The Task Force was particularly requested to present the initial proposals to the APCC and RASG-AFI SC by mid-September 2019 and subsequently to the Extraordinary Meeting to be convened in the first quarter 2020. Unfortunately, the Extraordinary Meeting was postponed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic outbreak.
- 2.2. A preliminary analysis of the effectiveness and efficiency of the meeting format applied for APIRG/22 and RASG-AFI/5 meetings in 2019, with joint and parallel sessions, as compared to the previous back-to-back approach, identified the following challenges:
 - 1) Conference facilities: Need for three conference rooms to accommodate APIRG and RASG-AFI joint and parallel sessions;
 - 2) Participation: Inability for some States and Organizations with a limited number of delegates to participate in two parallel meetings;
 - 3) Secretariat support: Lack of flexibility for members of the Secretariat to fully participate and support the two meetings; and
 - 4) Venue: WACAF and ESAF Regional Offices are unable to comply with the requirement to host PIRG/RASG meetings at their premises¹ in view of the associated cost implications and logistical constraints.
- 2.3. Accordingly, APIRG/23 and RASG-AFI/5 requested the ARC Task Force to further assess the new meeting format, and recommend a suitable APIRG and RASG-AFI meeting format, taking due account of the AFI Region's context.
- 2.4. Meanwhile, the COVID-19 outbreak has provided an opportunity to advance the virtual meeting platforms that have demonstrated tremendous benefits in terms of flexibility, increased States' participation and cost-effectiveness.
- 2.5. In view of the above, and following further consideration by the ARC-TF, the following meeting format is being proposed as the preferred option and sequence for an effective conduct of future the APIRG/RASG-AFI meetings:
 - i. Joint APIRG & RASG-AFI opening session,
 - ii. APIRG back-to-back with RASG-AFI, and
 - iii. Joint APIRG & RASG-AFI closing session.

3 ACTION BY THE MEETING

- 3.1 The meeting is invited to:
 - a) Note the information contained in the WP;
 - b) Adopt the conduct of meetings virtually to the extent possible until such time when the situation will allow physical meetings; and
 - c) Adopt the new format and sequence of conducting the APIRG & RASG-AFI meetings as follows: Joint APIRG & RASG-AFI opening session, APIRG back-to-back with RASG-AFI, and Joint APIRG & RASG-AFI closing session.

¹ Approval to host PIRG and RASG meetings outside of the Regional Office must be obtained from the President of the Council.