



WORKING PAPER

TWELFTH AIR NAVIGATION CONFERENCE

Montréal, 19 to 30 November 2012

Agenda Item 6: Future direction

6.2: Standardization – approach to SARPs development in support of One Sky

STANDARDS AND RECOMMENDED PRACTICES DEVELOPMENT

(Presented by Australia)

SUMMARY

This paper reviews the important contribution of the Air Navigation Commission (ANC) and its panels and study groups in the development of standards and recommended practices, procedures and guidance material.

The paper asks the Conference to reaffirm the fundamental role and responsibility of the ICAO States and the ANC for developing quality and timely SARPs and agree to the improved management of the established means (panels and study groups) of SARP development.

The paper supports, with some enhancements, the principles recommended in Working Paper 23 (WP/23) to improve the use of ANC panels and study groups and recommends that the same principles be applied to any other task forces established for a set duration by the ANC or ICAO Secretariat to assist in the consideration of air navigation issues.

The paper recognizes and supports the important ongoing contribution of industry organizations and experts in assisting in the development of SARPs, procedures and guidance material.

The paper endorses the need to improve the management and coordination of ANC panels and study group activities with the work programs of the ICAO Secretariat to address concerns over the responsiveness and efficiency of current arrangements and to address emerging air navigation issues.

Action: The Conference is invited to agree to the recommendations in paragraph 3.3.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has benefited from State and industry experts being made available to undertake the technical program in the development of standards and recommended practices (SARP), procedures and guidance material.

1.2 The role of experts is identified in the Chicago Convention in defining the establishment of the ANC and associated sub-commissions. The requirements for appointment as an expert are suitable qualification and experience in the science and practice of aeronautics. The Convention Articles also provide for any contracting State to be represented by the nomination of experts.

1.3 AN-Conf/12-WP/23 provides sound principles of focus, efficiency, consistency, transparency and integrated planning for examining the structure of expert groups.

1.4 These principles can be strengthened by emphasizing that the expertise and geographical distribution aspect of the focus principle should be followed wherever possible.

1.5 The transparency principle can also be enhanced by establishing clear accountability requirements, i.e. terms of reference for the relevant group, who it is reporting to, what time frames are required and what other related Air Navigation Commission (ANC) and ICAO Secretariat groups, the group should be consulting and liaising with in completing its tasks.

1.6 These principles should be applied to any other task forces established for a set duration by the ANC or ICAO Secretariat to assist in the consideration of air navigation issues.

1.7 While supporting the establishment of these enhanced principles, the Conference should reaffirm the fundamental role and responsibility of the ICAO States and the ANC in developing quality and timely SARPs and agree to the improved management of these established means (panels and study groups) and other task forces for SARPs development.

1.8 The Conference should recognize and support the important ongoing contribution of a range of industry organizations and experts in assisting in the development of SARPs, procedures and guidance material as appropriate.

1.9 However, further consideration will be required by ICAO States should there be proposals to seek industry-based and regionally based standard development approaches as the basis of future ICAO endorsed SARPs for air navigation, given these approaches do not appear to be fully consistent with the principles outlined in WP/23.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The senior expert group of ICAO is the Air Navigation Commission.

2.2 The availability of State and organization panels assist the ANC to advance, within specified time frames, the response to specialized and emerging air navigation issues supplementing the fixed level of resources available to the ANC and the Secretariat.

2.3 The conduct of panels is under the control of the ANC as described in the document entitled *Directives for Panel of the Air Navigation Commission* (Doc 7984/4).

2.4 Study groups are small groups of experts made available by States and organizations to assist in a consultative capacity, in advancing the progress of specific ICAO technical tasks.

2.5 The expert study groups are expected to work in a close but informal manner with the ICAO Secretariat. The results of the work accomplished with the help of a study group are submitted to the ANC for further processing as necessary.

2.6 The concept of study groups is to expedite progress on selected air navigation work programme tasks and to provide the Secretariat with assistance in work that cannot be done by it alone. The establishment of each study group is authorized by the ANC.

2.7 The operation of panels and study groups has helped develop solutions that are transparent, and importantly represent the input of global experts from a range of regions, States and international organizations and which ultimately have been acceptable to ICAO as a whole.

2.8 Recent examples of “special teams” established outside of the panel and study group structure have not always achieved strong global engagement in the development of material for ICAO consideration and may focus on issues of specific regional rather than global importance.

2.9 Major developments are being proposed in the future planning of air navigation through the proposed update to the Global Aviation Safety Plan, the proposed establishment of a separate Global Air Navigation Plan, covering capacity and efficiency, and the future finalization of the aviation system block upgrade (ASBU) modules and priorities.

2.10 Therefore it is vitally important to provide clear priorities, guidance and coordination for the development of standards and recommended practices, procedures and guidance material, to the work programs of the ANC, the ICAO Secretariat and the respective supporting panels, study groups and other taskforces.

2.11 It is acknowledged current arrangements can be significantly improved by better coordination and knowledge sharing between the ANC, ICAO Secretariat, panels and study groups. With such improvements increasing the productivity and efficiency of these groups, the use of other task forces or special teams should only be required where specific additional advice would be valuable and is needed on new or emerging specialized issues i.e. task forces or other specialized teams act to supplement and not replace or circumvent the established roles of the States, the ANC and the ICAO Secretariat.

2.12 Application of Doc 7984/4 and ANC approval of study groups provides a mechanism to improve the performance of, and coordination between panels and study groups. Where there is not a panel established, any expert group consultation involving States or organizations can occur through a study group.

2.13 The ANC in managing the work program should provide each group with terms of reference which clearly define the scope and role of the group, its approved work program and reporting requirements. The ANC should receive regular progress reports from each group against their agreed work program and also ensure coordination across groups.

2.14 Similar management and coordination arrangements, as outlined in paragraph 2.13, of air navigation related work programs being undertaken by the ICAO Secretariat should also apply.

3. **CONCLUSION**

3.1 The services of State, international organization and industry nominated experts have significantly contributed to the successful development of ICAO air navigation provisions.

3.2 Improvement in the management of expert panels and study groups, and better coordination with the ICAO Secretariat’s Work Program related to air navigation issues can help address concerns raised over the responsiveness of current arrangements to a dynamic international aviation industry.

3.3 That the Conference agree to:

- a) reaffirm the Chicago Convention provisions applying to the Air Navigation Commission (ANC) and established sub-commissions (panels and study groups) and the States and the

ANC's fundamental role and responsibility for the development of quality and timely standards and recommended practices, procedures and guidance;

- b) support the important ongoing contribution of industry organizations and experts in assisting in SARP development, procedures and guidance material for air navigation;
- c) the ANC and ICAO Secretariat improving their management and coordination of contributing panels and study groups or other air navigation task forces, for which they are responsible, through:
 - 1) consistent application of Doc 7984/4 to all panels and study groups;
 - 2) receiving regular reports from the panels, study groups and other task forces against agreed work programs and/or terms of reference;
 - 3) mandating strong coordination between groups to ensure efficient management of issues and avoidance of duplication; and
 - 4) application of the principles of focus, efficiency, consistency, transparency and integrated planning to the operation of panels, study groups and other task forces as per WP/23;
- d) the strengthening of the principles to be used to improve the efficient use of all Expert Groups, identified in WP/23, by requiring:
 - 1) the expertise and geographical distribution aspect of the focus principle to be followed wherever possible; and
 - 2) the transparency principle including: “establishing clear accountability requirements including terms of reference, reporting time frames and consultation arrangements with related ANC and ICAO Secretariat groups”.

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