



ICAO

## Thirty First Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APANPIRG/31)

*Video Teleconference - Bangkok, Thailand, 14 to 16 December 2020*

*Schedule: 10:00 – 13:15 Bangkok Time [UTC+7hrs]*

### Agenda Item 6: Any Other Business

#### COMBINED APANPIRG AND RASG-APAC MEETING EVALUATION CONSIDERATIONS

(Presented by the Secretariat)

##### SUMMARY

The Combined APANPIRG and RASG-APAC meeting was supposed to be held in 2020 on a trial basis as per the meeting format decided at RASG-APAC/9 and APANPIRG/30 for better harmonisation and avoiding overlapping activities of both the important annual forums. In cognisance of the health concerns and travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was agreed to postpone the trial combined APANPIRG-RASG-APAC meeting to 2022 or later. It is envisaged that the APAC Region may explore the idea of a trial combined meeting of APANPIRG and RASG-APAC once the situation normalises. USA at APRAST-15 in June 2020 proposed some important considerations for evaluation of such a combined meeting. This paper presents the considerations/criteria discussed at APRAST-15 for evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of a combined meeting format when such a meeting takes place in the future.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 APANPIRG/30 and RASG-APAC/9 endorsed new Terms of Reference (ToR) developed based on Generic ToR(s) for the PIRG and RASG and approved by the President of the ICAO Council and presented at the 40<sup>th</sup> Assembly. The generic TORs for PIRG and RASG and new ToRs of APANPIRG and RASG-APAC approved by the President of the ICAO Council have been placed in the respective Handbook of APANPIRG and RASG-APAC which provide options for back-to-back or combined meetings to facilitate coordination and to ensure the efficient use of resources.

1.2 United States presented WP/11 during APRAST/15 held in June 2020 and highlighted few important considerations which were endorsed by the APRAST/15 participants. APRAST/15 agreed that in order to determine on the future meeting format for regional mechanisms, the considerations discussed in WP/11 for evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of the combined PIRG-RASG meeting in 2020 is important. This paper extracts the salient points of APRAST/15 - WP/11 including the secretariat's capacity to hold such a combined Plenary and Break out meetings for consideration of both Groups.

## 2. DISCUSSION

2.1 RASG-APAC/9 meeting recognized the region's desire to retain its flexibility and to adapt to the needs of the region. It also discussed the need to determine if the trial combined meeting would remain a permanent format for meetings after 2020 or if it would revert to the previous consecutive format used in 2018 and 2019. The meeting agreed in Decision 9/8 that "an assessment of the trial should be conducted by the Chairpersons and Vice-chairpersons of the two Groups after the first combined meeting, so as to determine the success of the combined meeting and whether it should continue from 2021 onwards." . The same decision was made by APANPIRG/30.

2.2 United States recommended in WP/11 that the Chairpersons and Vice-chairperson of Groups utilize the following considerations during their evaluation of the combined meeting format:

- Did attendance increase/decrease in comparison to the previous two (2) years for each Group?
- Did discussion of papers increase/decrease in comparison to the previous two (2) years?
- How do the estimated hours needed per agenda item compare to the actual hours needed to accomplish each agenda item? Were all agenda items addressed?
- What indicators resulted from the newly, combined meeting that demonstrated increased collaboration and awareness between the RASG and PIRG?
- Were the venue and logistics adequate? Did they contribute to the increased efficiency and effectiveness of the meeting? Were there any resource considerations that should be noted for the combined meeting format?

2.3 United States further recommended and APRAST/15 agreed that conducting a post-meeting survey of attendees to collect additional data on the trial meeting format. The survey would provide deeper insight into the impacts to Members, Observers, and attendees while also providing an opportunity to reflect on the meeting's effectiveness. Following questions were proposed for a survey:

1. Did the meeting format provide participants with sufficient opportunity to address implementation issues related to regional safety (*and/or air navigation*) objectives, priorities and deficiencies, as well as emerging safety (*and/or air navigation*) concerns?
2. Did the meeting format provide ample time to identify specific deficiencies in the safety (*and/or air navigation*) field, and propose actionable recommendations and timelines to resolve deficiencies in line with the GASP/GANP and regional priorities?
3. Did the combination of the PIRG and RASG meetings ensure that all safety and air navigation activities at the regional and sub-regional level are properly coordinated amongst role players to avoid duplication of efforts?
4. Did your State/Organization have adequate resources to participate in both meetings?
5. What elements of this proposed format worked well? What changes would you recommend to ensure the continued improvement of these meetings?

### **3. COVID-19 CONSIDERATIONS**

3.1 Recognizing the health concerns and travel restrictions facing by the global community due to COVID-19 pandemic, it has been agreed to postpone the trial combined APANPIRG-RASG-APAC meeting to 2022 or later.

3.2 APRAST/15 was also in consensus that while considering the virtual vs. in-person meeting formats, the criteria for evaluating success may be the same, but the differing conditions around the two formats creates too many variations for effective evaluation.

### **4. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

4.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) Review, suggest improvements and endorse the evaluation considerations and survey questionnaires discussed in paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3, respectively for the evaluation of the effectiveness of the trial combined APANPIRG and RASG-APAC meeting in the future;
- b) Consider the postponement of the trial combined APANPIRG-RASG-APAC meeting to 2022 or later; and
- c) Conduct a post-meeting survey of attendees using survey questionnaire in Paragraph 2.3, once the trial combined face to face meeting will be feasible.

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