



ICAO

**FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL AVIATION
SAFETY TEAM (APRAST/15)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 24 to 25 June 2020 on Virtual Platform

APRAST/15–WP/11

Agenda Item 4

**Agenda Item 4: Presentations – State / Industry / ICAO (Issues arising from the
COVID-19 Pandemic could be a focus for the WP/IP)**

**2020 COMBINED APANPIRG AND RASG-APAC MEETING EVALUATION
CONSIDERATIONS**

(Presented by the United States)

SUMMARY

The APANPIRG and RASG-APAC meetings will combine in 2020 on a trial basis as decided at RASG-APAC/9. This paper proposes considerations for evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of the combined meeting format.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The ICAO regions adopted new Terms of Reference (TORs) for the PIRG and RASG meetings that were approved by the Council and presented at the 40th Assembly. Included in the new TORs was a recommendation that “meetings should be held back-to-back or combined to facilitate coordination and to ensure the efficient use of resources.” In adopting the new TORs the Asia Pacific (APAC) region moved to combine the meetings.

1.2 In order to ensure a performance-based approach, the PIRGs and RASGs should have the flexibility to apply the most effective and efficient organizational structure and meeting modalities that best suit the characteristics of each region’s implementation work programs. In order to determine on the future meeting format for regional mechanisms, the United States offers potential considerations in this paper for evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of the combined PIRG-RASG meeting in 2020.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The United States supports the November 2019 ICAO APAC regional decision to conduct a trial combined meeting of the APANPIRG and RASG-APAC under Decision RASG-APAC 9/8 — Way Forward for APANPIRG and RASG-APAC – WP/22. The United States welcomes the opportunity to enhance alignment and harmonization of the RASGs’ and PIRGs’ working mechanisms, while maintaining the established safety and efficiency frameworks of the RASGs and PIRGs.

2.2 In the RASG-APAC/9, the 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.”

2.3 Recognizing that regional groups have a clear and sufficiently flexible mandate to conduct their processes in accordance with the realities of their region and with the aim of efficiently and effectively supporting the implementation of the provisions of the GANP and GASP, the United States recommends that the meeting Chairpersons and Vice-chairperson 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?

2.4 In addition to the considerations above, the United States also recommends 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. The United States proposes the following questions 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 the global community in light of COVID-19, the meeting structures and format may be different in 2020 than originally planned. The United States supports accommodating meeting participation flexibility as necessary to ensure the safety of State personnel in order to continue our work in the APAC region. In the case where the RASG-APAC/10 meeting is virtual instead of hosted in Bangkok or if continuing travel restrictions limit attendance, the United States suggests postponing the evaluation of the effectiveness of the combined APANPIRG-RASG-APAC trial until 2021, or when the meetings are held jointly in-person in Bangkok.

3.2 The need for a COVID-19 contingency in the evaluation process considers that the benefits and challenges of a virtual meeting differ from those of the in-person meetings. For example, resource impacts to States and Organizations are not equivalent between meetings that are virtual in comparison to in-person, and thus data points and effectiveness cannot be best determined based on a virtual meeting. While a virtual meeting could increase attendance, there may also be technological challenges that hinder full participation by attendees. In 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. Ensure that the APANPIRG and RASG-APAC Chairpersons and Vice-chairpersons include the considerations mentioned in paragraph 2.3 as part of the assessment of the trial combination APANPIRG and RASG-APAC meeting;
- b. Conduct a post-meeting survey of attendees, if meeting is in-person, on the effectiveness of the trial meeting format incorporating the recommended questions listed in paragraph 2.4, and include analysis of the survey responses as part of an assessment of the trial combined meeting of APANPIRG and RASG-APAC;
- c. Adjust the trial period and assessment of the combined meetings to a time when the combined meetings can be in-person due to COVID-19; and
- d. Invite participants to offer additional considerations for evaluating the new meeting format.

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