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**Address by the
Acting Regional Director of the
ICAO APAC Office Dr Manjit Singh
to the Fourth COVID-19 Information Sharing Session
with APAC CAA Directors General**

(Virtual Event, 6 July 2021, Bangkok)

ICAO Sec Gen Dr Fang Liu, APAC Director Generals & Directors of CAAs, Senior Representatives of the International Organisations, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen :

Good Morning, Good Afternoon, Good Evening

Let me start by providing some historical context to the series of Meetings - COVID19 Information Sharing Session with APAC CAA DGCAs.

At the onset of travel restrictions due to COVID19, the APAC RO convened our 1st Meeting Of the COVID19 Information Sharing Session with APAC CAA DGCAs which was held on 31 March 2020.

The **1st Meeting of the DGCAs**, decided to establish a task force/group to assist the DGCAs in coordinating their approach to the management of civil aviation through, and out of, the extraordinary circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a result a TOR was developed and **the 1st meeting of the ICAO APAC COVID19 Contingency and Recovery Planning Group (ACCRPG)** was held on 5 June 2020, around the time when ICAO released the 1st ICAO Council Aviation Task Force (CART) Report and its annexed Take Off Guidance Material.

Subsequently, we have periodically convened the 2nd and 3rd COVID19 Information Sharing Session with APAC CAA DGCAs, on 19 June 2020 and 8 December 2020. Essentially the Sessions with the Director Generals was to provide you with updates on the work of the ACCRPG and of course the sessions also coincided with the release of the 1st and 2nd ICAO Council Aviation Task Force (CART) Reports.

As you are aware ICAO on 17 March 2021 released the Phase III of the 2nd ICAO Council Aviation Task Force (CART) High Level Document and the 3rd edition of the TOGD.

Hence we have convened the today's 4th COVID19 Information Sharing Session with APAC CAA DGCAs, with two main Agenda Items in mind:

Firstly, we plan to provide you with the latest developments/updates on the CART Report process particularly an overview of the CART III Recommendations and the Next Steps.

Secondly, another important item on Today's Agenda . The two Co-chairs of the ACCRPG would be presenting FIRST ANNUAL REPORT of the ACCRPG. We have circulated this last week. I do not wish to pre-empt the presentation of the Report by the Co-Chairs but suffice to say that the ACCRPG's main objective was to assist APAC States with coordinating Member States' implementation of the ICAO Council Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART) Recommendations and guidance.

ACCRPG has also benefited from the work of our three Sub-Groups looking at aviation safety, public health, and aviation security and facilitation measures. The advice on alleviation to targeted exemptions, including access to flight simulators, is an excellent example of the value of this work.

We had hoped that by the end of the first year of the ACCRPG's operations that we would be spending most of our efforts focussed on recovery measures rather than on continued risk mitigations to reduce the threat and impacts of COVID-19 on aviation in the region. Hence, considering the current COVID19 situation, the Co-Chairs of ACCRPG would also present a Way Forward for the work of the ACCRPG.

With that, I would like to begin today's meeting by inviting the ICAO SG Dr Fang Liu to set the scene with her opening remarks. Thank you.

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