



ICAO

ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE REGIONAL AVIATION SAFETY GROUP - ASIA AND PACIFIC REGIONS (RASG-APAC/11)

(Video Teleconference, 25-26 November 2021 at 10:00-13:00 hrs. Bangkok Time, UTC+7)

Agenda Item 2: Output for RASG-APAC consideration and approval

PROGRESS REPORT OF THE APAC COVID-19 CONTINGENCY AND RECOVERY PLANNING GROUP

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the progress of the ICAO APAC COVID-19 Contingency and Recovery Planning Group (ACCRPG) since December 2020, including the challenges and way forward for the ACCRPG. It encourages States to continue participating directly in the ACCRPG and report progress on implementing the ICAO Council's Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART) Recommendations and guidance.

Strategic Objectives:

*A: **Safety** – Enhance global civil aviation safety*

*B: **Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency**—Increase the capacity and improve the efficiency of the global aviation system*

*D: **Economic Development of Air Transport**— Foster the development of a sound and economically viable civil aviation system*

Action by the meetings is in paragraph 3 of this Working Paper.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The ICAO Asia and Pacific (APAC) COVID-19 Contingency and Recovery Planning Group (ACCRPG) is a joint initiative of ICAO and the APAC Director-Generals of Civil Aviation (DGCAs) 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.

1.2 According to its terms of reference, the primary focus of ACCRPG is to assist DGCAs with coordinating the States' implementation of the Recommendations and guidance of ICAO's Council Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART).

1.3 APANPIRG/31 previously reviewed the progress and outcomes of ACCRPG up to December 2020. It encouraged States to participate directly in the ACCRPG and report progress on implementing the ICAO CART Recommendations and guidance.

1.4 This paper presents further progress and outcomes of ACCRPG since December 2020, including the challenges and way forward for the ACCRPG. It encourages States to continue participating directly in the ACCRPG and report progress on implementing the ICAO CART Recommendations and guidance.

2. DISCUSSION

Background

2.1 The ACCRPG is Co-Chaired by Mr Jim Wolfe, from the Australian Government and Mr Conrad Clifford, from the International Air Transport Association (IATA). Its membership list includes nearly one-hundred-and-fifty (150) members from twenty-four (24) ICAO Member States and Special Administrative Regions and thirteen (13) International Organizations and aviation industry bodies.

2.2 To assist the coordination of the Member States' implementation of the ICAO CART Recommendations and guidance, the ACCRPG makes recommendations on actions for consideration by the APAC DGCAs. In addition, the ACCRPG provides a forum for ICAO to promote the outcomes of the CART to States and States and industry to share information and advice on how they have put in place measures that will facilitate the recovery of international and regional aviation.

2.3 Commencing 5 June 2020, the ICAO APAC Office has convened ten (10) online plenary meetings of the ACCRPG. The ninth and tenth meetings, ACCRPG/09 and ACCRPG/10 occurred after APANPIRG/31, on 28 January 2021 and 3 June 2021, respectively.

2.4 To follow the CART Recommendations and guidance structure, the ACCRPG established three technical Sub-Groups focusing on the CART's aviation Public Health-, Safety-, and Security-and-Facilitation-related measures: i.e., the PH/SG, SAF/SG and AVSEC-FAL/SG. Subsequently, the ACCRPG Sub-Groups have convened more than thirty (30) online technical meetings supporting the work of the ACCRPG.

2.5 Two online meetings convened by the ICAO APAC Office on COVID-19-Related ATM Operations and Contingency Coordination have also informed the ACCRPG on the crucial need to coordinate efforts on international aviation recovery with ATM capacity.

Outcomes

2.6 The ACCRPG delivered two progress reports to APAC DGCAs, on 24 July 2020 and 8 December 2020, as discussed previously at APANPIRG/31. Since then, at the Fourth COVID-19 Information Sharing Session with APAC DGCAs, convened by the ICAO APAC Office online on 6 July 2021, the Co-chairs of ACCRPG presented the first ACCRPG Annual Report to APAC DGCAs, including proposed revisions to the ACCRPG terms of reference.

2.7 The ACCRPG's initial and second progress reports presented APAC DGCAs with sixteen recommendations relating to the CART Phase I and II Recommendations and guidance. In addition, the first ACCRPG Annual Report to APAC DGCAs, presented in July 2021, presents additional recommendations for APAC DGCAs, related to CART Phase III on the migration from the COVID-19 Contingency Related Differences (CCRD) to the ICAO's Targeted Exemptions System (TES) for the most important and urgent segments of States' Industry.

Challenges

2.8 The first ACCRPG Annual Report to APAC DGCAs also discusses the challenges faced by States in implementing the CART Recommendations and guidance. To facilitate coordination, monitoring and reporting of the implementation of CART Recommendations and guidance, ICAO established the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Implementation Centre (CRRIC) website. The CRRIC is intended to provide States with easy access to ICAO's resources and tools and the ability to share their up-to-date information on the implementation of the ICAO CART Recommendations and measures and their needs for further support from ICAO. However, maintaining engagement in the process of sharing up-to-date information in the CRRIC continues to be a significant challenge for States.

2.9 A significant challenge States face in removing impediments to aviation recovery and strengthening public confidence in air travel, especially in the context of successful roll-out of the Public Health Corridors (PHCs) as recommended by CART, is establishing the enhanced collaboration necessary between civil aviation and public health authorities.

Way forward

2.10 When discussing the way forward for ACCRPG, the first ACCRPG Annual Report to APAC DGCAs highlights the need to promote the establishment by the States of PHCs and encourage States to consider implementing the ICAO PHC “iPack”.

2.11 The ACCRPG will need to keep monitoring global and regional developments and the varying situation between States and make adjustments, as necessary, to the group’s current approach to assisting the DGCAs.

2.12 The ACCRPG will focus on helping States in the region safely resume international travel using best facilitation practices but recognising that different States in the region have access to different levels of resources.

2.13 To better prepare the APAC Region to deal with the long term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and future pandemics, the ACCRPG will also look to inform established ICAO and related forums, including RASG-APAC, APANPIRG, RASCF, CAPSCA-AP, of relevant outcomes of its work.

2.14 The first Annual Report proposed updates to the ACCRPG terms of reference to refocus its objectives in the following areas: information sharing activities, engaging the APAC States in sharing positive case studies, and increasing stakeholder input from outside the established aviation-centric ACCRPG membership.

2.15 All the ACCRPG-related documentation, including the plenary and Sub-Group Meeting Reports, progress reports and the Annual Report, are available at the following ICAO APAC Office website:

<https://www.icao.int/APAC/ACCRPG/Pages/default.aspx>.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) encourage States to continue to participate directly in the meetings of the ACCRPG and its sub-groups and nominate their Focal Points to the ICAO APAC Office;
- b) encourage States to report up-to-date progress on the implementation of the CART Recommendations and guidance through the CRRIC; and
- c) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate.

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