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*International Civil Aviation Organization***The Combined Tenth Meeting of the South Asia/Indian Ocean ATM Coordination Group (SAIOACG/10) and Twenty—Seventh Meeting of the South-East Asia ATS Coordination Group (SEACG/27)**

Video Teleconference, 29 March – 02 April 2021

Agenda Item 5: ATS Route Developments**OPTIMISATION OF ATS ROUTES A461 AND A583**

(Presented by Hong Kong China and the Philippines)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the progress of enhancing the longitudinal spacing requirements on ATS routes A461 and A583.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 With the successful implementation of AIDC operation between Hong Kong ATCC and Manila ACC, and the designation of A461 and A583 to RNP10 routes for the segments within the Manila FIR, the longitudinal spacing applied at the transfer of control points NOMAN A461 and SABNO A583 have been enhanced to 50 NM distance-based longitudinal spacing instead of 10-minute time-based spacing since May and August 2019 respectively. It is evident that the enhancements have substantially improved operational capacity and efficiency on both routes.

1.2 During the 13th Meeting of East Asia Air Traffic Coordination Group (EATMCG/13) (conducted in December 2020), Manila ACC advised the meeting that they would be ready for 30 NM longitudinal spacing trial on A461 in 2021 subject to a few operational conditions detailed in paragraph 2. Hong Kong China also expressed that they were ready for further enhancement of the longitudinal spacing on both routes.

1.3 The drastic reduction in air traffic volume caused by the COVID-19 pandemic since Q1 2020 presents major stakeholders with the opportunity to consider a detailed and viable plan/roadmap for the implementation of 30 NM longitudinal spacing on ATS routes A461 and A583, and gears up the region for air traffic recovery to reach pre-COVID level in 2024 as per IATA's forecast.

2. DISCUSSION**Implementation of 30 NM Longitudinal Spacing in Phases**

2.1 Hong Kong ATCC and Manila ACC have kicked off the discussion of the implementation of 30 NM enhanced longitudinal spacing on ATS routes A461 and A583 for traffic at or above FL290. The initiative is planned to be implemented in three phases detailed as follows:

Phase 1: 30 NM longitudinal spacing will be applied on ATS route A461 only and target implementation timeline will be Q4 2021. The enhanced longitudinal spacing will only be applicable to RNP4 compliant aircraft, with one or both of them landing within the Hong Kong or Manila FIR.

Phase 2: Subject to the successful outcomes of Phase 1, the application of the 30 NM enhanced longitudinal spacing will be expanded to all RNP4 compliant aircraft on ATS route A461.

Phase 3: 30NM longitudinal spacing will be applied to all RNP4 compliant aircraft on ATS route A583 by Q4 2023 tentatively.

2.2 Each phase will inevitably involve essential tasks such as operational procedure evaluation, safety assessment, review and modification of Letter of Agreement between Hong Kong ATCC and Manila ACC, publication of AIP supplement, etc. The three phases are targeted to be completed by Q4 2023 tentatively so as to allow both parties sufficient time for the implementation of enhanced safety measures as per the safety assessment recommendations and to better prepared for the resumption of air traffic to pre-COVID level forecasted to take place in 2024.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper;
- b) provide comments on the above-mentioned initiative; and
- c) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate.

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