



International Civil Aviation Organization  
*Asia and Pacific Office*

ICAO

**Seventeenth Meeting of the Asia Pacific Regional Aviation Safety Team (APRAST/17)**

*Bangkok, Thailand, 24-27 January 2022 (Video Teleconference)*

**Agenda Item 7: Updates from the Sub-Groups**

**PROPOSED FRAMEWORK FOR EMPOWERMENT OF RASG-APAC SUBSIDIARY BODIES**

*(Presented by APRAST Co-Chairs)*

**SUMMARY**

A framework empowering APRAST to adopt certain Decisions and Conclusions was endorsed at RASG-APAC/9. The intent was to simplify processes and shorten development time for all APRAST work. The APRAST Co-Chairs were further tasked by RASG-APAC/9 to work out the details of the framework for RASG-APAC's approval.

**Action:** The Meeting is invited to:

- (a) Endorse the revised empowerment framework as shown in paragraph 3.1 for tabling at RASG-APAC/12; and
- (b) Update the RASG-APAC Procedural Handbook Second Edition.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1. In 2019, RASG-APAC/9 endorsed the outcome of the review conducted by APRAST on empowering APRAST to adopt certain Decisions and Conclusions. The objective was to simplify the processes and shorten development time for all APRAST work outputs. The outcomes of the review were:

- (a) APRAST subgroups to adopt Decisions and Conclusions related to:
  - i. Any amendment to TORS, including extension of time of WG/TF formed under the relevant subgroup; and
  - ii. All technical and operational aspects of Subgroup's work within its TORS
- (b) APRAST subgroups to formulate Draft Decisions and Conclusions and submit to RASG-APAC for adoption:
  - i. Any amendment to TORs, including an extension of time of WG/TF formed under TORs approved by RASG-APAC; and
  - ii. Slow progress by States in implementation aspects

- (c) ICAO APRO to indicate clearly in the report of the Sub-groups meeting on how the cross Sub-group Decisions and Conclusions are to be coordinated and endorsed and
- (d) APRAST Sub-groups or WG/TF empowered to make Decisions and Conclusions related to regional guidance material for publication in ICAO APAC website

1.2. Based on these outcomes, RASG-APAC/9 further tasked APRAST Co-Chairs to work out the details of the framework for approval by RASG-APAC (ref: Decision RASG-APAC 9/5). Meanwhile, the framework was endorsed by RASG-APAC/10 for inclusion into the RASG-APAC Procedural Handbook.

## 2. DISCUSSION

2.1. Upon a further review of the framework, the APRAST Co-Chairs have identified the need to provide greater details to the type of Decisions and Conclusions that APRAST can adopt in order to operationalise the empowerment framework effectively. Current phrasing in Paragraph 4.0 of the RASG-APAC Procedural Handbook empowers APRAST to adopt Decisions and Conclusions relating to all technical and operational aspects. However, there could potentially be differing views on what constituted technical and operational. Therefore, greater clarity on its scope is necessary to ensure no ambiguity in the type of Decisions and/or Conclusions that APRAST is empowered to adopt vis-à-vis the Decisions and/or Conclusions that need to be surfaced to RASG-APAC.

### *Adoption of Decisions and Conclusions by APRAST*

2.2. In defining the scope of APRAST's empowerment, the APRAST Co-Chairs have taken the approach to ensure that RASG-APAC will continue to be kept abreast of key work developments and be given additional capacity to discuss strategic safety issues, while enabling APRAST to become more agile in delivering its work outputs. In this process, the APRAST Co-Chairs have also referenced the empowerment framework in APANPIRG.

2.3. This paper proposes for APRAST to adopt any Decisions and/or Conclusions insofar as they do not:

- (a) Require attention of the ANC/Council, RASG-APAC or other regional bodies;
- (b) Require additional political considerations or if there is any doubt whether further consideration is required;
- (c) Relate to previous decisions taken by RASG-APAC;
- (d) Relate to the development/amendment of RASG-APAC Yearly and Standing work programmes; or
- (e) Relate to any amendment to TORs, including an extension of time of WG/TF, formed directly under RASG-APAC, as well as reviews of its subordinate structure

2.4. This would empower APRAST to adopt Decisions and Conclusions relating to identification and development of new Safety Enhancement Initiatives (SEIs) to address regional operational safety risks; periodic review of SEI outputs; development of guidance material, workshops and seminars to raise implementation of developed SEIs; changes to online SEI Implementation Monitoring Tool; and conduct of data analysis on possible regional safety issues and challenges.

2.5. To ensure that RASG-APAC continues to exercise adequate oversight over APRAST's work outputs, the Decisions and Conclusions adopted by APRAST based on paragraph 2.3 will be surfaced at RASG-APAC meetings for RASG-APAC's information. If deemed necessary, RASG-APAC can amend, reject or request APRAST review the Decisions and Conclusions adopted by APRAST. RASG-APAC's decision will supersede the empowerment granted to APRAST as proposed in paragraph 2.3.

2.6. Any Decision and/or Conclusion that relates to paragraph 2.3 (a)-(e) will require APRAST to continue seeking RASG-APAC's endorsement. This ensures that RASG-APAC continues to oversee safety issues that are could have strategic, political, economic and/or social implications. RASG-APAC will continue to review, amongst others, the development of the ICAO APAC Annual Safety Report; development/amendments to the APAC Regional Aviation Safety Plan; development/amendments to the RASG-APAC yearly and standing work programme; identification of new regional operational safety risks; amendments to the TORs of APRAST and any new subgroups under RASG-APAC; coordination with APANPIRG on safety issues; amendments to the RASG-APAC Procedural Handbook; and implementation of the Beijing Declaration.

### **3. CONCLUSION**

3.1. In summary, the revised empowerment framework incorporating the additional details is as shown:

- (a) APRAST to adopt Decisions and Conclusions related to:
  - i. Any amendment to TORs, including extension of time of WG/TF, formed under APRAST
  - ii. All technical and operational aspects of APRAST work within its TORs including the development of regional guidance material for publication in ICAO APAC website
- (b) APRAST to formulate Draft Decisions and Draft Conclusions and submit to RASG-APAC for adoption for actions that:
  - i. Require attention of the ANC/Council, RASG-APAC or other regional bodies
  - ii. Require additional political considerations or if there is any doubt whether further consideration is required
  - iii. Relate to previous decisions taken by RASG-APAC
  - iv. Relate to the development/amendment of RASG-APAC Yearly and Standing work programmes
  - v. Relate to any amendment to TORs, including an extension of time of WG/TF, formed directly under RASG-APAC, as well as reviews of its subordinate structure
- (c) Secretariat to indicate clearly in the report of the APRAST meeting on the Decisions and Conclusions that are adopted by APRAST and the Draft Decisions and Draft Conclusions that required RASG-APAC's endorsement

**4. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

4.1. The Meeting is invited to:

- (a) Endorse the revised empowerment framework as shown in paragraph 3.1 for tabling at RASG-APAC/12; and
- (b) Update the RASG-APAC Procedural Handbook Second Edition.

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