



ICAO

International Civil Aviation Organization

**Twenty Seventh Meeting of the Communications/
Navigation and Surveillance Sub-group (CNS SG/27)
of APANPIRG**

Bangkok, Thailand, 28 August – 01 September 2023

Agenda Item 5: Aeronautical Mobile Communications Service and Aeronautical
electromagnetic spectrum utilization

5.1 Review Report of the WRC-23 Workshop/RPG Meeting for WRC-
2023

OUTCOME OF APG23-6 MEETING

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the outcome of the Sixth Meeting of Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) Conference Preparatory Group for World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (APG23-6).

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Sixth Meeting of Asia-Pacific Telecommunity Conference Preparatory Group for World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (APG23-4) was held on 14-19 August 2023 in hybrid mode of physical meeting at Brisbane, Australia and Video Tele-Conference (VTC) via Zoom.

1.2 921 participants (with 445 in-person participation) representing 33 Members, 2 Associate Member, 40 Affiliate Members, 7 International/Regional Organizations and 1 other organization participated in the meeting.

1.3 Meeting reports of the various working parties and the Preliminary Views from the meeting can be found at <https://www.apt.int/APTAPG>.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 National telecommunications authorities in the region coordinate their positions through APT APG. ICAO presence is needed to assert the requirements of Civil Aviation and to assert the ICAO position for WRC-23 in order to influence the related APG positions. The Chief/CNS & Spectrum of ANB, International Civil Aviation Organization was nominated to participate in the meeting.

2.2 This was the final WRC-23 preparatory meeting of the APT APG. Preliminary APT Common Proposals (PACPs) were finalized for the various items on the agenda of WRC-23. The PACPs become formal ACPs once the Administrations in the Region have signed on to them (a majority of at least 25% of all Administrations in the Region in favour). Once agreed, Asia/Pacific Common Proposals are binding as the common view of the 36 Radio Regulatory Administrations in the Region on how to solve the various WRC-23 Agenda Items.

2.3 Two information documents were submitted by ICAO, the ICAO Position as approved by Council in June 2023, and a status report on the development of SARPs for RPAS C2 Link (relates to WRC-23 Agenda Item 1.8). ICAO Information Documents 25 and 26 can be found at this link:

<https://www.apt.int/2023-APG23-6-DOCS-INF>

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2.4 Introduction and verbal clarifications on ICAO Position were given during the meetings of Working Parties and sub-groups on the various WRC-23 agenda items.

2.5 When possible, PACPs were developed and agreed through general consensus. Results on the main issues relevant to aviation included below:

2.5.1 **WRC-23 Agenda Item 1.6 (sub-orbital vehicles):** A large majority of Administrations (10+) support Method B of the CPM Report¹, many of them also supporting continued studies during the next cycle (Method B, approaches C or D). No PACP was developed however, due time constraints.

Method B of the CPM Report, all approaches (approach A least preferred), is in line with the ICAO Position. It would be desirable to finalize this item during WRC-23.

2.5.2 **WRC-23 Agenda Item 1.7 (space-based VHF):** Method B of the CPM Report (all sub-methods) is in line with the ICAO Position. A large majority is for Methods B1 (full band), with one State (Iran) supporting Method A (NOC) or B3 (200 kHz guard band below 137 MHz), and another State (China) supporting Method A (NOC).

A PACP was developed, indicating: “APT supports Method B to address this Agenda Item, with preference for Methods B1 or B3”.

2.5.3 **WRC-23 Agenda Item 1.8 (Fixed Satellite Service Spectrum for RPAS C2 Link):** Generally Method B, all sub-methods is more-or-less in line with the ICAO Position, given appropriate accommodation to the details contained in the position. Method A – suppression of Resolution 155, would be an unfortunate outcome as commercial pressures would most likely force many States to operate the C2 Link in FSS spectrum regardless (leveraging RR 4.4 for national exception), but in this case without any formal recognition of such operations in the Radio Regulations. This item has been very controversial and difficult to progress within ITU, in large part due to a misconception that RPAS relate mainly to military use. Also, ITU Working Party deliberations require absolute “consensus”. This requirement has effectively resulted in a dissent of one stopping all progress.

No PACP was developed. Of the States that indicated an opinion, 5 supported Method A, 3 supported Method B or a sub-method thereof and 2 additional States indicated potential support for Method B.

2.5.4 **WRC-23 Agenda Item 1.9 (Wideband HF Data Link):** A broad support was indicated to modifications to RR Appendix 27, to accommodate digital technologies for aeronautical

wideband HF systems, in line with the ICAO Position. No indications of concern. A PACP was developed.

2.5.5 **WRC-23 Agenda Item 9.2 (Report of Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau on difficulties/inconsistencies encountered in the application of the Radio Regulations):** A number of proposals were received, however none of those were on issues which would affect current or planned aeronautical systems or applications. No PACP was developed.

2.5.6 **WRC-23 Agenda Item 10 (Proposals for agenda items for WRC-27):** An APT view was developed for a WRC-27 agenda item studying bands for identification of IMT in the range 4.4 to 15.35 GHz). This includes the existing Mobile allocation in the band 4.4 – 4.5 GHz, which is directly adjacent to the Radio Altimeter band (4.2-4.4 GHz). Given the outcome of Radio Altimeter/5G compatibility studies focussing on the band below 4.2 GHz, it is clear that this would cause serious issues, even with an improved-design Radio Altimeter.

2.6 Meeting reports of the various working parties, WRC Agenda Item views and PACPs can be found here:

<https://www.apt.int/2023-APG23-6-DOCS-OUT>

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2.7 For information, WRC-23 is scheduled for 20 November - 15 December 2023 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the outcome of APG23-6 meeting; and
- b) discuss any relevant matter as appropriate.
