

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION ASIA AND PACIFIC REGIONAL OFFICE

REPORT OF THE ASIA PACIFIC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON CIVIL AVIATION (APACMC)

11 to 12 SEPTEMBER 2024 NEW DELHI, INDIA

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THE SECOND ASIA/PACIFIC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON CIVIL AVIATION (APACMC)

INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Asia and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation (APACMC) was held at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, India from 11 to 12 September 2024.

ORGANIZATION AND PARTICIPATION

- 2. The Conference was organized by ICAO Asia and Pacific Regional Office and hosted by the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MOCA), Government of India. The coordinated Conference Programme is provided in **Appendix A.**
- 3. The Conference was attended by 239 participants from 29 Members States of Asia Pacific Region, 4 Member States (Brazil, France, Nigeria and USA) of non-APAC Regions and representatives of 8 International Organizations. The list of participants is provided in <u>Attachment 1</u>.

PREPARATORY MEETING OF DIRECTOR GENERALS TO FINALIZE THE DRAFT DECLARATION AND ANY OTHER MATTER RELATING TO THE CONFERENCE

4. On 11th September 2024, the Regional Director, ICAO Asia and Pacific Regional Office Mr. Tao Ma facilitated the discussions at the Preparatory Meeting of Directors General of Asia Pacific States to finalize the draft Declaration of Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation. The Regional Director presented the draft Ministerial Declaration endorsed by Asia and Pacific Ministerial Conference Preparation Working Group (MCP WG).

INAUGURAL SESSION OF THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

- 5. The opening program was graced by the presence of Honorable Minister of Civil Aviation, Government of India Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, Honorable Minister of State for Civil Aviation Government of India Shri Murlidhar Mohol, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India Shri Vumlunmang Vualnam, President of the Council of ICAO Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano, Regional Director, ICAO APAC Regional Office Mr. Tao Ma.
- 6. In his welcome address, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India Shri Vumlunmang Vualnam, extended a warm welcome to all the Delegates of the Asia and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation. He also expressed his gratitude to the President of the Council of ICAO Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano for his participation in the Conference. The full text of the speech is included at <u>Attachment 2</u> to this Report.
- 7. In his address, the President of the Council of ICAO Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano expressed his sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India for hosting the Conference. The full text of the address by the President of the Council of ICAO is included as <u>Attachment 3</u> to this Report
- 8. The Conference was opened by Honorable Minister of Civil Aviation, Government of India Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu. In his opening speech, He expressed his sincere gratitude to the President of the Council of ICAO Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano, for his unwavering support. He also congratulated ICAO for the 80th Anniversary of signing of the Chicago Convention for advancing global aviation standards and safety. Acknowledging APAC region's fast growth rate in air transport, he underscored the need for strategic investments in aviation infrastructure and collaboration amongst the regional stakeholders to achieve sustainable and balanced growth across the sector. The full text of the speech is included at **Attachment 4** to this Report

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ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON

9. Proposed by Singapore and seconded by Bhutan, the Conference elected Honorable Minister of Civil Aviation, Government of India Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu as Chairperson. Similarly, proposed by Nepal and seconded by Solomon Islands, Honorable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation of Fiji Mr. Viliame Rogoibulu Gavoka was elected as Vice Chairperson for the Conference.

ADDRESS BY THE MINISTERS AND HEADS OF DELEGATIONS ON THE ISSUES RELATING TO SAFETY AND AIR NAVIGATION IN THEIR RESPECTIVE STATES

- 10. The Ministers and Heads of delegations of the following States and International Organizations delivered the Statements on the issues relating to safety and air navigation in their respective States and Organizations:
 - i) Bhutan
 - ii) Brunei Darussalam
 - iii) China
 - iv) Democratic People's Republic of Korea
 - v) Fiji
 - vi) India
 - vii) Indonesia
 - viii) Japan
 - ix) Malaysia
 - x) Mongolia
 - xi) Nepal
 - xii) Philippines
 - xiii) Republic of Korea
 - xiv) Samoa
 - xv) Singapore
 - xvi) Sri Lanka
 - xvii) Tonga
 - xviii) United States of America
 - xix) Vietnam
 - xx) AAPA
 - xxi) ACI
 - xxii) CANSO
 - xxiii) EASA
 - xxiv) IATA

PRESENTATION ON ICAO STRATEGIC PLAN AND FURTURE PRIORITIES

11. Mr. Arun Mishra, Director, Administration Bureau, ICAO presented "ICAO strategic plan and future priorities" in the Conference.

REVIEW OF BEIJING DECLARATION

12. Mr. Tao Ma, Regional Director of ICAO Asia and Pacific Regional Office Bangkok presented the implementation status of commitments of Beijing Declaration 2018 and urged Member States to continuously strive to achieve the targets agreed during the first ministerial Conference of Asia Pacific Ministers responsible for civil aviation.

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PRESENTATION ON DRAFT DELHI DECLARATION

13. Dr. Manjit Singh, Deputy Regional Director, ICAO Asia and Pacific Regional Office, Bangkok made a presentation on draft Delhi Declaration which was prepared by the working group comprising member States in the region and reviewed by the Directors General of Civil Aviation and Heads of Delegations on the first day of the Conference. The major expected commitments by the States were highlighted in detail during the presentation.

MINISTERIAL DISCUSSIONS ON DRAFT DECLARATION

- 14. A discussion session was held among the Ministers of civil aviation and Heads of delegations to finalize the contents of the Second Asia and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation. The Chairperson, Honorable Minister of Civil Aviation, Government of India Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu made his Welcome Address of the Ministerial Discussion. The speech celebrates India's aviation advancements under the Honorable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi's leadership, highlighting the upcoming adoption of the Delhi Declaration to build a sustainable aviation ecosystem. It acknowledges India's rapid growth in aviation infrastructure, driven by initiatives like the UDAN scheme, which made air travel accessible to all. The speech emphasizes Modi's emphasis on innovation, sustainability, and inclusivity, with key achievements like the Chandrayaan-3 mission. The Chairperson concluded that the Delhi Declaration is positioned as a roadmap for fostering global collaboration in the Asia-Pacific's growing aviation sector. The full text of the speech is included at Attachment 5 to this Report.
- 15. There was no comment from the Ministers and Heads of Delegation on draft Declaration presented by ICAO APAC Regional Office.

ADOPTION OF DECLARATION ON ASIA/PACIFIC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON CIVIL AVIATION

- 16. The Declaration on the Second Asia and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation was unanimously agreed by all delegations and endorsed by the Conference.
- 17. The Hon. Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi proclaimed the adoption of Asia Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Civil Aviation on 12th September 2024 in presence of Asia and Pacific Ministers for civil aviation and other senior delegates in a plenary session of the Conference. The Declaration was named as Delhi Declaration 2024 which was distributed to all delegations during the Conference.
- 18. The Delhi Declaration 2024 is enclosed in **Appendix B**.

CEREMONY FOR THE 80^{TH} ANNIVERSARY OF ICAO AND THE CHICAGO CONVENTION

19. The Honorable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi congratulated the President of the Council of ICAO, Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano on the 80th Anniversary of signing of Chicago Convention. He handed over a memento of planting of 80,000 trees in various airports in India, to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of signing of Chicago Convention, to the President of the Council of ICAO.

CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE

20. The closing session of the Conference was graced by Hon. Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi.

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- 21. In his closing remarks the President of the Council of ICAO, Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano expressed his gratitude to the Government of India for excellent arrangement of the Conference and warm hospitality. He also thanked all Delegates for the endorsement of the Delhi Declaration 2024 on Civil Aviation. The full text of the speech is included at <u>Attachment 5</u> to this Report
- 22. The Vice Chairperson of the conference Honorable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation of Fiji Mr. Viliame Rogoibulu Gavoka highlighted activities of the Second APAC Ministerial Conference. He announced that Delhi Declaration 2024 would supersede the Beijing Declaration 2018 on civil aviation, and collectively reaffirmed the commitments of ministers on Beijing Declaration as well. The full text of the speech is included at <u>Attachment 6</u> to this Report
- 23. The Chairperson of the Conference Honorable Minister of Civil Aviation of India Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu summarized the commitments agreed by the Second Ministerial Conference in New Delhi, India, 11-12 September 2024. He further recalled ten key aviation domains of the Delhi Declaration, stating it as the first-ever declaration to encompass commitments in diverse and broad areas covering the most critical aspects of civil aviation. He further pledged to support and continue efforts towards realizing the Beijing Declaration commitments that have not been fulfilled yet. The full text of the speech is included at <u>Attachment 7</u> to this Report
- 24. Honorable Prime Minister of India delivered his remarks by acknowledging civil aviation as one of the fastest growing sectors for connectivity, peace, economic growth and prosperity. He urged all States in the region for their shared commitments for the overall development of aviation sector. He highlighted the need of regional collaboration by adopting innovative technology, empowering skilled human resources and investment in aviation sector. He further shared India's experience of adoption of aviation policy that enabled air transport service accessible and affordable to middle and lower middle-class of population. The full text of the speech is included at **Attachment 8** to this Report
