



ICAO

International Civil Aviation Organization

Thirty-Fifth Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APANPIRG/35)

Bangkok, Thailand, 25 to 27 November 2024

Agenda Item 1A: Progress Update on Beijing and Delhi Declaration Commitments**ASIA PACIFIC MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON CIVIL AVIATION (DELHI)**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

The Second Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation was held from 11 – 12 September 2024 in New Delhi, India. In the Conference, the APAC Ministers reviewed commitments made under the Beijing Declaration and agreed to another set of commitments to high-priority aviation strategic objectives in the form of the ***Asia Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Civil Aviation (Delhi)***. This paper shares the key information related to the Second Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation (APACMC/2).

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The first APAC Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation was held in Beijing, China, from 31 January to 1 February 2018. During the conference, all delegates unanimously agreed upon the *Declaration of Asia/Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation (Beijing)* also known as *Beijing Declaration*. The Declaration formalised the shared commitments to high-priority aviation safety and air navigation services objectives as well as accident investigation and human resource development. At the Conference, India offered to host the Second Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation (APACMC/2) in India in 2020. However, the second Conference was not organised in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

1.2 The Second Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation was held on 11 – 12 September 2024 in New Delhi, India. This paper provides key information about APACMC/2 and follow-up work done by the ICAO APAC Office to meet commitments under the Asia Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Civil Aviation (Delhi).

2. DISCUSSION**The Second APAC Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation (APACMC/2)**

2.2. The APACMC/2 was hosted by the Government of India in New Delhi, India. The ICAO and the Ministry of Civil Aviation, India, jointly organised the Conference. To ensure the attendance of all APAC Ministers of Civil Aviation, the ICAO APAC Office issued a State Letter Ref. SN 4 (2023): AP-RD0009/24 dated 27 February 2024 to provide advance intimation as well as to reserve the dates 11 – 12 September 2024 in States/Admirations Hon. Minister's calendar.

2.3. Consequently, the Hon. Minister of Civil Aviation and Steel of India invited ICAO APAC Member States/Administrations and relevant international organizations to participate in this Conference by their letter of 30 April 2024. Subsequently, ICAO issued follow-up letters co-signed by the President of the Council and the Secretary-General to the event.

2.4. More than 200 delegates from 31 States / Administrations and 8 International Organizations, including 17 Ministers/Deputy Ministers/Vice Ministers and 24 Directors General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), attended the Conference. In the Conference, India hosted several initiatives/events to celebrate the 80th anniversary of ICAO.

2.5. The Conference endorsed the Second Asia and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Civil Aviation (Delhi), also known as the Delhi Declaration (**Appendix A**).

Declaration of Asia/Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation (Delhi)

2.6. A considerable amount of work was done by the ICAO APAC Office with the support of APAC States/Administrations to conduct this Conference and successfully endorse the Delhi Declaration.

2.7. As a first step, a Working Group (WG) was constituted to develop the draft agenda for the Second Ministerial Conference. The ICAO APAC Office issued the ICAO State Letter Ref. SN 4 (2023): AP-TC0016/23 dated 10 April 2023, reconvening the Working Group. In addition, the ICAO APAC Office developed a Concept Note and the Conference Tentative Program in consultation with the Ministry of Civil Aviation, India.

2.8. The Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference Preparation Working Group (MCP WG), composed of volunteer members from Australia, China, Hong Kong China, India, Indonesia, Singapore and the United States, met thrice in 2023 on 28 April 2023 (Virtual), 25-26 May 2023 (In Person, Bangkok, Thailand), 16 June 2023 (Virtual) and prepared the first draft of Asia Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Civil Aviation (Delhi) in consultation with ICAO. The draft declaration was shared with APAC States/Administration by ICAO APAC State Letter Ref: SN 4 – AP104/23 (RD) dated 23 June 2023 for comments/observations.

2.9. Responding to the letter, 10 States/Administrations, namely China, Indonesia, Japan, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, USA, and Vietnam, shared their responses. The MCP WG met for the fourth time on 3-4 April 2024 (In Person, Bangkok, Thailand) to review all observations received. After carefully considering all remarks, the draft declaration was revised further. The MCP WG endeavoured to develop a document that demonstrated an inclusive and balanced approach regarding the commitments in the operating part of the draft declaration while remaining concise in the preamble.

2.10. Draft Asia Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Civil Aviation (Delhi) prepared by MCP WG was further shared with the APAC Member States by ICAO State Letter Ref.: SN 4 (2024)-AP061/24 (RD) dated 3 May 2024 for further comments/feedback. The deadline to provide comments/feedback was 30 June 2024. The MCP WG met two more times on 24 July 2024 and 22 August 2024 and finalised the draft of the Delhi Declaration, which was sent to APAC States/Administrations by State Letter Ref.: SN 4 (2024): AP102/24 (RD) 23 August 2024.

2.11. The draft declaration was presented at the “Preparatory Meeting of Directors General to finalise the Delhi Declaration” on the first day of the Conference. The Preparatory Meeting finalised the Declaration, which the Conference adopted.

2.12. The Delhi Declaration generates the political will needed to support the organization's various objectives for an effective and efficient aviation system. The Declaration incorporated various critical aspects that required immediate attention from the APAC States. It included substantial commitments needed from the APAC States for effective implementation of ICAO global plans, implementation of aviation safety and air navigation services priority elements, and addition of resilience to health-related disruptions. Furthermore, it has highlighted commitments required for gender equality, resourcing for civil aviation, aviation environment protection, and ratification of international air law treaties.

2.13. The Delhi Declaration will not only result in improved compliance with ICAO requirements but will also engage in high-level engagement to facilitate the decision of strategies and priorities for the Asia Pacific region, emphasising the need for safety and promoting a culture of innovation.

2.14. The Declaration was also presented at the 59th DGCA Conference held from 14-18 October in Cebu, Philippines. The Conference formulated the following Action Item:

Action Item 59/41	The Conference encouraged States/Administrations to: 1. continue to prioritize efforts towards the realization of the Beijing Declaration commitments; 2. collaborate to achieve the commitments of the Delhi Declaration; 3. share implementation status of Beijing and Delhi Declaration at APANPIRG, RASG-APAC and RASCF Meetings; and 4. consider the feasibility of hosting the 3rd Asia/Pacific Ministerial Conference.
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3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the contents of the paper;
- b) collaborate and work towards achieving targets of the Asia Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Civil Aviation (Delhi); and
- c) share their latest implementation status of Delhi Declaration commitments with the ICAO APAC Office so that the progress can be tracked and the status reported accurately in future Meetings.

Asia and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Civil Aviation (Delhi)

- 1) We, the Ministers from the Asia and Pacific States responsible for Civil Aviation, met in New Delhi, India, from 11-12 September 2024, on the occasion of the 2nd Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation and the 80th anniversary of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention), organized by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), to reaffirm the obligations as the Contracting States to the Chicago Convention signed on 7 December 1944 to ensure the safety, security, efficiency and continuity of civil aviation;
- 2) Recalling that Ministers met at the 1st Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation in Beijing, China, from 31 January to 1 February 2018, and endorsed a landmark declaration (Beijing Declaration) underpinning the importance of air transportation for social and economic development and the shared commitments and vision of Asia and Pacific Ministers to build Regional momentum to realize the implementation of Aviation Safety priorities and targets and Asia/Pacific Seamless Air Traffic Management (ATM) Plan (now renamed as the Asia/Pacific Seamless Air Navigation Service (ANS) Plan) with the collaboration of States/Administrations and active participation of the aviation industry;
- 3) Acknowledging the extraordinary circumstances during COVID-19 pandemic which impeded States/Administrations from effectively implementing the Beijing Declaration commitments while noting updated safety and air navigation targets have emerged to better support States/Administrations in the Asia and Pacific Region;
- 4) Recognizing that the recovery of air transportation is progressing and that passenger and freight demand in the Asia and Pacific Region is forecast to regain higher growth rates requiring a concerted effort of States/Administrations and the aviation industry to meet the increasing demand while enabling a safe, secure, efficient and a more resilient aviation sector, and minimizing the adverse effects of international civil aviation on the global climate, which supports the realization of United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- 5) Identifying that key priorities exist in the Asia and Pacific Region requiring collaboration and that States/Administrations need to develop capabilities to improve safety, security and building of additional capacity to address emerging Regional and global challenges to sustain the Regional civil aviation growth forecast;
- 6) Noting that over half of the States/Administrations in the Asia and Pacific Region which have had an ICAO audit under the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme – Continuous Monitoring Approach (USOAP – CMA) have an effective implementation (EI) of the critical elements (CEs) of a State safety oversight system lower than the global average;
- 7) Noting that over half of the States/Administrations in the Asia and Pacific Region which have had an ICAO audit under the Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP) have an EI of the CE of a State aviation security oversight system lower than the global average;
- 8) Acknowledging that the ICAO Assembly 41st Session endorsed the Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP) 2023 – 2025 edition and the Seventh Edition of the Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP) as the global strategic directions for safety and air navigation respectively, and urged Member States to demonstrate the political will necessary to implement remedial actions to resolve safety concerns and air navigation deficiencies in a timely manner as well as integrate aviation in the national development plans;

9) Appreciating that HR development strategies combined with adequately funded and quality assured training and accompanying investment in training infrastructure is essential for developing and maintaining a qualified and competent workforce to manage all aviation activities and to meet ICAO's strategic objectives;

10) Realizing the benefits of working in partnership with ICAO and aviation stakeholders through interactive platforms for closer coordination to identify opportunities for innovation and the adoption and integration of new technologies, such as Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) to keep pace with global advancement in information technology, artificial intelligence, etc. and future evolving technologies and sciences;

11) Recognizing that only universal participation in the international air law treaties adopted under the auspices of ICAO would secure and enhance the benefits of unification of the international rules which they embody, with particular priority to be given to the Protocols of Amendment to the Convention on International Civil Aviation which have not yet entered into force;

12) The Second Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference, therefore, agrees to the Asia and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Civil Aviation (Delhi) and the Ministers commit to the following:

1.0 Reaffirming Asia and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Civil Aviation (Beijing)

1.1 Support and continue efforts towards the realization of the Beijing Declaration commitments, especially pursuing cooperative progress on commitments relating to aviation safety oversight capability, State Safety Programme (SSP) implementation, certification of aerodromes used for international operations, the timely implementation of the Asia/Pacific Seamless Air Navigation Service (ANS) Plan, and supporting the establishment of independent accident investigation authorities.

2.0 Effective Implementation of ICAO Global Plans

2.1 Undertake to support the effective implementation of the ICAO Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP), Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP) and Global Aviation Security Plan (GASeP) and associated Regional plans, which include detailed guidance to assist States/Administrations in complying with ICAO's Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs).

3.0 Aviation Safety

3.1 Continue efforts and cooperation to uphold aviation safety as a key priority, carrying out effective safety oversight and safety management activities, joining forces to share safety information and fostering a strong and positive safety culture.

3.2 Strive to achieve the current GASP, in particular, prioritize and commit resources to achieve the following goals:

- a) Improve scores for the effective implementation (EI) of the critical elements (CEs) of the States/Administrations safety oversight system;
- b) Work towards an effective SSP;

- c) Endeavour not to have any Significant Safety Concerns (SSCs) under the USOAP Continuous Monitoring Approach (CMA) and to resolve any future SSCs within the time frame agreed with ICAO;
- d) Collaborate with States/Administrations and the aviation industry through the Regional Aviation Safety Group (RASG) to organize capability-building events for the Region and implement Safety Enhancement Initiatives (SEIs) as stipulated in the Regional Aviation Safety Plan (RASP); and
- e) Develop and publish a National Aviation Safety Plan (NASP).

4.0 Air Navigation Services

4.1 Commit to resources in modernization and innovation in Air Navigation Services, in tandem with developments in the airport and airline capacity, to support recovery and meet future demand for air travel and new entrants.

4.2 Commit to implement the ICAO Standards and Procedures for Air Navigation Services (PANS), and the Asia/Pacific Seamless ANS Plan (including prioritized GANP elements) and its subsidiary plans to enhance ANS capacity and harmonization in the Asia and Pacific Region focusing on as a matter of priority:

- a. Phase I, II and III of the Asia/Pacific Regional Aeronautical Information Management (AIM);
- b. Improved Airspace Safety and Capacity through the implementation of more efficient Air Traffic Control (ATC) separation minima;
- c. Performance Based Navigation (PBN) implementation in accordance with ICAO Assembly Resolution A37-11 on Global PBN Goals;
- d. Common Ground/Ground Telecommunication Infrastructure to support ANS applications;
- e. Expediting the implementation of ICAO provisions related to System Wide Information Management (SWIM);
- f. Enhanced civil/military cooperation;
- g. Enhanced Surveillance capability for improved Safety and Efficiency;
- h. Air Traffic Flow Management (ATFM) and Airport Collaborative Decision Making (A-CDM) implementation;
- i. Air Traffic Management (ATM) contingency planning, in coordination with neighbouring States/Administrations;
- j. Air navigation in national planning frameworks such as National Development Plans (NDPs) supported by National Air Navigation Plans (NANP); and
- k. Enhancement of safety risk assessment capability.

4.3 Share best practices, resources and capability in the provision of ANS, including Aeronautical Search and Rescue (SAR), Meteorological Services for International Air Navigation (MET) and Air Traffic Flow Management (ATFM) through Regional cooperation and enhanced coordination.

4.4 Work collaboratively through ICAO and Regional collaborative platforms towards Seamless ANS, including Flight and Flow Information for a Collaborative Environment (FF-ICE) and Trajectory-Based Operations (TBO) to support future traffic growth and sustainability.

5.0 Aviation Security

5.1 Commit to continuing efforts and cooperation to uphold aviation security as a key priority, carry out effective aviation security oversight, enhance compliance with relevant ICAO aviation security and security-related Standards, joining forces to share security information as appropriate and foster a positive security culture.

5.2 Strive to achieve the aspirational goal of the GAsEP as established, in particular, prioritize and commit resources to achieve the following objectives:

- a) Improve score for the effective implementation (EI) of the critical elements (CEs) of the States/Administrations security oversight system;
- b) Endeavour not to have any Significant Security Concerns (SSeCs) under the USAP Continuous Monitoring Approach (CMA) and to resolve any future SSeCs within the time frame agreed with ICAO;
- c) Collaborate through Regional multilateral Forums such as; the Regional Aviation Security Coordination Forum (RASCF) to assist States/Administrations to achieve compliance with the relevant aviation security and security-related Standards.

6.0 Facilitation

6.1 Consistent with the facilitation-related Decisions of the ICAO 41st Assembly Session in October 2022 and the outcomes of ICAO's High-Level Conference on COVID-19 in 2021, strive to ensure coordination between civil aviation and various stakeholders, including the health authorities, to allow seamless implementation of ICAO Annex 9 — *Facilitation* and the ICAO's Facilitation Programme, including relevant health related provisions and the five key elements of the ICAO Traveller Identification Programme Strategy, and taking into account a multi-layered risk-based approach to establish national health and other facilitation measures.

7.0 Gender Equality

7.1 Demonstrate States/Administrations commitment to promote and encourage the aviation sector to take the necessary measures to strengthen gender equality by supporting policies, as well as the establishment, development and improvement of strategies and programmes to further women's careers within the aviation sector.

8.0 Resourcing for Civil Aviation

8.1 Commit to providing Civil Aviation Authorities/Administrations in the Region with the necessary autonomy and powers, sustainable sources of funding and resources to carry out effective safety and security oversight and regulation of the aviation industry or alternatively, as may be appropriate, consider establishing and delegating responsibilities to an RSOO (Regional Safety Oversight Organization) that can effectively support regulatory oversight for aviation safety and security.

8.2 Urge Asia and Pacific States /Administrations, other ICAO Member States, international assistance and donor partners, as well as financial institutions to enhance cooperation and provide technical expertise, resources and funding support for technical assistance, capacity-building initiatives and the implementation of the above commitments/actions in the Asia and Pacific Region.

9.0 Aviation Environment Protection

9.1 Encourage Asia and Pacific States/Administrations to continue their efforts and work together to reduce emissions and other environmental impacts of aviation.

10.0 Ratification of International Air Law Treaties

10.1 Encourage Asia and Pacific States, which so far have not done so, to ratify the Amendments to the *Convention on International Civil Aviation*, in particular, the amendments to Articles 50 (a) and 56 adopted by the ICAO Assembly 39th Session in 2016, as soon as possible.

10.2 Encourage Asia and Pacific States to consider becoming parties to the international air law treaties that they have not yet ratified.
