



ICAO

International Civil Aviation Organization

Fourth Meeting of the APAC ANSP Committee (AAC/4)

Bangkok, Thailand, 11 – 12 March 2025

Agenda Item 4: Discussion on Working Papers

Setting up Working Group to Develop Principles, Rules and Concept of Operations for Next Generation Air Traffic Flow Management to Support Regional Air Traffic Management

(Presented by CANSO, China, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines and Singapore)

SUMMARY

Air traffic in the Asia Pacific (APAC) region will grow strongly, projected to triple over the next 20 years, promising tremendous opportunities for countries, businesses and people. To meet demand and expectations while ensuring safety, Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs) will need to ramp up their respective operations, manpower and financial resources and for the same capacity, achieve better results through cross-border collaboration and coordination. One key element of “Regional ATM” is to develop the rules and concept of operations for next generation Air Traffic Flow Management (ATFM) that will optimise air traffic flow at the whole-of-region level, benefiting the entire region and individual ANSPs. This paper proposes setting up a Working Group to develop the principles, rules and concept of operations for the next generation ATFM.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Air traffic in the Asia Pacific (APAC) region will grow strongly, projected to triple over the next 20 years, promising tremendous opportunities for countries, businesses and people. To meet demand and expectations while ensuring safety, Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs) will need to ramp up their respective operations, manpower and financial resources and for the same capacity, achieve better results through cross-border collaboration and coordination. To better serve member ANSPs, AAC has identified “Regional ATM” as an area of priority and key deliverable for the next two years.
- 1.2. One key element of “Regional ATM” is to develop the rules and concept of operation for the next generation ATFM that optimises air traffic flow at the whole-of-region level, benefiting the entire region and individual ANSPs. The next generation ATFM will build on existing ATFM efforts and take it to a higher level by:
 - a) Sharing common air traffic picture and situational awareness of regional cross-border ATFM operations;
 - b) Identifying current and projected gaps and agreeing on the required operational improvements to optimise air traffic flows across the region; and
 - c) Defining operational targets and develop pathways to realise these targets.
- 1.3. This paper proposes setting up a Working Group to develop the principles, rules and concept of operation for the next generation ATFM.

2. DISCUSSION

- 2.1. To enhance the overall management of predictable APAC traffic flow, facilitate sharing of unified regional air traffic picture, agreed operational norms, process and procedures, the proposed Working Group could adopt the following principles:
- i. Operational benefits – ATFM measures deliver value to stakeholders while maximising regional level efficiency and predictability.
 - ii. Transparency – full visibility of the decision-making processes and decision made to foster confidence and trust.
 - iii. Equity – no single stakeholder bears a disproportionate burden and achieve win-win outcomes collectively among stakeholders.
- 2.2. The scope and objective of the Working Group under AAC is to develop a concept of operations (conops) based on agreed principles and rules for the next generation of ATFM. The conops will cater to the operational environment of the APAC region and optimise traffic flow at the whole-of-region level. The work group will also ensure close coordination with ICAO, and the ongoing work and guidance at APANPIRG and its contributory bodies such as the APAC ATFM Steering Group.
- 2.3. The proposed Working Group will be a multidisciplinary group comprising subject matter experts in air traffic management, aircraft operations, ATM/ATFM systems, and supplemented by other expertise in areas such as optimisation and/or operations research. The Working Group should welcome AAC members to participate and the results should be made available to AAC members and eventually the region.
- 2.4. The proposed Working Group will develop the Term of Reference including objectives, key task and organising framework, and report the outcome at the 5th Meeting of the AAC (AAC/5).

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

- 3.1. The meeting invites AAC members to nominate the relevant subject matters experts to join this new Working Group under WS2.

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