

**61ST CONFERENCE OF
DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION**

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AGENDA ITEM 4: AIR NAVIGATION

**ICAO APAC PROJECT 30/10 TO MODERNIZE THE
COLOMBO FLIGHT INFORMATION REGION (FIR)**

(Presented by Sri Lanka)

INFORMATION PAPER

SUMMARY

This Paper presents Sri Lanka's progress and initiatives undertaken towards the implementation of ICAO APAC Project 30/10 for the modernization of the Colombo Flight Information Region (FIR). The Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka (CAASL) successfully participated in the First Meeting of the ICAO APAC Project 30/10 Task Force, which concluded on 18 June 2026. The meeting established key regional implementation activities to support the modernization of oceanic airspace through the progressive implementation of 30 NM longitudinal separation and enhanced Performance-Based Communication and Surveillance (PBCS) operations.

The Paper highlights Sri Lanka's regional coordination efforts with neighbouring Flight Information Regions (FIRs), including collaborative trials, technical coordination, and implementation arrangements to facilitate the future introduction of reduced longitudinal separation within the Colombo FIR.

ICAO APAC PROJECT 30/10 TO MODERNIZE THE COLOMBO FLIGHT INFORMATION REGION (FIR)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka (CAASL) successfully participated in the First Meeting of the ICAO APAC Project 30/10 Task Force, which concluded on 18 June 2026. The meeting established key regional implementation activities to support the modernization of oceanic airspace through the progressive implementation of 30 NM longitudinal separation and enhanced Performance-Based Communication and Surveillance (PBCS) operations.

1.2 As part of the meeting, Sri Lanka conducted productive bilateral discussions with neighboring States to strengthen regional coordination and facilitate the implementation of ICAO APAC Project 30/10.

1.3 All neighboring States agreed to review and update their existing Letters of Agreement (LoAs) to support future operational changes and harmonized cross-boundary air traffic management arrangements.

2. DISCUSSION

Strengthening Regional Partnerships

2.1 Collaborative trials with India:

- a) India agreed in principle to commence trial operations for 30 NM longitudinal separation with Sri Lanka. In addition, both States agreed to work towards reducing the Transfer of Control (TOC) separation to 10 NM within Category S airspace at the common FIR boundary, thereby enhancing traffic flow and operational efficiency between the two FIRs.

2.2 Technical coordination with Australia:

- a) to maximize the immediate operational capabilities of the Colombo FIR, CAASL and Airservices Australia discussed the implementation of 30 NM RNP 4-based longitudinal separation for aircraft equipped with ADS-C and CPDLC capabilities as an interim measure pending full PBCS implementation.
- b) the ICAO APAC Office Secretariat expressed strong support for this initiative, and Sri Lanka will formally commence technical discussions with Airservices Australia to explore implementation on selected ATS routes.

2.3 Implementation discussions with Malaysia:

- a) discussions with Malaysia provided valuable guidance regarding the implementation of formal service agreement with APANPIRG-recognized Central Reporting Agency (CRA), which is a prerequisite for PBCS operations.
- b) Malaysia shared its experience and event-based charging model, providing Sri Lanka with a practical framework to establish compliance arrangements before the mandatory implementation of 30 NM PBCS separation.

Colombo FIR – Readiness for Future Operations

2.4 Sri Lanka's Air Traffic Management (ATM) systems are already capable of supporting PBCS-enabled 30 NM longitudinal separation.

2.5 Furthermore, Sri Lanka has substantially completed the technical and operational preparations necessary to support advanced separation standards and is progressing with the implementation of RNP 4 ATS routes to facilitate the early introduction of reduced longitudinal separation for suitably equipped aircraft.

2.6 These initiatives demonstrate Sri Lanka's continued commitment to supporting the objectives of ICAO APAC Project 30/10 while strengthening regional interoperability, improving airspace capacity, and enhancing the safety and efficiency of operations within the Colombo FIR.

3. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

3.1 The Conference is invited to note the information contained in this Paper.

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