

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

*Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
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AGENDA ITEM 9: UPDATES

**PROPOSED DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE REGIONAL
COORDINATION MECHANISMS TASK FORCE**

(Presented by the Regional Coordination Mechanisms Task Force)

SUMMARY

This paper outlines the proposed approach forward for the Regional Cooperation Mechanisms Task Force (RCM TF). The RCM TF is set to complete its final tasks in late 2026.

This paper notes that there is still a need for a mechanism to solely focus on regional coordination and capacity building. The Conference is asked to agree to disestablish the RCMTF in December 2026 and establish a new mechanism at the working group level to continue with this work on a permanent basis.

PROPOSED DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE REGIONAL COOPERATION MECHANISMS TASK FORCE

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The RCM TF) was established in 2017 to assess the feasibility of an Asia-Pacific Civil Aviation Commission (APCAC). It was re-tasked with the same activity in 2022.

1.2 The RCM TF Terms of Reference also established the following functions for the task force to undertake:

- a. identify common and evolving needs of the Asia Pacific region for capability and capacity development;
- b. identify and enhance common mechanisms for regional cooperation to prevent overlaps and duplications;
- c. identify and enhance mechanisms for funding of technical assistance;
- d. strengthen existing regional mechanisms for cooperation towards capability and capacity building and technical assistance (by making recommendations and a roadmap); and
- e. identify opportunities to streamline the communication of work and outcomes of various ICAO working groups.

1.3 RCM TF has completed all the tasks listed in paragraph 1.2, except for point c.

1.4 Following DGCA/60, the Conference recommended that RCM TF further assess the value and scope of a Dedicated Forum and continue its work on strengthening the existing DGCA framework. The work RCM TF was tasked to undertake will be completed in late 2026. As a task force is established to solve a particular problem (in this case, undertaking the APCAC feasibility study), the RCM TF in its current state should come to a natural end.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Part 2 of the 2023 APCAC Feasibility Study noted that the region was facing a series of challenges, including:

- a. continuing to build capacity and capability across the region, and
- b. effectively enhancing regional cooperation and collaboration with finite resources and gaining ICAO support for assisting with specific regional priorities.

2.2 There is no evidence to suggest that these challenges have resolved themselves. The work that the RCMTF has been undertaking is focused more on a strategic level. Whilst the proposed enhancements to DGCA and potential introductions of new mechanisms such as a regional aviation forum may alleviate the challenges to some degree, there is a gap at the working group level to address these challenges.

2.3 RCMTF members discussed the future of the task force at RCMTF/21 held in Bangkok in May 2026. Members noted that the RCMTF has added significant value to regional activities during its existence and is the only mechanism that focuses solely on regional cooperation and coordination.

2.4 RCMTF members also noted that although the majority of its tasks have been completed, there are still ongoing initiatives, such as the Regional Cooperation Training Framework, that need to continue to be embedded within regional activities.

2.5 The RCMTF has also undertaken significant work in relation to improving communication across the region. Proactive outreach has ensured that more States through the region are able to input into initiatives. It also further contributes towards ICAO's 'No Country Left Behind' initiative.

2.6 Furthermore, the DGCA currently uses the RCMTF to action items that do not fit within existing technical working groups or cannot be undertaken by the ICAO regional office due to resourcing pressures.

2.7 After nearly ten years, RCMTF is still undertaking work to support regional coordination and capacity building. This suggests that a permanent mechanism is needed to continue this work. Based on these points, RCMTF members recommend that the Task Force in its current state is disestablished and a new permanent mechanism at the working-group level is created to focus on continuing to improve coordination, capacity building and communication across the region.

Considerations that need to be taken into account by the DGCA

2.8 The current RCMTF membership is limited. Whilst it is open to all States to join, it is not well represented by all sub-regions. A new mechanism would need commitment from the majority of States across the region to ensure its success, and to ensure that it represents the region fairly.

2.9 Any permanent mechanism needs to be carefully constructed to ensure it does not begin to undertake all work that does not have a place within other working groups. This will likely require consideration of functions and outputs that the mechanism would be responsible for, and for those to be formalised in a Terms of Reference.

Next steps

2.10 If the DGCA agrees to the recommended actions, the RCMTF will complete its final tasks (depending on the decisions made in regards to DP/09/06 and DP/09/07) and disband in December 2026.

2.11 If the DGCA agrees to implement a new permanent mechanism to replace the RCMTF, a formal Terms of Reference should be developed by States and presented to the 62nd DGCA for approval. The Regional Cooperation Training Framework (RCTF) will be absorbed by the new mechanism upon its establishment.

3. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

3.1 The Conference is invited to:

- a) note the work completed by the RCMTF since its establishment in 2017;
- b) note that a Taskforce normally exists to address a specific problem within a defined period of time;
- c) agree to disestablish the RCMTF;
- d) agree to establish a permanent mechanism to carry out regional coordination and capacity building work; and

- e) request States to advise if they wish to be part of the new mechanism and the formalization of a Terms of Reference for this group.

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