



ICAO

International Civil Aviation Organization

**TENTH MEETING OF SPECTRUM REVIEW
WORKING GROUP (SRWG/10)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 04 – 06 February 2026

Agenda Item 9: Review ToR and action items of SRWG

REVIEW TERMS OF REFERENCE OF SRWG AND ACTION ITEMS

(Presented by Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the development and achievements made in APAC Region since SRWG establishment, and the ToR with Action List for review by this meeting.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CNS SG/17 meeting held in May 2013 in Bangkok discussed the issue of proposed deployment of 8.33 kHz channel spacing in the band 117.975-137 MHz in the APAC Region (WP/24 by India). The meeting agreed to a proposal to establish a small working group to investigate the need for an increase in available VHF COM channels, and on the basis of the results of the analysis, to make a recommendation for further consideration by the Sub-group. Accordingly, the meeting developed the following Decision:

Decision 17/6 – Establishment of Spectrum Review Working Group on 8.33 kHz channel spacing

That, ICAO Regional Office is requested to issue a letter to the States/Administrations concerned for nomination of spectrum management expert members of the spectrum review working group to study the requirement of 8.33 kHz channel spacing.

1.2 APANPIRG/24 meeting held in June 2013, noted the above decision and the establishment of a small working group to investigate the need for an increase in available VHF COM channels and, on the basis of the outcome, to develop recommendations for further consideration by the CNS SG.

1.3 As a follow-up to this decision, a letter AP-CNS0009/14 dated 20 January 2014 was issued. Australia, China, Hong Kong China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore and Thailand were requested to nominate qualified **Subject Matter Experts (SMEs)** to participate in the study.

1.4 The main outcomes of the SRWG/3 and follow-up work to be conducted were reviewed by CNS SG/20 held on 11-15 July 2016 through WP14, and were further noted by APANPIRG/27 held from 5 to 8 September 2016 under its agenda item 3.4. It was reminded that the Conclusion APANPIRG/26/47 adopted in 2015 invites States to submit and update their operational needs in terms of VHF frequencies (international and national) on a yearly basis to the ICAO Regional Office.

1.5 The CNS SG/18 meeting held in Beijing, China, from 21 to 25 July 2014, reviewed the outcome of SRWG/1 and the terms of reference drafted by the SRWG/1 meeting, and adopted the

following **Decision 18/19 - Adoption of the Terms of Reference of SRWG.**

1.6 SRWG/4 meeting in 2020 further reviewed the ToR, which was subsequently adopted by CNS SG/24 by **Decision CNS SG/24/9 (SRWG/4/4)**. The key objective of this revision was to conduct a simulation of VHF COM frequency assignment and expand its scope of work to cover Navigation systems, with a focus on GBAS implementation.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Last year, the SRWG/9 Meeting reviewed the ToR of SRWG. The Meeting observed that the current ToR of SRWG requires further amendments to include other tasks being taken care of by SRWG, such as working on interference issues, WRC coordination, etc. It was added that while modifying the ToR, coordination should be done with FSMP to ensure a proper record of the regional group's role in WRC matters. As the review required a thorough analysis of current work, it was suggested that the ICAO Secretary, with the chair, would revise the ToR and present the draft of the revised ToR in the SRWG/10 meeting for consideration.

2.2 The CNS SG/29 Meeting in 2025 agreed to defer to the SRWG to study the need for a group under CNS SG to assess and analyze the incidents shared by APAC Member States/Administrations and GNSS and Data Link Disruption Ad-Hoc Group to develop mitigation strategies, considering the global development in this domain.

2.3 Based on the above, the ICAO Secretariat, in coordination with the SRWG Chair, prepared a draft revision of the SRWG ToR, taking into account the outcomes of the SRWG/9 and CNS SG/29 meetings, as well as the expanded scope of work currently undertaken by the SRWG. In line with the guidance from SRWG/9, the draft ToR was coordinated with ICAO Headquarters, including FSMP, to ensure appropriate reflection of the regional group's role in interference-related matters and WRC coordination. The proposed draft Terms of Reference (ToR) is provided in **Appendix A** for review and amendment by the Meeting.

2.4 The Meeting is requested to review the draft ToR, deliberate on proposed additions and amend the ToR to meet future expectations by SRWG. The Meeting is invited to endorse the following Draft Decision on the Revised Terms of Reference of the APAC SRWG for adoption by the CNS SG/30 Meeting planned to be held from 06-10 July 2026.

Draft Decision SRWG/10/X – Revised Terms of Reference of the APAC Spectrum Review Working Group (SRWG)	
What: That, the revised Terms of Reference (ToR) provided in Appendix A be adopted.	Expected impact: <input type="checkbox"/> Political / Global <input type="checkbox"/> Inter-regional <input type="checkbox"/> Economic <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ops/Technical
Why: Need to refine the scope of work undertaken by the SRWG and include the new tasks being taken care of by the group.	Follow-up: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Required from States
When: 06-Feb-2026	Status: Draft to be adopted by Subgroup
Who: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sub groups <input type="checkbox"/> APAC States <input type="checkbox"/> ICAO APAC RO <input type="checkbox"/> ICAO HQ <input type="checkbox"/> Other: SRWG	

2.5 Each year, the SRWG Meeting compiles action items resulting from the meeting along with a review of past action items. The latest action items list reviewed by the SRWG/9 meeting is provided in **Appendix B** of this paper for review and further updates by the Meeting.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) review and amend the revised draft ToR of SRWG provided in **Appendix A**;
- b) endorse the Draft Decision **SRWG/10/X** for adoption of revised ToR of SRWG by CNS SG/30 Meeting;
- c) review and update the Action List provided in **Appendix B**; and
- d) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate.

Presentation of the initial proposal:

1. The *Background* and *Comments* are provided in *italic text*.
2. The text of the proposed amendment is arranged to show deleted text with a line through it and new text highlighted with grey shading, as shown below:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| a) Text to be deleted is shown with a line through it. | text to be deleted |
| b) New text to be inserted is highlighted with grey shading. | new text to be inserted |
| c) Text to be deleted is shown with a line through it followed by the replacement text which is highlighted with grey shading. | new text to replace existing text |

**REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE OF
ASIA AND PACIFIC
SPECTRUM REVIEW WORKING GROUP (APAC SRWG)**

Consists of objectives and deliverables as follows:

The primary objective of SRWG is to assess regional spectrum requirements, support efficient frequency planning and assignment for aeronautical communication and navigation systems, and provide technical coordination and advice to States in alignment with ICAO spectrum strategy and policies.

The Objectives of the APAC SRWG are to:

- (a) conduct regular spectrum capacity and requirements assessment for the APAC Region to accommodate current operational requirements and future implementation of aeronautical communication and navigation ~~system~~ systems, as stipulated in the Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP) and/or consistent with Frequency Spectrum Management Panel (FSMP) work on emerging technologies (such as space-based VHF), and identify potential spectrum-related gaps or constraints at the regional level;
- (b) ~~develops~~ develop an approach, supported by new tools and criteria being introduced at ICAO global level, to ~~enhance~~ enhance possibilities of frequency assignments for communication (VHF air-ground communication) and navigation systems (ILS, VOR, DME and GBAS/VDB), taking into account the need for regional harmonization and coordination with adjacent regions;
- (c) support the development, maintenance and periodic review of regional frequency-related tools and databases, including but not limited to frequency lists, NDB database and the Frequency Finder, in coordination with States and ICAO Secretariat as appropriate;
- (d) develop, maintain and review a high-level implementation plan and guidance material(s) for States/Administrations in the APAC region to implement the frequency assignments in a coordinated manner with ANSP, CAA and national radio regulatory Authorities to satisfy future operational needs or the introduction of new technologies, ~~with emphasis on communication and navigation systems, till 2030~~ and support follow-up actions to facilitate harmonized implementation;

- (e) monitor and assess radio frequency interference (RFI) issues in the region, and coordinate with other working groups of APANPIRG/RASG-APAC, if needed, on effective monitoring and deriving mitigation measures;
- (f) facilitate alignment with the ICAO Position through regional coordination and information sharing, ensuring that aeronautical interests are unified and effectively represented in WRC processes; and
- (g) be based on the above, ~~develops~~ develop recommendation(s) to address the current limitations and future operational spectrum needs in the region, in a manner consistent with ICAO global provisions and regional priorities. ~~and current limitations.~~

Deliverables / Outputs to meet the Objectives:

To meet the above objectives, the SRWG will produce the following outputs as required and periodically, in accordance with regional operational needs and technological developments:

- (a) Progress report to APANPIRG CNS Sub-Group on ongoing activities and identified issues ~~addressing progress on the deliverables;~~
- (b) Requirement/Capacity Assessments as necessary;
- (c) Regional frequency planning material and guidance ~~High-level frequency assignment plan and Guidance Material(s)~~ for communication (VHF air-ground communication) and navigation systems (ILS, VOR, DME, NDB and GBAS/VDB); ~~until 2030; and~~
- (d) Recommendation(s) and technical approaches addressing spectrum efficiency, interference mitigation ~~on solutions to current limitation~~ and future operational needs; and -
- (e) Updates and maintenance outputs related to regional frequency-related tools and databases (e.g. Frequency Finder, frequency lists), as applicable.

Timeframe for Deliverables:

~~The timeframe for the review of the deliverables by APANPIRG CNS Sub-Group are as follows:~~

~~Deliverable (a) — from 2020 onward;~~

~~Deliverable (b) — from 2020 onwards;~~

~~Deliverable (c) — first guidance material in 2022; and~~

~~Deliverable (d) — from 2020 onwards (recurring deliverable(s)/based on the outcome of (b) and (c))~~

Meeting:

The APAC SRWG shall convene annually with at least one face-to-face meeting per year, which is supplemented by teleconference meetings (e.g. MS Teams, ZOOM or WebEx) as appropriate.

The APAC SRWG may establish ad-hoc task groups, as required, to address specific technical issues, with defined deliverables and timelines.

Membership:

All APAC member States/Administrations providing ANS in the Asia and Pacific Regions. APAC members should nominate Subject Matter Experts from Civil Aviation Authorities, ANSPs, and other organizations preferably experts involved in aeronautical frequency and/or spectrum management to participate in the Working Group.

The Working Group would also invite representatives of International Organizations recognized by the ICAO Council as representing important civil aviation interests, to participate in its work in a consultative capacity.

Reporting:

The SRWG will present its report to APANPIRG through the CNS Sub-group.
