

**59th CONFERENCE OF
DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
ASIA AND PACIFIC REGIONS**

*Cebu, Philippines
14 to 18 October 2024*

AGENDA ITEM 9: UPDATES

**REPORT OF THE MONTREAL GROUP OF ASIA-PACIFIC
REPRESENTATIVES ON THE COUNCIL OF ICAO**

(Presented by the Representative of Malaysia on the ICAO Council, on behalf of the ICAO Council Representatives of Australia, China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Singapore)

SUMMARY

The Montreal Group of Asia-Pacific Representatives on the Council of ICAO would like to highlight to the Director Generals attending the 59th Director General Meeting in Cebu, the Philippines on the key discussions of the Council Meetings during the 231st and 232nd Council Sessions held in the first half of 2024, as well as several ICAO events that took place from July onwards.

**REPORT OF THE MONTREAL GROUP OF ASIA-PACIFIC
REPRESENTATIVES ON THE COUNCIL OF ICAO**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Montreal Group is an informal grouping of the Representatives of the seven Asia-Pacific States on the ICAO Council (Australia, China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, and Singapore) in Montreal, Canada. It is often joined by other Representatives to ICAO from Asia Pacific States who are based in Montreal.
- 1.2 The Montreal Group meets as may be required to discuss matters before the Council and other matters of interest to members.
- 1.3 This report highlights key discussions at the 231st and 232nd Council Sessions held in the first half of 2024, as well as several events that took place from July onwards

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Main agendas of ICAO Council 231 & 232 Session

(a) Elections - ICAO Secretary General

At the 231st session of the Council, Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar, from Colombia, was unanimously re-elected for a second three-year term as ICAO Secretary General, to begin 1 August 2024.

(b) Elections - Council Committees for the period 2024-2025

The Asia-Pacific continues to be well represented amongst the Council leadership and Council Committees. Mrs. Flora Chin Lee Sa (Malaysia) was elected as its Second Vice-President for the period 2024-2025. with Ambassador Jaewan Lee (Republic of Korea) elected the Chairperson of the Aviation Security Committee (ASC), and Mr. Angshumali Rastogi (India) elected the Chairperson of the Committee on Cooperation with External Parties (CCEP). Ms Eileen Poh (Singapore) also leads important Council groups considering space weather and environmental matters.

(c) ICAO 80th Anniversary Celebration

The celebration of the Organization's 80th Anniversary will be held on 4 and 5 December 2024, in Chicago, USA at the Hilton Chicago Hotel (formerly the Stevens Hotel where the International Civil Aviation Convention was first signed). Under the theme of "Safe Skies. Sustainable Future: Together for the next 80 years", an extraordinary session of the Council will be convened on 5 December 2024 where a Declaration marking this milestone occasion will be adopted. There will also be three Panel sessions with the industry, regional organizations, academia, United Nations and non-governmental organizations on Sustainability, Aviation Technology and Implementation Support. PA State Letter 2024/85 dated 7 August 2024 was issued to all ICAO Member States by the Secretary General, extending the invitation from the President of the ICAO Council and the Council for each ICAO Member State to nominate one Representative and one guest to join the event.

On this auspicious note, to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the Organization, the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the ICAO Council and ICAO, co-host the special exhibition titled "Somewhere Out There" in the ICAO Museum all through October 2024. In addition, the Delegation Office of India in ICAO has also announced that 80000 tree saplings were planted at various airports throughout India to commemorate this occasion.

(d) Mid-triennial review of the implementation of Resolutions and decisions of the 41st Session of the Assembly

In the review of the implementation of the Resolutions and decisions arising from the 41st Session of the Assembly, the Council noted that there remained a large number of outstanding actions pending the identification of resources and requested that the Secretariat give careful consideration to the allocation of resources to support the Priority Focus Areas (PFAs) identified. These priority activities should further be considered in the preparation of the next triennium Budget and Business Plan, ongoing discussions regarding the sustainable financing of the ICAO Budget, and the ICAO long-term Strategic Plan to ensure alignment for reporting to the Assembly in the Annual Reports of the Council.

(e) Draft Provisional Agenda for the 42nd Session of the ICAO Assembly (2025); and site and date;

The Council considered the draft provisional agenda which had been streamlined to topics requiring amendments to the Resolutions. There was also discussion for the 42nd Session of the Assembly to commence a day earlier on a Monday, instead of the traditional opening on Tuesday to allocate more time for discussion. Accordingly, the tentative date for the Assembly is Monday, 22 September to Friday, 3 October 2025 at ICAO Headquarters in Montréal, Canada. A final decision on the dates would be taken during the 233rd Session and communicated to States shortly thereafter via State letter.

(f) GNSS interference

The Council considered the increasing number of incidents of observed GNSS interference, globally, and the implications for air navigation safety and security. Recognizing that GNSS interference had been worsening in recent months, the Council expressed serious concerns regarding the impact of GNSS interference on the safety and security of air navigation systems, with its decisions taken on 18 June 2012 (C-DEC 196/4 refers) and 31 May 2016 (C-DEC 208/9 refers) and 14 June 2024 (C-DEC 232/5 refers), and in doing so, underscored the need for the Council to be actively involved in defining a comprehensive and well-coordinated approach to address this pressing issue.

The Council will consider outcomes from the discussion on these matters at the 14th ICAO Air Navigation Conference (AN-Conf/14), as well as the progress of ICAO's ongoing activities in this area, particularly as they relate to mitigation measures aimed at reducing the likelihood and impact of GNSS interference on aviation operations, and the existing legal instruments which may be applicable in this context and also to invite the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) to make presentations in an informal briefing.

(g) Environmental protection – Recent developments in ICAO and other United Nations bodies and international organizations

The Council approved an ICAO roadmap for the implementation of the ICAO Global Framework for Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF), Low Carbon Aviation Fuels (LCAF) and other Aviation Cleaner Energies, including the planned actions, roles and responsibilities, timeframe, required resources, leading to the 42nd Session of the Assembly in 2025, and until the convening of CAAF/4 by no later than 2028.

In approving the document, focus is now clearly on the delivery and implementation of these initiatives and measures to support the development and deployment of these fuels. The Council emphasized its desire to continue to be updated on progress on implementation, and in particular how the framework is being implemented across regions. It will now consider how these measures can be best incorporated into the 2026-2028 Business Plan and Regular Budget and also be supported through intensive resource mobilisation efforts.

(h) ICAO Long Term Strategic Plan 2026-2050

ICAO is developing a long-term ICAO Strategic Plan 2026-2050 to clearly set out the organisation's long term aspirations across aviation safety, security, economic development, facilitation and environment. The Council will consider a final version of the document during its 233rd session. The Strategic Plan will also serve to guide development of the 2026-2028 Triennial Business Plan, Operating Plan and Regular Budget of the Organization.

(i) ICAO Security Week 2024

This year's ICAO Security Week will be held in Muscat, Oman from 9 to 12 December 2024, and will be hosted by the Sultanate of Oman. The four-day event will include symposium sessions, workshops and a High-Level Ministerial segment on 11 December 2024. A Ministerial Declaration will be adopted at the conclusion of the segment, with the intent that this declaration provide high-level strategic overview for the direction of aviation security for international aviation over the coming years. The draft Ministerial Declaration was prepared by the Aviation Security Panel (AVSEC) and the Cybersecurity Panel (CYSECP) and commented by the Aviation Security Committee (ASC) of the Council has been circulated to Member States for consultation. The Secretariat will report the outcomes of the State letter consultation process to the Council at the 233rd session, with a view to finalizing the text of the draft Declaration to be endorsed during the High-level Ministerial Segment.

2.2 Other matters being considered by the Council

Update by the Small Group

The Asia-Pacific Representatives on the Council of ICAO participated actively in the various Small Groups of the Council that were special purpose groups to address issues on:

- Innovation, Industry Consultative Forum,
- Assembly Resolution A41-27 Paragraph 18b) on environmental funding and financing,
- Social Dimension of Sustainability in Civil aviation,
 - Cost Recovery of ICAO Space Weather Information Services,
 - Economic Development
 - ICAO Budget Sustainability,
 - Lessons Learned on 41st ICAO Assembly
 - Gender Equality; and
 - the ICAO Strategic Plan.

a) Cost Recovery of ICAO Space Weather Information Services (SWIS)

The ICAO Assembly Resolution A41-27 requested the Council to address the issues of the appropriateness of a global cost recovery system for the provision of space weather information services for international civil aviation, including the development of a cost recovery mechanism consistent with ICAO's charging principles. The Council Air Transport Committee will recommend to the Council to conduct a consultation with States on the appropriateness of the global charge using a concept note to gather inputs and feedback on how such a charge is best levied.

b) Steering Group of the Industry Consultative Forum (ICF)

The Council has established a high-level dialogue with the industry, the ICAO-Industry Consultative Forum (ICF). The role of the ICF is to create an opportunity for high-level strategic engagement between the Council, CEOs of companies and academic leaders, on the medium -to

long-term outlook of the sector and how the work of ICAO may accompany or foster future changes. The fourth meeting of the ICF was held in February 2024 and focused on cybersecurity - including the threats and risks already identified and the related activities implemented by the industry and provide insights on trends and future risks and to articulate the possible role of States and ICAO in building a coherent and coordinated approach to cybersecurity and cyber resilience.

2.3 Council Off Site Meeting 2024

The Council Off-Site Strategy Meeting (COSM), (a retreat where Council members engage in informal brainstorming on specific topics) was held from the 3 to 5 June in Ottawa, Ontario. Discussions were focused on three areas in continuity with the discussions held at the 2023 COSM such as the following:

- a) ICAO Strategic Plan 2026 to 2050;
- b) Financial sustainability of the Organization's budget; and
- c) Lessons learned from the 41st Session of the ICAO Assembly and any consequential changes to be made to procedures and logistical arrangements for the 42nd Session of the ICAO Assembly.

2.4 ICAO 2nd APAC Ministerial Conference, New Delhi, India

The Leaders from the Asia-Pacific States responsible for Civil Aviation, met in New Delhi, India on 11 to 12 September 2024, for the 2nd Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation, organized by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The States reaffirmed the obligations to the Chicago Convention signed on 7 December 1944 to ensure the safety, security, efficiency and continuity of civil aviation. The conference also marked the 80th anniversary of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention).

The Delhi Declaration, issued at the conference focuses on key aviation priorities for the Asia-Pacific region. This includes enhancing safety, improving air traffic management, promoting sustainability, and addressing challenges posed by climate change. The declaration emphasizes cooperation among member states, investment in aviation infrastructure, and the implementation of innovative technologies to improve efficiency and environmental performance. It also outlines commitments to support regional development and strengthen the resilience of the aviation sector in light of ongoing global challenges.

3. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

The Conference is invited to:

- a) Note the updates on the items discussed in ICAO Council, with particular focus on Asia-Pacific's needs.
- b) Encourage representatives from each Asia-Pacific State to join the Council for the celebration of the ICAO 80th Anniversary, on 4 and 5 December 2024 in Chicago.

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