

Appendix 1D - APIRG/23&RASG-AFI/6

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Address by the President of the Air Navigation Commission (ANC), Mr. Nabil Naomi to the Joint Closing Session of the APIRG/23 and the RASG-AFI/6 Meetings

1. Good morning Secretary General of the African Civil Aviation Commission, Directors General of Civil Aviation, Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the APIRG and RASG-AFI, Representatives of the Industry, Representatives of Regional and International Organizations, Members of the AFI Group, distinguished Delegates, fellow Commissioners, ICAO Secretariat, ladies and gentlemen.
2. It's my great pleasure to address you in this joint virtual closing session of the Twenty-third Meeting of the AFI Planning and Implementation Regional Group and the Sixth Meeting of the Regional Aviation Safety Group for the AFI Region. We are all too familiar with the critical adverse effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on global aviation and the urgency to address the issue in a pragmatic manner. This virtual meeting attests to that.
3. International air transport is a deeply integrated and dynamic sector, and one characterized by rapid technological change. This is fully consistent with why the ICAO Council originally established PIRGs and RASGs, namely to ensure the continuous and coherent development of regional air navigation plans, enhance aviation safety worldwide, and to monitor and foster implementation.
4. It is recognized that safety and air navigation capacity and efficiency strategic objectives are very much complementary in civil aviation systems, and the contributions made by PIRGs and RASGs are therefore similarly interrelated. This helps to explain why they require such determined coordination and harmonization on an ongoing basis.
5. With this in mind, the reports of the PIRGs and RASGs serve as the main tool for the ANC to evaluate implementation progress in the regions. I wish to emphasize, in this regard, the importance of the ICAO Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP) and Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP) as our highest level ICAO strategic implementation guidance.
6. To further drive implementation, PIRGs and RASGs are expected to report actionable recommendations on the implementation of these Global Plans to the ANC and the ICAO Council. The PIRG/RASG identified regional challenges experienced with implementation enable the Commission to identify common global challenges that require remedial actions to be taken at the Council level.
7. With the introduction of the revised format of ICAO's Regional Air Navigation Plans, it will be necessary to update the Council-approved methodology for the identification of deficiencies as used by the PIRGs. This item is presently on the work programme of the ANC.
8. During the review of the previous APIRG/22 and RASG-AFI/5 reports, the Commission was presented with the meeting format, achievements, key issues and challenges of the Africa-Indian Ocean (AFI) Region related to air navigation and aviation safety. At that time, The Commission noted with satisfaction, the increase in APIRG and RASG-AFI participation by States, Industry and Organizations.
9. The participation at these virtual meetings by far exceed our highest expectations with the peak attendance at 350. I hope that we will have the same result with support and participation to the contributory bodies of the PIRGs and RASGs. The Commission noted that to balance the Secretariat responsibilities between the APIRG and RASG-AFI, the rotation of the APIRG and RASG-AFI Secretaries was planned to commence early in 2020, in line with the Council approved terms of

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reference.

10. I have noted that the APIRG and RASG-AFI Procedural Handbooks were updated and approved by this meeting. I am also pleased to note that concrete actions are being taken to address the high rate of missing operational messages, and the need for AFI States to submit RVSM data to the AFI RMA Office on a monthly basis which may have a direct impact on the Collision Risk Assessment.

11. During these APIRG/23 and RASG-AFI/6 meetings, you had the opportunity to discuss many other issues, and to provide valuable inputs on the way forward for the AFI Region. Your input will help us to move forward and to develop a strategic plan to address many of the challenges that we foresee in these essential implementation mechanisms.

12. The ANC and I are looking forward to review the reports of the APIRG/23 and RASG-AFI/6 as presented by the Chairpersons and the Secretaries during our next Session, and to study in detail the achievements, key issues and challenges of the Africa-Indian Ocean (AFI) Region and to identify solutions to address the challenges faced.

Thank you.