



International Civil Aviation Organization

**The Sixth Meeting of the APANPIRG ATM Sub-Group
(ATM/SG/6)**

Hong Kong, China, 30 July – 03 August 2018

Agenda Item 2: Review of Related High Level Meetings

PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM AIRSPACE POLICY

(Presented by Kiribati)

SUMMARY

This paper presents updated information from the September 2017 meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum and the associated meeting of the Small Island States concerning the forum's policy on airspace in the Pacific.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) is a political grouping of 16 independent and self-governing states. Members include Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Associate members include New Caledonia, Tokelau and French Polynesia. Current Forum Observers include: Wallis and Futuna, the Commonwealth, the United Nations, the Asian Development Bank, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, the World Bank, the ACP Group, American Samoa, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas and the International Organization for Migration with Timor Leste as Special Observer.

1.2 The Small Island States (SIS) form part of the PIF.

1.3 Information on the PIF and SIS discussions and policy concerning airspace in the Pacific was provided to ATMSG/5 and discussed at APANPIRG/28, including an informal meeting of Stakeholders attending APANPIRG/28.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The 48th meeting of the PIF was held in Apia, SAMOA during September 2017 at the same time as APANPIRG/28. That (PIF) meeting issued a communique providing, *inter alia*, reports of the airspace discussions and updates to the PIF and SIS policy.

Communique

2.2 The sections of the Communique of the 48th Meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum relating to Pacific Airspace are as follows:

a) **From the 48th Leaders' Forum**

Leaders acknowledged the importance of addressing equitable and accessible air services, including maximising benefits of greater ownership of upper airspace management by SIS. Leaders further recognised the urgency of addressing air services and upper airspace management and the importance of addressing these as separate issues.

b) **From the SIS Leaders Meeting**

Leaders acknowledged the importance of addressing equitable and accessible air services, including maximising benefits of greater ownership of upper airspace management by SIS. Leaders further recognised the urgency of addressing air services and upper airspace management and the importance of addressing these as separate issues.

Leaders agreed that the World Bank be requested to prioritise further work on the options identified for improvements in upper airspace management, taking into account current legal and institutional arrangements.

Leaders supported the conducting of an Aviation Officials and Ministers meeting to consider aviation issues and make recommendations for SIS Leaders' consideration at their meeting in Nauru in 2018.

Leaders urged that the analysis for improved air services agreements to also take into account the need for improvements in related infrastructure to ensure that airport facilities are of international standards.

Leaders encouraged a regional approach to facilitate technical assistance and finance to allow for the upgrading of airports in SIS so that they can meet the requirements of airlines servicing the region.

Leaders tasked the Secretariat to work with Cook Islands and Nauru to share experiences with SIS that may progress upper airspace management arrangements and opportunities.

Leaders agreed to explore the legal status of upper air space areas of the high seas that are encircled by the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of SIS and their legal implications with respect to the UN Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and a regional approach to upper air space management.

Next Meeting

2.3 The 2018 meeting of the PIF is planned for the period 3-6 September. The meeting will be held in Nauru and will be preceded by a meeting of Aviation Officials and Ministers.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to note the information contained in this paper.

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