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CHINA'S ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF FLOW MANAGEMENT

(Presented by the People's Republic of China)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The paper mainly presents China's air traffic control authority active responses to and participation in International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) cooperation and planning of flow management. It outlines the cooperation programs that China's air traffic control authority is currently participating in and planning to advance, inter alia Asia Pacific cross-border flow management cooperation, Northeast Asia Regional ATFM Harmonization Group, silk road economic belt flow management cooperation, SEW-AISA Air Traffic Capacity and Flow Cooperation Group, and CMR flow management cooperation. It is recommended that ICAO should further promote relevant international flow management cooperation and invite stake holders work together with China's air traffic control authority to collaborate and push forward the development of cross-border and trans-regional flow management.

<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	This paper relates to the Safety and Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency Strategic Objectives.
<i>Financial implications:</i>	
<i>References:</i>	

¹ English and Chinese versions provided by the People's Republic of China.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In recent years, civil aviation, as the bellwether of Asian-Pacific economy, has maintained a 5% to 6% average annual growth rate in its flights. China, as a major market in Asia Pacific civil aviation industry, plays an important role in promoting civil aviation development in the region. In 2015, there were about 7.79 million aircraft movements in China's mainland, keeping a high annual growth rate of 10% in recent years, especially the international flights. The development of China's civil aviation would undoubtedly boost the overall and rapid development of civil aviation in the region.

1.2 Development is a double-edged sword which brings challenges to regulators along with prosperity, namely keeping a balance between rapidly growing flight demand and limited airspace capacity. The increase of airspace capacity, especially the overall lifting of cross-border airspace capacity, is a well-known long-term problem. One of the most effective ways to reduce flight delays, straighten out air traffic order, and realize capacity and flow balance is air traffic flow management.

1.3 After reaching a broad consensus on the importance of air traffic flow management, ICAO accords top priority to flow management in Asia and Pacific region. Flow management in Asia and Pacific region has been actively promoted by ICAO flow management steering group meetings, ICAO flow management information demand working group established under the proposal of China's air traffic control authority, and Asia Pacific cross-border flow management operation tests partly organized and implemented by China's air traffic control authority, among others.

1.4 China, as a major player in civil aviation in Asia Pacific region and the whole world, has actively responded to, participated in and promoted ICAO's initiative and plan in flow management. In recent years, China's air traffic control authority has carried out a highly tolerant and open policy on international cooperation. Driven by China's national strategy such as "Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road", China's air traffic control authority launched a number of international flow management projects in Asia Pacific region and other areas. Roadmap for Implementation of CAAC Air Traffic Flow management clearly reflects the conception of integrated international development for China's air traffic control and global flow management, and actively promotes the five global major flow management cooperation fields that China's air traffic control authority participates in.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Asia Pacific Cross-border Flow Management Cooperation

2.2 The global famous operation tests of Asia Pacific distributed multi-node cross-border flow management were officially launched on June 29, 2015. At present, parties from 14 countries and regions have jointly participated in the operation tests, covering the most countries and regions along the maritime silk road economic belt, aiming at pushing forward the flow management development in Asia Pacific region on the basis of inter-dependence and advantages complementation.

2.3 This international cooperation represents the key foundation and support for ICAO to officially carry out cross-border flow management on November 8, 2018, which will greatly boost the development of Asia Pacific flow management. As one of the initiators of this international cooperation, China's air traffic control authority participated in the organization and implementation of operation tests as one of the four LEVEL 3 members.

2.4 **Northeast Asia Regional ATFM Harmonization Group**

2.5 At the third meeting of ICAO Asia Pacific Regional Flow Management Steering Group (ATFM/SG3), coordinated by ICAO Asia Pacific Sub-office, China, Japan and Korea jointly established the Northeast Asia Regional ATFM Harmonization Group (NARAHG), dedicated to handling with flow management between flight information regions of Dalian, Incheon and Fukuoka.

2.6 Up to now, NARAHG has held three meetings and a number of video conferences, conducting researches on relevant flow management work in respective areas and on connection with Asia Pacific regional flow management. Currently, China-Japan-Korea Cross Regional Data Exchange Platform (CRACP), facilitated mainly by China's air traffic control authority, has established a special work group, and planned to realize data exchange between China and Japan through AIDC lines.

2.7 **Flow Management Cooperation along the Silk Road Economic Belt**

2.8 Along the Silk Road Economic Belt, China's air traffic control authority and West Asian countries such as Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan initiated cooperation in air traffic control. The cooperation covers multiple areas of cross-border air traffic control cooperation such as air traffic control and flow management, enabling a closer link between the air traffic control authorities of China and neighbouring West Asian countries.

2.9 At present, China's air control authority has successively carried out work on ATC Inter-facility Data Communications (AIDC) with neighbouring West Asian countries, which has not only improved the efficiency of cross-border flight coordination and transfer, but also laid a foundation for further implementation of cross-border flow management cooperation.

2.10 **SEW-AISA Air Traffic Capacity & Flow Cooperation Group**

2.11 In 2016, with the progress of Asia Pacific cross-border flow management operation tests, interested parties in this region showed an increasing enthusiasm of participation. Upon effective negotiation between China and Thailand and some other countries, the initial plan of BCIMT flow management cooperation team which was originally intended to include Bangladesh, China, India and Thailand, was expanded to cover more countries, so as to establish a SEW-AISA Air Traffic Capacity and Flow Cooperation Group.

2.12 SEW-AISA Air Traffic Capacity and Flow Cooperation Group initially plans to include eight countries including China, Bangladesh, India, Thailand, Burma, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam. China and Thailand will engage in further communication with relevant countries, initiate this international cooperation as soon as possible, and strive to address relevant problems of capacity and flow in the region as a whole.

2.13 **CMR Flow Management Cooperation**

2.14 In recent years, international flights between China and Mongolia and Russia have grown rapidly, and the need for flow management cooperation has become urgent. From a geopolitics view, civil aviation flights in some of city pairs in China will fly over Mongolia and other countries in the future, and enable a closer relationship of interdependence in flow management cooperation.

2.15 As a preparatory cooperation of Eurasia regional flow management, this cooperation will involve in-depth cross-regional cooperation of global flow management. China has built bilateral

cooperation relationships with Mongolia and Russia and laid a foundation for further cooperation. In the future, China will be committed to further improving the efficiency of flow management on the basis of collective efforts and wisdom from multiple parties, and advance the development of cross-regional flow management cooperation.

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