



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

Fifth Meeting of the Africa-Indian Ocean Planning and Implementation Regional Group Projects Coordination Committee (APCC/5) (Virtual, 5 November 2020)

**Agenda Item 1: Presentation of the format of APIRG/RASG-AFI meetings
under the revised terms of reference**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY	
This working paper presents the format of APIRG/RASG-AFI meetings under the ICAO Council revised terms of reference.	
The action by the Meeting is in paragraph 3 .	
<i>Strategic Objectives</i>	This working paper relates to the Strategic Objectives A, B, C, D and E .

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The meeting may recall that the APIRG/22 and RASG-AFI/5 meeting requested the APIRG/RASG-AFI Task Force (ARC-TF) to conduct an in-depth analysis and develop proposals for the structural changes and timelines for the implementation of the integrated approach in the AFI Region, together with the consequential amendments to the Procedural Handbooks. Hence the following decision was formulated:

APIRG/22 & RASG-AFI/5 Decision 1/01: Transition to an integrated approach to PIRGs and RASGs

That the APIRG / RASG-AFI Task Force (ARC-TF):

- a) Conduct an analysis of the PIRGs/RASGs enhancement strategy addressing organizational challenges, infrastructure, operational risks and performance measurement, and propose the structural changes required for its implementation in the AFI Region; and
- b) Present the results to an Extraordinary Meeting of APIRG and RASG-AFI to be convened during the first quarter of 2020.

1.2 The second meeting of the APIRG/RASG-AFI Coordination Task Force (ARC-TF/2) that was held in Ghana discussed on the elements that would have an impact on the terms of reference and the handbooks of the APIRG and RASG-AFI. The elements identified included (but are not limited to) the format, venue, frequency and structure of meetings, and the reporting cycle. The APIRG/22 and RASG-AFI/5 meeting recognized that the Task Force needs more time to analyze the impact of the identified elements and

other provisions and agreed to the timelines for the development of proposals to be presented to the two groups, together with the structural changes to be implemented.

1.3 The Task Force was particularly requested to present an initial set of proposals to the APIRG Projects Coordination Committee (APCC) and the RASG-AFI Steering Committee (RASC) by mid-September 2019. Thereafter, an Extraordinary Meeting may be considered during the first quarter 2020 to consider and adopt the structural changes to be implemented in order to ensure AFI Regional Groups' compliance with the Council approved PIRGs/RASGs ToR.

2. DISCUSSIONThe meeting may also recall the format adopted by the APIRG/22 and RASG-AFI/5 meetings as compared to the usual back-to-back approach. The logistical constraints, cost implications and challenges for some States and Organizations to cover parallel meetings were highlighted among other issues. It was agreed to include the evaluation of this format in the work of the ARC Task Force.

2.2 In view of the above, an Extraordinary Meeting of the Africa-Indian Ocean (AFI) Planning and Implementation Regional Group and the Regional Aviation Safety Group for AFI Region (APIRG and RASG AFI/EO) was convened to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 23 to 24 April 2020, by a State invitation letter Ref.: ES AN 1/6 – 0116 dated 4 March 2020.

2.3 Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic outbreak that hit the whole world, and especially the aviation industry globally, ICAO took a decision to postpone the meeting due to the concerns raised by delegates and international speakers who were unable to travel at that time.

2.4 According to the Council approved ToR, APIRG meetings would be convened in the Regional Offices, to the extent possible, to facilitate proper access by States. Approval to host PIRG meetings outside of the Regional Office must be obtained from the President of the Council. The meeting may note that with the current COVID19 outbreak, the possibilities of complying with requirements for hosting and organizing physical meetings are minimum.

3 ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the information contained in the WP
- b) Adopt the conduct of APIRG and its contributory bodies meetings virtually until such time when the situation will allow; and
- c) Allow the format of conducting the APIRG & RASG-AFI meetings as follows: Joint APIRG & RASG-AFI opening session, APIRG back-to-back with RASG-AFI, and Joint APIRG & RASG-AFI closing session.