



**DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION-MIDDLE EAST REGION
FIFTH MEETING (DGCA-MID/5)**

(Kuwait, 4-6 November 2019)

Agenda Item 4: Global Developments

PIRGs and RASGs Global Symposium – Innovation

(Presented by Secretariat)

SUMMARY

The PIRGs and RASGs will continue to play an important role specifically related to innovation as they are the entry point related to planning and implementation in a harmonized way. ICAO is planning the next Innovation Fair to be held in Montréal during the 3rd quarter of 2020. The Innovation Fair will be followed by a PIRG/RASG Global Symposium to highlight and discuss the role of regional planning and coordination related to innovation activities. The PIRGs/RASGs, States and role players are invited to identify and propose Innovation Activities of Global Interest for the Innovation Fair and following this, related topics for discussion during the planned ICAO Innovation Fair and PIRG/RASG Symposium.

Action by the meeting is at paragraph 4.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 With innovation high on the aviation agenda, the ICAO Council submitted a working paper (A40-WP/14) to the 40th Session of the ICAO Assembly (Montréal, 26 September to 4 October 2019). The Council recognized the emergence of innovation in aviation under the general theme of the future of aviation to seek global understanding of, and to orient our response to, challenges and opportunities arising from innovation and frontier technologies. These new concepts of operation are rapidly becoming available and increasingly transforming the aviation sector. States as regulators, and from a regional planning perspective, need to be ready to accommodate new technology.

1.2 The First ICAO Innovation Fair was held from 22 to 23 September 2019, prior to the 40th Session of the Assembly. More than 50 exhibitors contributed to the ICAO Innovation Fair that highlighted broad innovations across the aviation sector. The displays included a range of products from actual electric Vertical Take-Off Vehicles (eVTOL), to Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications, Big Data solutions, new technologies that enhance tasks in the aviation security and facilitation sectors, Air Traffic Management systems and many other areas.

1.3 In a related development, the Fifth ICAO World Aviation Forum (IWAF 2019) (Montréal, 23 September 2019) focused on both technological and regulatory-process innovations and included a Ministerial Roundtable attended by Ministers from across the world. The Ministers encouraged the aviation sector to continue to embrace innovation and frontier technologies to shape the future of the aviation business and address issues such as emissions reduction while ensuring their safe, secure, efficient and sustainable use, in line with the ICAO Strategic Objectives.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The ongoing initiatives and efforts by States require the establishment and enabling of institutional, legal and regulatory frameworks for aviation stakeholders to operate and to ensure that technological innovation thrive and expand. This action will ensure that the relevant emerging products and solutions can be effectively planned for and be implemented in a timely manner. This will ensure that the benefits of the new era of urban air mobility can be fully realized in a safe and globally coordinated manner.

2.2 The nature and pace of innovation requires aviation regulators at the national, regional and global level to avail themselves of new methodologies and tools. Latest technologies have the capability to accelerate aviation regulatory processes required to keep pace with innovation. This will make the regulatory processes more efficient, streamlined and responsive, allowing governments to level up with the speed of change in the industry and with proper planning, to fully leverage the potential benefits offered by technological advances.

2.3 Given that the growth of innovation in aviation is expected to increase, it is important for ICAO and the global aviation community to develop new regulatory policies in order to evaluate innovations in a timely manner. These policies should not be technology specific but rather should provide a high-level framework through which innovations can be assessed and, where relevant, be brought under global polices and standards.

2.4 The next step, and to engage the innovation community from a regional point of view, is for the PIRGs and RASGs to examine how the latest and future technologies, can be used and incorporated in the regional planning process to further improve the existing regional planning and regulatory frameworks of air transport, so as to facilitate the growing number of traffic while ensuring the implementation of global standards.

2.5 In addition to States, the importance of a collaborative and proactive role by airspace users, international and regional organizations, professional associations and organizations and industry must be recognized due to their involvement in the rapid pace of technological development and expertise. The PIRGs and RASGs will create opportunities for sharing of resources.

2.6 In parallel with the work of ICAO, Civil Aviation Commissions/Conferences in particular the Arab Civil Aviation Organization, African Civil Aviation Commission, European Civil Aviation Conference and Latin American Civil Aviation Commission will play a major role as these intergovernmental organizations, seek to harmonize civil aviation policies and practices amongst their Member States and, at the same time, promote understanding on policy matters between their Member States and other parts of the world. They have a valuable role to play as innovation may span across States and regional activities.

2.7 The PIRGs and RASGs will continue to play an important role specifically related to innovation as they are the entry point related to planning and implementation in a harmonized way. These regional groups ensure regional coordination and cooperation amongst States and stakeholders for the continuous improvement of air navigation and safety systems in the region. This is achieved with due consideration to harmonization of developments and deployments, intra- and interregional coordination.

2.8 With the rapid pace of innovation, ICAO is planning the Second Innovation Fair to be held in Montréal from 26 to 27 October 2020. The Innovation Fair will be followed by a PIRG/RASG Global Symposium, scheduled for 29 and 30 October 2020, to highlight and discuss the role of regional planning and coordination in facilitating planning and implementation of the relevant innovations.

2.9 To coincide with the Innovation Fair and PIRG/RASG Symposium, the first meeting of the ICAO PIRG/RASG Global Coordination Group, scheduled for 25 October 2020, will be convened. The Coordination Group consists of the Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons of the ICAO PIRGs/RASGs and Representatives of ICAO Council and recognized International Organizations, Civil Aviation Commissions/Conferences and the Air Navigation Commission will be invited to attend.

2.10 In light of the above, States, PIRGs and RASGs and role players are invited to identify innovation activities, technologies or innovative decision-making processes considered to be of global interest, and advise ICAO of the proposal for inclusion in the Innovation Fair and PIRG/RASG Symposium. (innovaiton@icao.int)

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 PIRGs and RASGs should examine how the latest and future technologies can be used to further improve the existing regional planning and regulatory frameworks of air transport, to facilitate the growing number of traffic while ensuring the implementation of global standards.

3.2 States, PIRGs and RASGs and role players are invited to identify innovation activities considered to be of global interest, and advise ICAO of the proposal for inclusion in the Innovation Fair and PIRG/RASG Symposium and plan attendance.

4. ACTION BY THE MEETING

4.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information presented;
- b) identify and propose Innovation Activities of Global Interest;
- c) propose topics for discussion during the planned ICAO PIRG/RASG Symposium; and
- d) plan attendance.