

**58th CONFERENCE OF
DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
ASIA AND PACIFIC REGIONS**

Dhaka, Bangladesh

15 – 19 October 2023

AGENDA ITEM 9: UPDATES

**REPORT OF THE MONTREAL GROUP OF ASIA-PACIFIC
REPRESENTATIVES ON THE COUNCIL OF ICAO**

Presented by the Representative of Japan on the ICAO Council, on behalf of the ICAO Council Representatives of Australia, China, India, Japan, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, and Singapore

SUMMARY

The Asia-Pacific Region's Representatives on the ICAO Council highlight key issues within ICAO for the attention of Directors-General.

REPORT OF ASIA-PACIFIC REPRESENTATIVES ON THE COUNCIL OF ICAO

1. INTRODUCTION

The Montreal Group of Asia-Pacific Representatives on the Council of ICAO (the Montreal Group) is an informal grouping of the Representatives of the seven Asia-Pacific States on the ICAO Council (Australia, China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, and Singapore). It is often joined by Representatives to ICAO from non-Council Member States from the region that are based in Montreal.

The Montreal Group meets as may be required to discuss matters before the Council and other matters of interest to members.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Review of lessons learnt from 41st Assembly

The 41st ICAO Assembly was considered to be a resounding success – both in terms of outcomes and the hosting of a large hybrid event. Nevertheless, it showcased several aspects that would need to be improved upon for future sessions. Therefore, the Council has established a small group to consider lessons learnt from the Assembly, and the composition of the group includes representatives from China, India and Malaysia.

Some of the key areas the group has considered are:

- increasing efficiency of the meeting to allow for more strategic discussions on policy matters;
- ensuring the conduct of business is clearly set out in the Rules of Procedure;
- setting appropriate deadlines/timeframes for the submission of papers; and
- other general organizational aspects, including elections and voting, a proposal of the triennium budget.

The 229th session of the Council in June 2023 considered the final report of the small group and welcomed the recommendations that had been presented pertaining to the agenda, role, schedule and working papers of the Assembly, as well as in relation to the relevance of the Edward Warner Award. The Council invited the small group to continue its deliberations, including any proposed amendments to the Standing Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.

2.2 Main agendas of ICAO Council after 41st Assembly

(a) Elections - ICAO Council President and Council Committees

At the 227th session of the Council, Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano, from Italy, was unanimously re-elected for a second (and last) three-term as ICAO Council President. The Asia-Pacific were well represented amongst the Council leadership, with Mr. Sangdo Kim (Korea) as third Vice-President, Dr. Shefali Juneja (India) chairing the Air Transport Committee and Ms. Eileen Poh (Singapore) chairing the Climate and Environment Committee.

(b) Appointment of Air Navigation Commissioners

The Council re-appointed all 19 incumbent Commissioners on the ANC, including technical experts from Australia, China, Japan, Republic of Korea and Singapore.

(c) Re-Prioritization of the Business Plan 2023-2025 and Long-Term Strategic Plan

At the 228th Session, the Council requested the secretariat to conduct an Organization-wide prioritization exercise of activities already indicated in the 2023-2025 Business Plan, as well as those new activities emanating from the 41st Session of the Assembly (2022), in conjunction with an associated review of resource allocations. The Council agreed with the list of Priority Focus Areas as presented below on the understanding that these focus areas would complement but not replace the Strategic Objective and directed the ANC and the applicable Committees of the Council to evaluate the list of priority focus areas and reprioritize their respective work programmes accordingly and report to the Council during the 231st session.

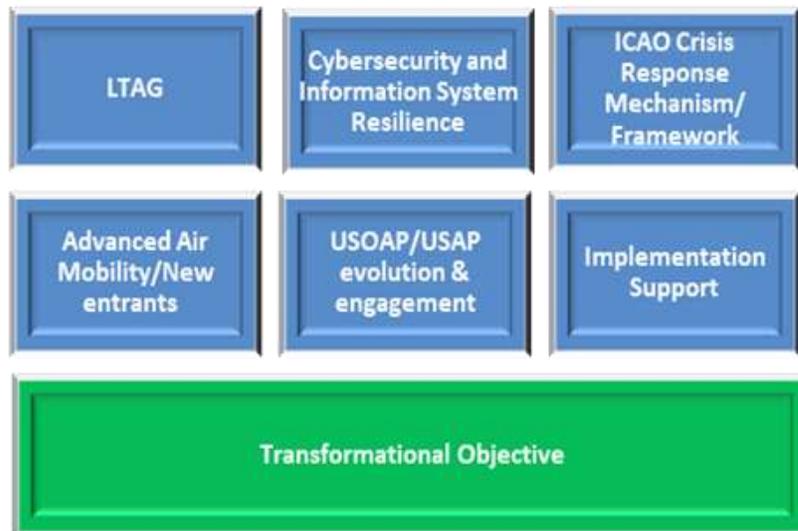


Figure. Priority focus areas

(d) Enhancing the Efficiency of Working Methods of Council and its Subsidiary Body

The Council considered this item, pursuant to the discussions undertaken during the 2023 Council Off-site Strategy Meeting (COSM), which was held from 12 to 14 May 2023 and endorsed the following recommendations:

- 1) preliminary exchanges between the Secretariat and the Chairpersons of the Committees and subsidiary bodies of the Council should occur on items under consideration;
- 2) the need for documentation to comply with established deadlines for the timely issuance thereof, in accordance with the applicable provisions in the Rules of Procedure;
- 3) recalling its previous decision to revise the schedule for the 228th, 229th, and 230th

Sessions on a trial basis, agreed that the duration of the Committee phase would revert to a maximum 3-week schedule;

- 4) agreed, with respect to the Human Resources Committee (HRC) to dissolve the HRC with effect from the 230th Session and to revisit the matter during the 234th Session of the Council based on lessons learned during the one-year period, taking into account the progress made in the development of the ICAO Accountability Framework; and
- 5) agreed that the principle of open membership be applied to the composition of the Council Committee on Relations with the Host Country (RHCC), with effect from the Committee phase of the 230th Session.

Also, at the COSM concerning other agenda, preliminary discussion on long term sustainable ICAO financing and budgeting of the organization was held among participants; and the Secretariat introduced the direct submission methodology of ICAO standard making. Both items were followed up and considerations are ongoing of the following Council.

(e) Fostering Great Culture of Innovation in ICAO

1) Small Group on Innovation

During the 229 session, the Council reviewed the recommendations by the Small Group on Innovation (SGI) led by Dr. Juneja (India), aiming to develop guidance on how the Organization should proceed with the next steps in addressing innovation, including inputs from the ANC and the identification of gaps and mitigation measures, and welcomed the significant progress made by the SGI and agreed that the Standardization Roadmap should capture all technological and process innovations in support of the ICAO Strategic Objectives, including the LTAG.

2) Steering Group of the Industry Consultative Forum (ICF)

Following the adoption of Resolution A40-27: Innovation in Aviation during the 40th Session of the Assembly, the ICAO Council formalized the establishment of a high-level body with the industry, the ICAO-Industry Consultative Forum (ICF). The role of the ICF is to create an opportunity for high-level strategic engagement between the Council, CEOs of companies and academic leaders, on the medium -to long-term outlook of the sector and how the work of ICAO may accompany or foster future changes. Members from the Small Group representing the Asia-Pacific Region's Representatives includes Dr. Juneja (India) and Ms. Flora Chin Lee Sa (Malaysia)The third meeting of the ICF was held as a virtual event, from 12 to 13 June 2023. The objective of the third meeting of the ICF is to discuss the challenges and opportunities offered by alternative propulsion system for the sector, with possible suggestions on how ICAO could support their development and deployment through policies, Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and guidance material in the field of international civil aviation.

(f) Economic Development

Another important report considered was that of the Small Group (SGED) constituted to review progress and ICAO's leadership on the strategic objective of "Economic Development". The report informed that the group has completed the first phase of its task, by successfully identifying some challenges and gaps in the implementation of ICAO's leadership in the economic development of air transport, the SGED intends to progress its work by conducting deeper analysis of the identified

challenges and gaps and providing appropriate recommendations. Achieving these would require further consultations and input from stakeholders. The SGED intends to utilise the upcoming ICAO Air Services Negotiation (ICAN2023) event, held in December 2023 in Saudi Arabia, among other fora for such consultations.

(g) Cost Recovery for Space Weather Services

The Council is intensely discussing this issue based on recommendation of the expert groups of the ICAO (METP WG) for a cost recovery mechanism for ACFJ and PECASUS consortiums. The United States provides services free of cost and does not intend to charge for the services in future also. CRC consortium has not submitted a proposal to ICAO. ICAO has considered departure data to be a reliable and comprehensive parameter to be applied to the cost recovery mechanism for space weather services. ICAO is also considering a role as an Administrator and is also considering putting in place an oversight mechanism for the cost recovery agreements. The discussions will continue in the next session.

(h) Missile Launches by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK)

Regarding the missile launch by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), in particular regarding the circumstances and actions taken regarding the launch of a satellite on 31 May 2023, the Council:

- 1) reaffirmed the importance of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention) and its Annexes in providing the legal and operational framework for Contracting States to build a global civil aviation safety system based on mutual trust and recognition, and that all Contracting States were required to fulfil their obligations in implementing the Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) thereunder;
- 2) condemned the recent missile launches by the DPRK, which pose a serious risk to international civil aviation, and represent a complete disregard of the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions in this regard, and in doing so, recalled Assembly Resolution A41-3, which urgently called upon the DPRK to comply strictly with the provisions of the Chicago Convention, its Annexes and its related Procedures for Air Navigation Services; and
- 3) invited the President of the Council to notify the DPRK of this decision, which was unanimously adopted.

2.3 Preparation for Third ICAO Conference on Alternative Aviation Fuels (CAAF/3)

The CAAF/3 meeting will convene from 20 to 24 November 2023 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 20-24 November 2023. This will be the first high-level meeting on environment since the Assembly agreed the long-term aspirational goal of net-zero by 2050 (LTAG). The meeting will consider potential measures to increase the supply and uptake of SAF, LCAF and other aviation cleaner energies in international aviation. As the preparatory process forward through the CAAF/3, ICAO organized a series of regional seminars in April/May, ICAO LTAG stocktaking event and Pre-CAAF/3 policy/finance consultation in July and Pre-CAAF/3 outcomes consultation event in September, seeking convergence of views on as many issues as possible, and identifying remaining differences of views with a possible way forward to bridge them, in order to pave the way for result-oriented discussions at CAAF/3. The Council also

agreed to the following agenda for CAAF/3:

- 1) Setting the scene – Latest developments in cleaner energy technology for international aviation and its contribution to the Long-Term Global Aspirational Goal;
- 2) Supporting policies to promote the development and deployment of cleaner energy for aviation;
- 3) Assistance and capacity building for cleaner energy;
- 4) Financing cleaner energy; and
- 5) Reviewing the 2050 ICAO Vision for SAF, including LCAF and other cleaner energy for aviation, in order to define a global framework.

In this regard, the CEC and its Small Group chaired by Mr. Ross Adams (Australia) had led discussion on possible elements for such a global framework for aviation cleaner energy, being guided by the four pillars of: 1) policy planning; 2) regulatory framework; 3) implementation support; and 4) financing. High-level officials from Asia-Pacific States who will have the authority to make policy-related decisions are encouraged to participate in the CAAF/3.

2.4 Elections - Council Committees for the period 2023-2024

At the 229 session, the Council elected Dr. Shefali Juneja (India) as its First Vice-President, Mr. Laurent Pic (France) as its Second Vice-President, and Mr. Mahmoud Sani Ben Tukur (Nigeria) as its Third Vice-President, for the period 2023-2024, with effect from the 230th Session

The Council then elected the Chairpersons of the ATC, JSC, FIC, ASC, TCC, CEC, RHCC, CCEP and COG. Mr. Ross Adams was elected as the Chairperson of the Climate and Environment Committee (CEC), and Dr. Jaewan Lee (Republic of Korea) was elected as the Chairperson of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country (RHCC).

OTHERS

2.5 Informal Meeting with Regional Director of Asia Pacific Office

The Montreal Group met Mr. Tao Ma, Regional Director of Asia Pacific Office on 11 September 2023, and exchanged views on newly appointed ICAO Pacific Islands Liaison Officer, topics to be discussed at DGCA/58 and needs for further enhancing capacity building in Asia Pacific region.

3. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

The Conference is invited to:

- a) Note the updates on discussions in ICAO Council, with particular focus on Asia-Pacific's needs.
- b) Encourage High-level officials from Asia-Pacific States who will have the authority to make policy-related decisions to participate in the CAAF/3.