

**57<sup>th</sup> CONFERENCE OF  
DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION  
ASIA AND PACIFIC REGIONS**

*Incheon, Republic of Korea  
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AGENDA ITEM 11: OTHER BUSINESS

**ESTABLISHING A CIVIL AVIATION COMMISSION  
FOR THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION**

Presented by Bangladesh

**SUMMARY**

This paper highlights the importance of having an Asia Pacific Civil Aviation Commission, as is available in other regions such as African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC), Latin American Civil Aviation Commission (LACAC), Arab Civil Aviation Organization (ACAO), etc.

In view of the present scenario of having Civil Aviation Commissions in other Regions, this paper presents a proposal to establish a Civil Aviation Commission in the Asia-Pacific region with a view to playing important roles in safeguarding regional interests as a group in ICAO and coordinating with other Regional Commissions in elections to the ICAO Council particularly to ensure membership for their preferred Member States in Part III category on a rotational basis.

## ESTABLISHING A CIVIL AVIATION COMMISSION IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

### 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The development of safe and orderly air transport services into, within, and from the Asia-Pacific Region is to be established on the basis of equality of opportunity and sound operation which would also be economically feasible in the Convention on International Civil Aviation opened for signature at Chicago on 7 December 1944.

1.2 To uphold the principle of the Convention, some Regional Groups working in ICAO e.g., African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC), Latin American Civil Aviation Commission (LACAC), Arab Civil Aviation Organization (ACAO), etc. are established. These Regional commissions have their regional headquarters. These Commissions play important roles in safeguarding regional interests as a group in ICAO and coordinate with other Regional Commissions in the ICAO Council elections to ensure membership for their preferred Member States in the Part III category.

1.3 These commissions assist their regional States in supplementing the work of ICAO. They ensure advocacy and defence of common positions of member States at international fora relating to civil aviation. They develop collective arrangements to secure the necessary resources for the promotion of international civil aviation, particularly those provided within the framework of bilateral and multilateral programmes for technical cooperation with the Member States. These commissions are also working to develop and harmonize common rules and regulations for safety, security, environmental protection, fair competition, dispute settlement and consumer protection, amongst others.

1.4 Bangladesh is proposing to establish a Civil Aviation Commission in the Asia-Pacific Region to play important roles in safeguarding regional interests as a group in ICAO and coordinate with other Regional Commissions in elections of the ICAO Council to ensure membership for preferred Member States in Part III category.

### 2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The Asia-Pacific Region comprises 39 Member States including two Special Administrative Regions of China and 13 other Territories. The Asia/Pacific Region covers vast airspace, with 49 Flight Information Regions, representing a huge geographical area from Asia to far away up to Australia.

2.2 The diversity of the APAC Region as reflected in the different levels of air navigation system development and implementation of aviation security provisions, coupled with continued air traffic growth posed a major challenge. The attainment of safe, secure and environmentally friendly air transportation across the Region will require a strong commitment and close collaboration amongst States, the aviation industry, and safety/security partners to ensure integrity, capacity building, and support for ICAO initiatives.

2.3 Despite being the largest Region, the APAC does not have a commission. Among the 39 Member States of this Region, only 7 (seven) Member States are represented in the ICAO Council. One of the reasons for this is the absence of a Commission which limits its capability and strength to bargain effectively as a Commission as well as its inability to forge/negotiate partnerships with other Commissions.

2.4 Although the membership in Part-III meant for States ensures geographical representation, in a couple of elections, the same countries are represented in this category. On the other hand, most of the new entrants are coming from African Commission as they follow the system of rotation among themselves, and they negotiate and forge partnerships with other Commissions effectively through their Commissions.

2.5 Given the above, a few States from the Asia-Pacific Region are holding consultations with the other Asia-Pacific Member States to reach an agreement to establish an Asia/Pacific Civil Aviation Commission like in other regions. It is high time to take a decision to establish such a Civil Aviation Commission along with its Headquarters in the Asia-Pacific Region. The proposed APAC commission should work on a principle that the selection of Member States from the APAC region for the ICAO Council Election (in Part III category only) must be on a rotational basis.

2.6 The Constitution of the Commission shall be registered with ICAO in compliance with Article 83 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation.

2.7 The Commission may be composed of one President and three (3) to five (5) Vice-Presidents elected in accordance with the APAC geographical representation formula. It shall supervise the administrative and financial management of the Secretariat.

2.8 The Secretariat may be headed by a Secretary-General assisted by the necessary and competent Staff for the smooth functioning of the proposed Commission. The Secretary-General should serve in office for a term of three (3) years renewable once only for a further term of three (3) years.

2.9 The Presidency of the Commission must be on a rotational basis, with each State serving one (1) term of three (3) years. Membership should be open to all APAC States. Each Member State should enjoy equal rights in terms of participation and representation at the ICAO Council in Part III on a rotational basis.

### **3. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE**

3.1 The Conference is invited to:

- a) Urge the States/Administrations to establish the Asia-Pacific Civil Aviation Commission, on the condition that each Member State will enjoy equal rights in terms of participation and representation at the ICAO Council in Part III on a rotational basis; and
- b) Encourage the States/Administrations to ensure that the Presidency of the Commission should be on a rotational basis, with each State serving one (1) term of three (3) years.

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