



**INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION**  
**Fourth Meeting of AFI Region Directors General of Civil Aviation DGCA/4**  
**(Matsapha, Manzini, Swaziland, 8 - 9 November 2010)**

---

**Agenda Item 5: ICAO Technical Cooperation and Human Resources Development for Civil Aviation**

**5.1: Regional Technical Cooperation Projects (CAPSCA)**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

**Summary**

This paper presents the CAPSCA-Africa Project and reviews its activities in the context of the global initiative and ICAO's objective to improve the aviation sector preparedness for a public health emergency of international concern.

**Refer to Para 3 for action by DGCA 4**

**REFERENCES**

- Special Africa-Indian Ocean (AFI) Regional Air Navigation (RAN) Meeting Durban, South Africa November 2008
- The 17<sup>th</sup> APIRG meeting held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, August 2010
- WP/58 37<sup>th</sup> ICAO Assembly 2010

This working paper relates to Strategic Objective E: *Continuity — Maintain the continuity of aviation operations* to assist States to respond quickly and positively to mitigate the effect of natural or human events that may disrupt air navigation and cooperate with other international organizations to prevent the spread of disease by air travellers

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Many States are not well prepared to manage a public health emergency that affects the aviation sector. The recently ended Influenza (H1N1) pandemic demonstrated the lack of global preparedness, with measures taken that ranged from quarantine of travelers originating from an affected area, to little or no action. A more lethal disease would have probably resulted in more serious consequences.

1.2 The Special Africa-Indian Ocean (AFI) Regional Air Navigation (RAN) Meeting Durban, South Africa 24–29 November 2008 recommended that:

- a) AFI Planning and Implementation Regional Group adopt the MED Performance Objective: Prepare for an outbreak of communicable disease posing a serious public health risk
- b) States join the prevention of spread of communicable disease through air travel (CAPSCA) project; and
- c) States and donor organizations consider financial support for pandemic preparedness planning.

1.2 The 17<sup>th</sup> APIRG meeting held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso in August 2010, reiterated that States are recommended to join the CAPSCA - Africa Project in accordance with Recommendation 6/27 (Pandemic Preparedness Planning in the Aviation Sector) of the Special AFI RAN Meeting of November 2008.

1.3 A working paper concerning CAPSCA (A37-WP58) was presented in the Technical Commission at the recently concluded 37<sup>th</sup> ICAO Assembly under Agenda Item 42, titled 'IMPROVED MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE IN THE AVIATION SECTOR THROUGH MULTI-SECTOR COLLABORATION', which underscored the need for collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO) and other stakeholders and for further work to be undertaken to improve the aviation sector preparedness for a public health emergency of international concern. A copy of the related draft Assembly Resolution is attached as an Appendix to this Paper.

1.4 To monitor the implementation of preparedness plans, ICAO intends to include relevant questions concerning public health emergencies along with the proposed introduction of the Continuous Monitoring Approach of the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme.

## **2. DISCUSSION**

2.1 The CAPSCA projects provide the forum for the exchange of relevant information between airport and aircraft operators, civil aviation authorities, air traffic service providers and public health authorities.

2.2 CAPSCA - Africa was launched in November 2007 at a Seminar/Workshop in Libreville, Gabon. In March 2008, Training Workshops & Table-top Exercises were conducted in South Africa & Senegal. In Feb 2009, Lagos & Abuja airports in Nigeria were evaluated and the first Steering Committee Meeting of the Project was held. In October 2009, Cape Town and Johannesburg (South Africa) international airports were evaluated. A Workshop on Pandemic Preparedness Planning was held in Nairobi, Kenya in June 2010.

2.3 Airport evaluations (now called assistance visits) are conducted, with the aim to assess compliance with health-related ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and guidelines concerning management of communicable disease as well as with the relevant articles of the World Health Organization International Health Regulations (2005) concerning Pandemic Preparedness Planning for the Aviation Sector. Advice is provided to participating aviation administrations, airport and aircraft operators in rectifying any deficiencies in the application and implementation of the guidelines identified during the assistance visits. Assistance visits also offer opportunities for training in the preparation and testing of Public Health Emergency Plans.

2.4 The CAPSCA-Africa Project faces challenges due to lack of awareness of the project at the operational levels and in a lot of cases, inability of aviation personnel to participate in the project events for lack of resources. Most civil aviation administrations have limited resources and choose to apply them in resolving the more immediate safety and security concerns. However, it is to be noted that pandemic preparedness is not capital intensive.

2.5 One of the achievements of the CAPSCA project has been the improved collaboration between the aviation and public health sectors as seen from the active participation of WHO, other international agencies such as IATA, ACI, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and national public health sector officials at CAPSCA - Africa events. These partners all have relevant guidelines on their websites and have provided useful guidance material for the development of templates for an Aviation Public Health Emergency Plan as well as a Business Continuity Plan.

2.6 Invitations have been extended to ICAO representatives to participate at WHO meetings in the Region that consider the implementation of the International Health Regulations, IHR (2005) which contain many references to points of entry (airports) and conveyance operators (aircraft operators). Public health/aviation sector collaboration will be further enhanced through planning of IHR related activities together, harmonization of checklists for airport assistance visits by both sectors, and improved personal networks.

2.7 Regional Aviation Medicine Teams constitute the working arm of the Project. The first CAPSCA - Africa Regional Aviation Medicine Team RAMT meeting was held in Johannesburg South Africa in October 2009. The three regional Coordinators were presented.

2.8 Terms of Reference of the Regional Aviation Medicine Teams RAMT (renamed Regional Aviation Medicine and Public Health Team, RAMPHT, to emphasize the need for cross-sectoral collaboration) under the CAPSCA Project were adopted at the recently concluded first Global Coordination Meeting of the Regional Aviation Medicine Teams, which was held in Singapore 15-16 October 2010. The Global RAMT approved the national template of an Aviation Public Health Emergency Plan which can be found on the CAPSCA website. The aviation measures adopted should be an integral part of the State's overall plan for a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.

2.9 Efforts are on-going to increase formal membership of States in the CAPSCA Project. Publicity is given through State letters and through presentations at various regional meetings. The official website of the CAPSCA Project [www.capsca.org](http://www.capsca.org) was launched recently

### **3. ACTION BY DGCA/4**

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a. Encourage States to join the CAPSCA-Africa Project
- b. Encourage States to provide regional experts to participate in assistance visits, which provide advice and training in the preparation and implementation of a Public Health Emergency Preparedness Plans
- c. Urge States to develop their Aviation Public Health Emergency Plans in accordance with ICAO SARPs and Guidelines. The Aviation Plan should be an integral part of the State's overall plan for a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.
- d. Urge States to take advantage of the assistance offered under the CAPSCA-Africa Project to develop and test their Aviation Public Health Emergency Plans.

Appendix

**Appendix to DGCA-4 WP/15****DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTION BY THE 37TH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY****Resolution 42/1: Prevention of spread of communicable disease through air travel**

*Whereas* Article 14 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation states that ‘Each contracting State agrees to take effective measures to prevent the spread by means of air navigation of cholera, typhus (epidemic), smallpox, yellow fever, plague, and such other communicable diseases as the contracting States shall from time to time decide to designate, and to that end contracting States will keep in close consultation with the agencies concerned with international regulations relating to sanitary measures applicable to aircraft’;

*Whereas* Article 14(1) of the World Health Organization International Health Regulations (2005) states that ‘WHO shall cooperate and coordinate its activities, as appropriate, with other competent intergovernmental organizations or international bodies in the implementation of these Regulations, including through the conclusion of agreements and other similar arrangements’;

*Whereas* ICAO Resolution A35-12 states that ‘the protection of the health of passengers and crews on international flights is an integral element of safe air travel and that conditions should be in place to ensure its preservation in a timely and cost-effective manner’;

*Whereas* Article 44 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation states that ‘The aims and objectives of the Organization are to develop the principles and techniques of international air navigation and to foster the planning and development of international air transport so as to ...[m]eet the needs of the peoples of the world for safe, regular, efficient and economical air transport’;

*Whereas* Annex 6 – *Operation of Aircraft*, Annex 9 – *Facilitation*, Annex 11 – *Air Traffic Services*, Annex 14 – *Aerodromes*, Volume I — *Aerodrome Design and Operations* to the Convention on International Civil Aviation and the *Procedures for Air Navigation Service – Air Traffic Management (Doc 4444)* contain several Standards and Recommended Practices and Procedures relating to health measures that should be taken by Contracting States to manage public health emergencies of international concern and to prevent the spread of communicable disease by air travel;

*Whereas* the ICAO Cooperative Arrangement for the Prevention of Spread of Communicable Disease through Air Travel (CAPSCA) project is an appropriate measure to improve and harmonize preparedness plans;

*The Assembly:*

1. *Urges* Contracting States to ensure that the public health sector and the aviation sector collaborate to develop a national preparedness plan for aviation which addresses public health emergencies of international concern and which is integrated with the general national preparedness plan;
2. *Urges* Contracting States to develop a national preparedness plan for aviation that is in compliance with the World Health Organization International Health Regulations (2005) and which are based on scientific principles and on the guidelines from ICAO and the World Health Organization;
3. *Urges* Contracting States to involve stakeholders such as airport operators, aircraft operators and air navigation service providers in the development of a national preparedness plan for aviation; and,
4. *Urges* Contracting States to join and participate in the Cooperative Arrangement for the Prevention of Spread of Communicable Disease through Air Travel (CAPSCA) project, where available, to ensure that its goals are achieved.

— END —