



BAGASOO

BANJUL ACCORD GROUP AVIATION
SAFETY OVERSIGHT ORGANISATION



STRATEGIC INSTITUTIONAL INTERVENTIONS UNDER THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19

**Presented at APIRG 24/ and RASG-AFI/7 Joint
Sessions**

Introduction

COVID 19 Impacts

- The emergence of COVID 19 in 2020 left significant negative impact on aviation, affecting businesses and travel and virtually every sector of the global economy.
- Immediate adverse effects include:
 - attendant lockdown;
 - imposition of new health and travel restrictions;
 - general disruptions to the prevailing social and economic order.

Introduction contd'

Internal Process and Systems Re-appraisal

- The changes not only affected the needs and expectations of all aviation stakeholders, it also affected the risk and opportunities that these Organizations face.
- Many in the aviation sector were forced to re-access their systems, procedures and processes, with a view to
 - ✓ determining to what extent they have been affected;
 - ✓ what deviations and losses have arisen ;
 - ✓ adjustments, mitigations, contingencies required in the immediate and long term.

Introduction contd'

Systems Appraisal and Intervening Measures

- Just like other Organizations, BAGASOO was compelled to look inwards :
 - ✓ re-evaluate its annual work programme for the year;
 - ✓ re-organize its activities so as to remain relevant and consistently deliver on its planned obligations to Member States.
- The reorganization allowed a re-alignment and redesign of existing programmes and project to permit greater use of remote online technology.

Immediate Interventions

BAG Region COVID 19 Task Force

- Task Force was established, to assist in harmonizing the COVID-19 Risk Management Protocols of Members States for the restart of Aviation Operations.
- Several teleconferences were held and activities undertaken include :
 - ✓ Creation of working groups by specialties;
 - ✓ Developing harmonized protocols and implementation procedures for risk mitigation;
 - ✓ Developing implementation procedures to cover *areas not addressed*;
 - ✓ Recommending best practices for adoption by States.

Immediate Interventions

Issuance of Safety Circulars

- To facilitate a restart of aviation operations within the region, BAGASOO developed and issued several documents and safety circulars to assist its Member States.
- The documents provided information and guidance on the measures that CAAs and service providers can adopt on safety risk management applicable to the aviation personnel due to changes triggered by COVID-19.

Immediate Interventions

CRRIC Database

- BAGASOO provided assistance to member States in the preparation of State responses to the recommendations on the CART and in providing State information for the CRRIC database. BAGASOO has been working closely with states on the implementation of the CART additional phases.

COVID 19 Contingency Related Differences

- Assistance was given to States in the filing of COVID 19 contingency related differences in the EFOD subsection of the OLF.

Immediate Interventions

Crises Communication Strategies

- Robust crisis communication strategies were also introduced and explored to strengthen internal and external means of reaching out to member States and the general public during and after the pandemic or any other crises. More communication have been forged with with States by virtual means.
 - ✓ High Level meeting eg Board now being remotely convened.
 - ✓ Also several specialty specific meetings have been held to follow up on the status of activities and give support eg GRF aerodrome certification.
 - ✓ Several individual meeting with State focal points on press urgent needs.

Medium-Term Interventions

Virtual Training

- In order to adapt to the new normal in respect to training, technical staff have received training on ICAO Virtual Classroom Instruction (VCI) course for the virtual delivery of courses.
- With the knowledge acquired and the requirement for physical distancing, BAGASOO courses are being repackaged to have a virtual component.
- CITS has been completed.
- Trial run has been delivered and three member States benefited.

Medium-Term Interventions

Software Revamping

- BAGASOO ITRAQS/ISATS and FASAP software are being revamped to ensure continuity in the operation and use of aviation safety tools to ensure:
 - ✓ Adoption of a more robust and modern technology;
 - ✓ Increased security;
 - ✓ Scalability of application and ease of support to States.
 - Additional features will include French and Portuguese interfaces

Medium-Term Interventions

Cooperative Training Scheme (CTS)

- To be able to meet increasing demand for its training services, particularly with the ITRAQS, in the face of reduced opportunities for in-person training BAGASOO is planning to introduce Cooperative Training Scheme. Characteristic features will include:
- ✓ use of a *larger number of instructors* for the training work by the BAGASOO;
 - ✓ the opportunity to provide *national instructors experience and exposure to various training*; and
 - ✓ vastly improved cost economies and *savings* realized from not permanently retaining regional instructors.

Medium-Term Interventions

Structured Task Based Training for Aviation Lawyers

- Given the need for harmony, stronger interface and seamless working relation between inspectors and aviation lawyers in the conduct of CAA oversight functions, BAGASOO is establishing an ITS based Training Programme.
- Ongoing activities include:
 - ✓ development of training Process documentation;
 - ✓ Review and validation process will include technical sessions with by BAG committee legal committee of experts and TCR.
- Upon completion, ITRAQS software will be upgraded with addition features/module to support legal component

Medium-Term Interventions

Quality Management System

- In response to the turbulence triggered by COVID 19, BAGASOO adopted a Quality Management System (QMS) that is agile, recognizing the need to implement change in a timely, orderly manner and for efficient delivery of services to States.
 - ✓ QMS systems, procedures and processes are in place.
 - ✓ Training has been delivered to Staff on QMS familiarization and Internal Audit.
 - ✓ Mock QMS audit is being planned to test existing processes.
 - ✓ The process of ISO certification will soon commence.
 - ✓ EASA consultant provided general guidance and support.

Long-Term Interventions

Strengthening the Harmonization Process

Current Measures

- In keeping with its mandate as captured in the BAGASOO agreement, Organisation has from inception consistently implemented a number of measures to promote gradual process of harmonization within the BAG region. This include:
- ✓ Development to generic documents viz regulations, guidance materials and procedure manual;
 - ✓ Review and finalization by TCR Committee;
 - ✓ Board approval;
 - ✓ On –demand assistance to States in adaptation.

Long-Term Interventions

Strengthening the Harmonization Process

Measures being Taken

- To further strengthen these measures and accelerate the process, BAGASOO has commenced work on the preparation of a definitive policy framework on harmonization including the following :
 - ✓ A specific working methodology;
 - ✓ Tools to measure progress from time to time;
 - ✓ Provide for regular strategic revision of the elements in the policy; and
 - ✓ Provides a clear pathway to follow and sense of direction.

Conclusion

Intervention Outcomes

With the current aforementioned interventions, necessitated by the COVID 19 and other measures being considered for integration into our operational processes and systems, the Organisation's resilience and capacity to adapt has been strengthened. Its efficiency and operational performance will be positively affected in the long term. It is to a large extent better equipped to confront future unforeseen upheavals that may impact the conduct of its business.

THANK YOU
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