OUTCOMES OF CAPSCA VIRTUAL MEETING ON 19 MARCH 2020

1. For effective response to Public Health Emergencies of International (PHEIC) concern such as COVID-19 , there is need to review and revise the status of airport public health emergency preparedness plans, including their periodic testing, in order to ensure current and future implementation requirements;

2. WHO, Africa Union, CDC, UN Agencies , donors, partners and international/Regional organizations are urged to support states in ensuring aggressive and sustainable supply of PPEs and diagnostic kits;

3. In order to obtain consistent screening results, WHO and Africa CDC should provide technical specifications for thermal cameras and non-contact digital thermometers to be used by States;

4. States should endeavor to adopt best practices, lessons learnt from Ebola epidemic and ongoing COVID-19 pandemic initiatives, and share experiences amongst States and organizations towards peer support to effectively identify, quarantine and treat infected cases;

5. Urge all States to implement 100% exit and entry screenings at arrival and departure processing points, including transfer passengers by applying the multilayer mechanism to avoid any potential loopholes;

6. There is need to boost the African continent level with respect to State preparedness, case response and management, and infection control;

7. Urge AU / AFCAC to develop guidelines in the region for States to use with respect to restrictions on travel and flights during outbreaks of communicable diseases to avoid decisions contradicting international/regional/national requirements;

8. To ensure effective response and prevention of spread of communicable diseases such as COVID-19, harnessing synergies of available resources from States, donors and partners should be given priority;

9. Encourage African State to develop repatriation and self-quarantine procedures to the extent possible in coordination with WHO, AFCAC and ICAO;

10. States, Governments and CAAs are urged to practice flexibility of humanitarian air operations(goods and personnel) to ensure continuity of business;

11. It is proposed that AFCAC coordinates with AFRAA, IATA, ACI Africa, ANSPs, and CAAs to foster the African Union advocacy for providing financial relief measures to address the impact of COVID-19 on the aviation sector;

12. In order to have effective Airport Public Health Emergency Plans, all stakeholders should be involved in development, periodic testing and implementation of the plans, including training and sensitization activities; and

13. The African region is encouraged to have an efficient communication system in place in time of crisis to share best practices and provide vital information and data to States and international organizations (ICAO, ACI, IATA, etc.) in order to provide for adequate response and more importantly to prepare for the appropriate business recovery of the aviation sector.