

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS OF THE
DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION – ALGERIA MOROCCO TUNISIA
TELECONFERENCE MEETING**

(Paris, France, 20 April 2020)

1. Introduction

1.1 A teleconference-based Meeting of the Directors General of Civil Aviation of North African States of the EUR Region (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia) was held on 20 April 2020.

1.2 A total of 24 participants from 3 States and 2 international organizations took part in the teleconference. A list of participants is provided in **Appendix A**.

1.3 The Meeting was convened in connection with the rapidly evolving COVID-19 crisis that heavily affected all aspects of civil aviation and with the following main objectives:

- a) Provide a briefing on ICAO COVID-19 impact assessment and crisis response measures;
- b) Share best practices/lessons learned;
- c) Capture the short and long term needs of States and the aviation industry; and
- d) Planning for a recovery phase.

1.4 The Meeting was opened by Ms. Silvia Gehrler, Regional Director, Europe and North Atlantic, who welcomed the participants and outlined the main objectives and goals of the meeting.

1.5 The following Agenda was proposed and approved:

- Agenda Item 1: Briefing on ICAO COVID-19 crisis response measures;
- Agenda Item 2: Round table discussion on current needs, lessons learned and recovery planning.

2. Agenda item 1

2.1 The ICAO EUR/NAT Deputy Regional Director, Mr. Elkhan Nahmadov, introduced the meeting schedule and the first presentation which was delivered by the ICAO EUR/NAT Regional Officer, Safety, Mr. Arnaud Desjardin. The presentation included information on the latest ICAO COVID-19 crisis response measures at the global and regional levels.

2.2 It was noted that, from the historical perspective, the rapidly evolving COVID-19 crisis has an unprecedented impact on the aviation industry overall. ICAO's crisis response included a number of actions providing guidance and tools to assist States and aviation industry to cope with the crisis impact. A summary of the latest ICAO State Letters (2020/15 of 13 February 2020, 2020/46 of 18 March 2020, 2020/47 of 20 March 2020 and 2020/50 of 03 April 2020) that required some follow up actions from the States' civil aviation authorities was provided.

2.3 It was also highlighted that this conference was a follow-up of the general EUR/NAT DGCA teleconference held on 8 April 2020. Another sub-regional DGCA teleconference was held on 16 April 2020 for the DGCAs of the eastern part of the ICAO EUR Region. Additional teleconferences, webinars and other assistance activities would be organised by the ICAO EUR/NAT Office on request from States.

2.4 In addition to the ICAO updates on the economic impact the COVID-19 pandemic has on the aviation industry, the meeting participants discussed the operational impact the crisis has on State's obligations regarding personnel licensing, aircraft operations, airworthiness, facilitation, accident investigation, air navigation and security. It was in particular highlighted that proper information promulgation through NOTAMs was necessary with regards to restrictions and exemptions to aircraft in emergency, overflights, as well as humanitarian, medical, repatriation and cargo flights.

2.5 Furthermore, ICAO provided a presentation on the COVID-19 contingency operational safety measures framework clarifying the actions required by States to address issues identified in State Letter 2020/50 of 3 April 2020, including those related to operational issues, maintenance of aviation licenses, approvals and certificates for preparedness to resume normal operations once the crisis is over.

2.6 The Meeting was also informed that ICAO has initiated an action on the development of an ICAO recovery plan.

3. Agenda item 2

3.1 The meeting participants recognized the urgent need to take the necessary actions to maintain the sustainability of air transport within the Region and globally, while maintaining the highest level of safety and security. They provided a summary of their crisis response measures and plans.

3.2 All three States have confirmed that they are in the process or have already issued exemptions with regards to aviation personnel licences, certificates of airworthiness of aircraft, and operations of aircraft. They have also performed dedicated activities related to aerodrome safety oversight and to the implementation of security controls. Work on completion and submission to ICAO of the requested information was also on-going.

3.3 The States' representatives welcomed the harmonized approach, under the ICAO EUR/NAT Office umbrella, in the application of operational measures promulgated by ICAO through State Letter 2020/50 and the coordinated response that was required from States.

3.4 The meeting participants also supported the coordinated actions by the EUR/NAT Office to further assist States in implementation of the measures requested by ICAO State letters 2020/47 and 2020/46.

3.5 To that end, it was noted that Morocco joined the ICAO CAPSCA (Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and management of public health events in Civil Aviation)-EUR. The need for all EUR States to join the ICAO CAPSCA-EUR was emphasised.

4. Any other business

4.1 The Meeting was closed by the ICAO EUR/NAT Regional Director, who thanked participants for their active contribution. Follow up sub-regional teleconferences, webinars and direct assistance to States will be organised on request to address the identified issues.

APPENDIX A — LIST OF PARTICIPANTS*(Paragraph 1.2 refers)***ALGERIA**

Chakib BOURAOUI
Aicha BOUROUIS
Youcef SAFIR

MOROCCO

Zakaria BELGHAZI
Khalid MOUNJI
Tarik TALIBI

TUNISIA

Abderraouf BELDI
Hedi CHARFADI
Nizar KOUKI

ACAO

Abdennebi MANAR
Mohamed REJEB

ICAO EUR/NAT

Silvia GEHRER
Elkhan NAHMADOV
Arnaud DESJARDIN
Arkadii MERKULOV
Abbas NIKNEJAD
Blandine FERRIER
Celso FIGUEIREDO
Sarantis POULIMENAKOS
Patricia CUFF
Leyla SULEYMANOVA
Isabelle HOFSTETTER
Cornelia LUDORF

ICAO HQ

Miguel MARIN

— **END** —