



International Civil Aviation Organization

Regional Aviation Safety Group - Middle East

Fifth Meeting (RASG-MID/5)

(Doha, Qatar, 22-24 May 2016)

Agenda Item 3: Regional Performance Framework for Safety

**COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENT FOR THE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT
OF PUBLIC HEALTH EVENTS IN CIVIL AVIATION (CAPSCA)**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper provides information and an update on the ICAO Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA) programme.

Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.

REFERENCES

- CAPSCA-MID/5 Report

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 ICAO Annex 14 Vol. I (Para 9.1.1) requires that an aerodrome emergency plan shall be established at an aerodrome, commensurate with the aircraft operations and other activities conducted at the aerodrome. The Aerodrome Emergency Plan (AEP) is an essential part of the aerodrome certification process requirement. The aerodrome emergency plan shall provide for the coordination of the actions to be taken in an emergency occurring at an aerodrome or in its vicinity. Public health and dangerous goods emergencies are among the examples to be included in the AEP.

1.2 ICAO initiative that addresses public health is the Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA). After the outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in 2014 and Zika virus in 2015, CAPSCA is playing an increasingly bigger role in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the aviation industry to manage the public health events and control the spread of disease through air travel.

1.3 The Third meeting of the Directors General of Civil Aviation - Middle East Region (DGCA-MID/3, Doha, Qatar, 27-29 April 2015) noted the progress made by CAPSCA programme and urged MID States that have not yet done so, to join the CAPSCA-MID Project, request Assistance Visits and support and to provide voluntary contributions to the CAPSCA-MID project.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 CAPSCA programme was initiated in 2006 with a focus on preventing and managing the spread of communicable diseases by air travel. It assists States to implement public health-related amendments to the ICAO Annexes, which in turn are based on the World Health Organization International Health Regulations (2005). It is currently operating in all Regions (Europe, Asia Pacific, Africa, the Americas and the Middle East). The programme is managed by ICAO, in close collaboration with the WHO, and additional partners including Airports Council International (ACI) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

2.2 ICAO has included specific Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) in Annexes 6, 9, 11, 14, and 18, and PANS-ATM (Doc. 4444) as well as guidelines for States, airports, air traffic services and airlines for public health management and reducing the risk of the spread of communicable diseases through air travel. CAPSCA provides technical assistance programmes and training to support States, ANSPs, airport and aircraft operators' implementation of the public health related SARPs. It also provides Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air (Doc 9284).

2.3 The initial objective of the CAPSCA programme has been to prevent the risk of the spread of communicable diseases through air travel. However, this objective has been expanded in order to increase State preparedness and response to all public health emergencies of international concern e.g. radiation emergencies, chemical emergencies, etc.

2.4 Currently, around 120 States joined CAPSCA out of 191 ICAO Contracting States and 73 Airport Assistance Visits were conducted globally. In the ICAO MID Region, eleven (11) States joined the CAPSCA programme and four (4) Assistance Visits have been conducted.

2.5 The Fifth Middle East CAPSCA Regional meeting (CAPSCA-MID/5) and Training Workshop were conducted in Cairo, Egypt from 29 February to 3 March 2016. The meeting was hosted by the Egyptian Ministry of Civil Aviation and organized by ICAO in close coordination with the World Health Organization (WHO).

2.6 CAPSCA-MID/5 meeting was attended by twenty nine (29) participants from eight (8) States, two (2) international organizations as well as representatives from public health and aviation sectors. The CAPSCA-MID/5 work programme, presentations and report are available on the following link: <http://www.icao.int/MID/Pages/capsca-mid.aspx>.

2.7 MID States, that have not yet done so, are requested to join and support the CAPSCA-MID project, at no cost, and benefit from the technical assistance provided to States (development and dissemination of guidance material, conducting of Assistance Visits and sharing of information and experiences) by sending a letter to the ICAO Regional Office. All CAPSCA participating States are also encouraged to volunteer officers to be trained by ICAO (regulatory requirements, preparedness planning and conducting Assistance Visits) and are encouraged to support the project through financial contribution or hosting of CAPSCA-MID meetings and events.

2.8 Further details on the CAPSCA Programme are available on the ICAO MID website and the CAPSCA website: www.capsca.org.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) urge States, that have not yet done so, to join the CAPSCA-MID project and request technical assistance; and
- b) encourage States to host and support future CAPSCA-MID meetings.