



International Civil Aviation Organization

Fourth DGCA-MID Virtual Meeting
(3 June 2021 from 10:30 to 13:30 UTC)

Agenda Item 4:

Roundtable Discussion

Recommendations and Way Forward to Ensure the Recovery and Sustainable Development of the Air Transport Sector

NORMALIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT OPERATIONS

(Presented by United Arab Emirates)

SUMMARY

The United Arab Emirates hereby presents its serious concerns regarding the slow pace of the normalization of the operations of international air transport operations, despite the recommendations from the ICAO CART and the resolutions issued by the Ministerial meetings of the Arab Executive Councils for Tourism, Health and Transport

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The United Arab Emirates is most concerned regarding the slow pace of the normalization of international air transport operations, in the ICAO-MID Region, as well as internationally.

1.2 Like most ICAO-MID countries, and organizations in the ICAO-MID Region, for example, AACO and ACAC, the UAE remains very actively involved in the work of the ICAO CART and urges all relevant countries and organizations to continue with this valiant effort.

1.3 However, this meeting of Directors Generals should consider why despite these heroic efforts – air transport operations remain in the doldrums – e.g. ¼ Quarter 2021 operations are far below the ¼ Quarter 2020 operations.

2. RESOLUTIONS OF THE ARAB TOURISM MINISTERS AND TRANSPORT MINISTERS

2.1 The UAE wishes to highlight that in late 2020, by strong resolutions, the Arab Tourism Ministers and the Arab Transport Ministers invited the Arab Countries to take a number of steps to “relaunch the air traffic movement and to revive the tourism sector between Arab countries and the other states of the world”.

2.2 In this context, the Ministers charged their General Secretariat to coordinate and schedule joint meetings for the offices of the Arab Executive Councils for Tourism, Health and Transport. In coordination with “the Arab Tourism Organization and the World Tourism Organization, for the purpose of founding and unifying health procedures and guidelines related to the tourism sector and travelling in the Arab Region”.

3. PROGRESS / REMAINING BARRIERS TO NORMALIZATION OF AIR TRAVEL IN THE ICAO-MID

3.1 Safe corridors: The UAE has continued our strong efforts to establish safe corridors, with a priority focus on agreement with ICAO-MID States.

3.2 Vaccination: Most of ICAO-MID countries, including the UAE, have readily available vaccine stocks and have engaged in successful vaccination programmes. For example, in the UAE more than 50% of the total population of approximately 9.5M, has been vaccinated. Where there are shortages of vaccine, etc. in any of ICAO-MID countries, other ICAO-MID countries are extending assistance to their brother countries.

3.3 Quarantine: Although there is a high level of vaccination, quarantine requirements, which vary from country to country are still in place.

3.4 PCR testing: Notwithstanding the high level of vaccination, requirements in relation to travelling with a negative PCR test remain in place

4. REGIONAL APPROACH TO THE NORMALIZATION OF AIR TRANSPORT

4.1 The UAE wishes to urge that the ICAO-MID Region agree to a basic policy, namely that the normalization of air transport should be achieved by the return, at the earliest possible time, to the governance of air transport operations by agreed air transport arrangements.

4.2 ICAO-MID should urge that, in the interim period, the increased involvement of aeronautical authorities in any risk-based assessment for travellers must be ensured.

4.3 In respect to vaccinated travellers, ICAO-MID should consider taking steps to encourage states to remove quarantine requirements through direct communication with national entities responsible for handling the pandemic within each member state and remove restrictions regarding the limited operation of frequencies (as compared to agreed bilateral ASA entitlements) imposed because of COVID-19.

4.4 ICAO-MID must involve the representatives of the national authorities responsible for handling the pandemic in all future meetings concerning the normalization of air transport operations.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The UAE wishes to highlight that the regional approach appears to be more successful, and with the implementation of the aforementioned recommendations, it would become much simpler to return to the pre-pandemic air transport operations.

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