



SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

WEBINAR ON ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON AVIATION

(5 – 6 APRIL 2021, 12:00 – 14:30 UTC)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Webinar on Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Aviation was successfully held from 5 to 6 April 2021, 12:00 - 14:30 UTC using MS Teams facility. The Webinar was organized jointly by ICAO, AACO, ACAO, ACI and IATA and supported by other International Organizations such as CANSO.

1.2 The main objective of the Webinar was to address the economic impact of COVID-19 on aviation; yet, many other subjects, which have a direct or indirect economic impact on aviation have been addressed during the discussion, such as: the implementation of Quarantine measures, testing and testing certificates, vaccines and vaccine certificates, air cargo and transportation of vaccines, etc.

1.3 The Webinar was attended by a total of one hundred and ninety-six (196) participants from sixteen (16) States (Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, UAE, USA and Yemen) and eleven (11) Organizations/Industries (AACO, ACAO, ACI, AFCAC, AFRAA, BOEING, CANSO, IATA, IFATCA, Airlines & Union of Arab Bank). The list of participants is at **Attachment A**.

1.4 The Webinar's materials including, Agenda/Work Programme, presentations and the Summary of Discussion are available at <https://www.icao.int/MID/Pages/2021/Webinar%20on%20Economic%20Impact%20of%20COVID-19.aspx>

2. OPENING REMARKS

2.1 The Webinar was opened by Mr. Mohamed Smaoui, Acting Regional Director, ICAO MID Office, and Mr. Manar Abdennebi, Director General of ACAO who welcomed all participants and highlighted the importance of cooperation between all stakeholders to support the restart and recovery of the air transport system and to promote and raise awareness on the role of aviation as a socio-economic catalyst at the national, regional and global level. In this respect, all industry stakeholders were encouraged to promote multi-stakeholders cooperation and encourage financial support to aviation. Reference was made also to the CART Recommendations and Guidance and in particular to Recommendation 10 which is addressed to States inviting them to consider appropriate extraordinary emergency measures to support financial viability and to maintain an adequate level of safe, secure and efficient operations, which should be inclusive, targeted, proportionate, transparent, temporary and consistent with ICAO's policies, while striking an appropriate balance among the respective interests without prejudice to fair competition and compromising safety, security and environmental performance.

3. DISCUSSIONS

3.1 The Webinar Agenda included the followings:

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| Agenda Item 1: | Welcome & Opening |
| Agenda Item 2: | Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Aviation |
| Agenda Item 3: | Way forward – Action Plan to ensure the recovery and sustainable development of the air transport sector |
| Agenda Item 4: | Wrap-up and Close |

3.2 As reflected in the programme of the Webinar, the First day was dedicated mainly to presentations by ICAO, IATA, AACO, ACI, CARC-Jordan and CANSO addressing Agenda Item 2: Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Aviation (Airlines, Airports, ANSPs and CAAs). On day 2, the Webinar addressed more the “Way forward – Action Plan to ensure the recovery and sustainable development of the air transport sector”, through 3 additional presentations by ICAO, ACAO and UAB and mainly a Panel Discussion / Round Table. The discussion covered almost all aspects related to the economic impact of COVID-19 on aviation and the actions to be taken/implemented by all concerned stakeholders to support the financial viability of the air transport sector.

3.3 The main outcomes of the Webinar were formulated in the form of Recommendations, which are listed below.

4. WEBINAR MAIN OUTCOMES - RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1- All industry stakeholders to promote and raise awareness on the role of aviation as a socio-economic catalyst at the national, regional and global level.
- 2- States are encouraged to safely and progressively reactivate economies and air travel by applying CART Recommendations and guidance in their National risk management strategies.
- 3- All industry stakeholders to promote the implementation of CART Recommendation 10 by utilizing the ICAO Guidance on Economic and Financial Measures.
- 4- States are encouraged to provide essential financial and regulatory support for aviation to help mitigate the liquidity and financial strain on the industry and to maintain readiness of the industry to restart.
- 5- States are invited to establish a clear framework for State economic and financial support to aviation, in line with State’s overarching fiscal and monetary policy in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and implement travel market stimulation initiatives once borders start to reopen.
- 6- States are invited to evaluate and implement appropriate economic and financial support measures, in consultation with all parties involved and taking into account the needs of all aviation stakeholders.
- 7- States are invited to align and integrate aviation development plans with national and/or regional economic development plans and strategies.
- 8- States are encouraged to assess the need to extend/enact taxes and charges alleviations for air operators to stimulate demand recovery.
- 9- States are invited to ensure that ICAO policies on taxation of international aviation and charges for airport and air navigation services should be followed by States.
- 10- States are encouraged to bear the costs of mandatory health measures.
- 11- States are invited to conduct cost-benefit analysis on whether to continue levying passenger-based taxes or to generate higher national income from additional economic activity arising from aviation.
- 12- States should exercise caution when implementing measures that provide support to one party at the cost of another, and strike an appropriate balance between the respective interests of service providers (airports and ANSPs) and of users (airlines) and end-user..
- 13- All industry stakeholders to promote multi-stakeholders cooperation and encourage financial support to aviation and engagement of financial institutions.
- 14- States and International Organizations are invited to establish a process for cross-sectoral cooperation and collaboration between aviation and other economic sectors such as tourism, trade, finance, and public health, etc.

- 15- States and International Organizations are invited to strengthen regional and international cooperation, and encourage sharing of information, knowledge, experience and best practices.
- 16- States are encouraged to create a transparent, stable and predictable investment climate to support aviation development through diversifying funding sources and elevating the role of private sector.
- 17- Need to review jet fuel prices at different international airports in the MID Region to improve alignment with international benchmarks.
- 18- States are invited to enable sustainable funding of civil aviation authorities to perform the necessary safety and security oversight functions.

5. CLOSING

5.1 Mr. Mohamed Smaoui, Acting Regional Director, ICAO MID Office and Mr. Manar Abdennebi, Director General of ACAO thanked all speakers, panelists and participants for their active participation and fruitful discussion and valuable outcomes. States and all concerned stakeholders were invited to support the implementation of the Recommendations emanating from the Webinar. It was also highlighted that these Recommendations will be presented to the Fourth DGCA-MID Virtual meeting, which is planned for the 3rd of June 2021.

Webinar on Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Aviation
(5 – 6 April 2021 from 12:00 to 14:30 UTC)
List of Participants

State Org/Industries	Contact	Title
Bahrain	Mrs. Aysha Ahmed Hussain	Head of Medical Commission MOH
	Mrs. Muneera Ali Tulefat	Tahleeq Trainee Airport Operations
Egypt	Ehab Raslan Mohamed	G.M of R&D
	Ayman Mohamed Emary	Environment Department Manager
	Ali Gamal Ali	Telecommunication Officer
	Amr Abdel Shakour	ATCO
	Mouhamed Assem El-mosallamy	Financial specialist
	Mahmoud Ahmed Nabil	ATCO – R&D specialist
	Mr. Ahmed Abdalsatar Mohamed Alkholly	Director Of Cairo Airport Forecast Center
	Mr. Yasser Abdelgwad Elsayed	Deputy Director of Cairo Airport Forecast Center
	Mr. Mahmoud Abdrahem Abdou	Meteorologist of Cairo airport forecast center
	Dr. Mohamed Abdelhakim Galal	Head of Compliance and Safety Sector
Iran	Mr. Meisam Shakerarani	General Director for ANS and Aerodrome Oversight
	Mr. Hasan Khoskhou	
	Mr. Ramin Kashef Azar	
	Mr. Mohamad Hossein Moshafi	
	Mr. Ali Vaezi	
	Ms. Nooshin Mozafarian	
	Mr. Reza Sedighnia	Aviation Economic Expert
Iraq	Mr. Anas Abdulridha Yousif	Manager Air Transport Planning & Economics
	Mrs. Shama Ali	Associate Chief Translator
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	Mr. Bzhar Ismail Shukrt	EIA Statistics Responsibility
	Mr. Sulaiman Taha Muhammed	Operation Manager
	Mr. Roland Blaney	Operations Director
Jordan	Capt. Haitham Misto	Chief Commissioner
	Dr. Mohammad Hushki	Director Quality Assurance & Internal Audi
	Mrs. Elham M. Alrawashdeh	Director of Economic Regulatory

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Kuwait	Mr. Fahad Alanzi	Director Civil Aviation Security
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Lebanon	Mrs. Angele Aouad	Director Research and Studies Department
	Mr. Hassan Mourtada	Airworthiness Expert
Libya	Mr. Malek Othman Belhejja	Medical Doctor
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Qatar	Mr. Mohammad Habahbeh	Airlines Affairs Advisor
	Mr. Ibrahim Ali Alhammadi	Inspector of Airlines Affairs
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	Mr. Mamdouh S. Alkhateeb	Manager of Performance and Quality
	Mr. Mahmoud Saeed	Acting Safety & Environmental
	Mr. Fahad Alqahtani	Flight Permit Officer
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