



*International Civil Aviation Organization*

**Middle East Air Navigation Planning and  
Implementation Regional Group (MIDANPIRG)**

**Fourteenth Meeting**  
*(Jeddah, Saudi Arabia 15-19 December 2013)*

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**Agenda Item 3: Global, Inter and Intra-Regional Activities**

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

*(Presented by the Secretariat)*

**SUMMARY**

The ICAO Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA) programme provides meetings, training events and assistance visits to international airports which strengthen public health preparedness plans at global, regional and national levels. The MID Region CAPSCA held its third Meeting (CAPSCA-MID/3) in Cairo, Egypt, from 18 to 20 November 2013. This paper summarizes the current status of CAPSCA-MID project.

Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.

**REFERENCES**

- CAPSCA-MID/3 Report

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The ICAO Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA) project 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). CAPSCA is currently operating in all Regions (Europe, Asia Pacific, Africa, the Americas and the Middle East). The project is managed by ICAO, in close collaboration with the World Health Organization, and additional partners including Airports Council International (ACI) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

1.2 The World Health Organization's International Health Regulations (WHO IHR 2005) came into force in June 2007 and they include many references to airports and aircrafts. The main challenge facing the aviation sector is to bring together the various organizations that need to be involved in preparedness planning in the aviation sector to ensure that the response to a serious public health risk is effective and proportionate to the risk.

1.3 CAPSCA is the only ICAO programme that brings different sectors together in a formalised and routine manner. It helps aviation and Public Health partnerships to be developed and improves generic preparedness plans. Good planning will save lives and mitigate financial losses in the event of a future public health emergency.

## **2. DISCUSSION**

2.1 Air travel is the primary mode of the spread of communicable diseases such as SARS and Influenza H1N1. Public health emergencies of international concern (PHEIC) of this type can occur in any part of the world and spread rapidly across the globe with no respect to boundaries or borders. The aviation sector is also the first to be financially affected by health concerns.

2.2 After the acute impact on air travel from the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), ICAO strengthened its support of Article 14, Prevention of Spread of Disease to the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Doc 7300). The emerging threat from pandemic influenza in 2005 further focused efforts in this area and the (CAPSCA) project was commenced by ICAO in Asia, in September 2006. Subsequently, CAPSCA started in Africa (2007) and the Americas (2009). The First CAPSCA Workshop/Meeting in the Middle East (CAPSCA-MID/1) was held from 11 to 15 December 2011 at the ICAO MID Regional Office in Cairo, Egypt.

2.3 In November 2006, preparedness planning guidelines for States were posted on the ICAO public website (<http://www.icao.int/icao/en/med/guidelines.htm>) and in July 2007 changes to ICAO Annex 9 — Facilitation became applicable that required States, inter alia, to establish a national aviation plan in preparation for an outbreak of a communicable disease posing a public health risk. Since January 2013, the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) Continuous Monitoring Approach (CMA) has included new Protocol Questions for monitoring the compliance with ICAO public health related standards and recommended practices (SARPs).

2.4 The main objective of CAPSCA-MID project is to bring to the attention of participants the importance of the joint efforts by States and international organizations involved in the framework of the CAPSCA project, as well as to coordinate and harmonize this activity in the ICAO MID Region and globally.

2.5 The project facilitates training of regional, national, local government and non-government staff by means of workshops and seminars, and it provides assistance visits to States to help with the implementation of ICAO provisions and the IHR (2005). Such assistance includes evaluations of preparedness at international airports.

2.6 The CAPSCA-MID/3 meeting was held from 18 to 20 November 2013 at the ICAO MID Regional Office in Cairo, Egypt. The meeting was organized and conducted by ICAO in close coordination and support of the World Health Organization (WHO). Overall twenty nine (29) participants from eight (8) States, two (2) international organizations as well as industry representatives from public health and aviation sectors actively participated at the meeting.

2.7 The CAPSCA-MID/3 developed 15 Conclusions aiming at a continuous support from MID States and concerned Stakeholders to implement the CAPSCA objectives. In this regard, the meeting noted that the next Global CAPSCA meeting is planned to be in the MID Region. Egypt has offered in principle to host the 2014 Global CAPSCA meeting. This will be confirmed by an official letter to the ICAO MID Regional Office. A date will be confirmed after liaison with partner organisations, but it is tentatively scheduled to be from 17 to 20 November 2014.

2.8 Currently, 93 States joined CAPSCA out of 191 ICAO Contracting States. In the ICAO MID Region only ten (10) States joined the CAPSCA programme and four (4) Assistance Visits have been conducted, so far. Therefore, the meeting may wish to agree to the following Draft Conclusion:

<b>Why</b>	To facilitate the implementation of aviation public health emergency preparedness plans in compliance with related ICAO SARPs; and improve communication, coordination, cooperation and collaboration between all stakeholders involved in public health events in civil aviation
<b>What</b>	State Letter .
<b>Who</b>	ICAO/States
<b>When</b>	31/01/2014

***DRAFT CONCLUSION 14/XX: CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR CAPSCA-MID***

*That,*

- a) the ICAO MID Regional Office and MID States promote the development and growth of CAPSCA in the MID Region at local, national and international events;*
- b) MID States,*
  - i. that have not yet done so, be invited to join the CAPSCA-MID Project and request Assistance Visit; and*
  - ii. be encouraged to provide voluntary contributions to the CAPSCA-MID project.*

**3. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The meeting is invited to endorse the Draft Conclusion in paragraph 2.8.