



International Civil Aviation Organization

WORKING PAPER

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ASSEMBLY — 37TH SESSION

TECHNICAL COMMISSION

Agenda Item 46: Other issues to be considered by the Technical Commission

THE INCLUSION OF MEDICAL PERSONNEL IN THE AIRCRAFT CREWS

(Presented by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the Member States of the Arab Civil Aviation Commission)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Support is needed for the efforts aimed at ensuring the protection of air transport passengers and prevention of the spread of airborne communicable diseases. The frequency of in-flight deaths reported on many international flights is a result of the aggravation of the health state of some passengers and the inability of crew members to deal with such severe cases in the absence of medical personnel among the in-flight crew. Also noteworthy are the increasing numbers of elderly and vulnerable passengers, according to the publications of the association of airspace doctors which stress the importance of providing appropriate health care services to air transport passengers.

Action: The Assembly is invited to amend Chapter 12 of Part 1 of Annex 6 – *Operation of Aircraft* by adding a new paragraph that provides for the presence of a physician among international aircraft crew members, and to render it applicable.

Strategic Objectives:

This working paper relates to Strategic Objective A.

¹ Arabic version provided by ACAC

1. **CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES**

1.1 According to the European Aviation Safety Agency statistics, there were 1669 cases of emergency landings within the European Union States in 2009, of which 70 per cent were due to medical reasons related to the passengers' health. In addition, MED AIR Companies dealt with 17 000 in-flight illness cases during last year.

1.2 Air transport contributed, during the past years, to the spread of communicable viruses and diseases between Continents and States. Basic humanitarian requirements for health care is a basic human right and a way must be found urgently to assign medical personnel to work with aircraft crews in the handling of in-flight medical cases, particularly on long haul international flights over vast water surfaces where emergency landing is impossible, in order to save human lives and to provide necessary treatment and to eradicate communicable viruses and disease at the source.

2. **CONCLUSION**

2.1 Consequently, this issue requires the inclusion of medical personnel within international aircraft crews to provide humanitarian services in cases of in-flight health crises, and to increase health safety for the passengers as well as to prevent the spread of diseases.

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