



WORKING PAPER

ASSEMBLY — 38TH SESSION

TECHNICAL COMMISSION

Agenda Item 30: Aviation Safety — Implementation Support

PROGRESS IN COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH EVENTS IN CIVIL AVIATION

(Presented by the Dominican Republic)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This working paper presents the progress achieved in the preparation of the National Aviation Plan to respond to outbreaks of any communicable disease that might pose a serious threat to public health. Because air transport can speed the spread of diseases, thus reducing the time available for actions to limit contagion, preparedness is necessary for the timely and effective management of such situations.

Action: The Assembly is invited to:

- a) take note of the information in this paper; and
- b) encourage States and international organizations that have not already done so to contribute and collaborate in the development of public health emergency response plans for the prevention and management of public health events in civil aviation (CAPSCA).

<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	This information paper relates to all Strategic Objectives.
<i>Financial implications:</i>	Financial or in-kind voluntary contributions.
<i>References:</i>	<i>Convention on International Civil Aviation (Doc 7300), Article 14; Assembly Resolutions in Force (as of 8 October 2010) (Doc 9958); International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005; Annex 6 — Operation of Aircraft; Annex 9 — Facilitation; Annex 11 — Air Traffic Services; Annex 14 — Aerodromes; Procedures for Air Navigation Services — Air Traffic Management (PANS-ATM, Doc 4444), and Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air (Doc 9284) Final Report of the Thirteenth Meeting of Central Caribbean Civil Aviation Directors (C/CAR/DCA/13), and www.capsca.org.</i>

¹Spanish version provided by the Dominican Republic.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 To be able to respond to a communicable disease that poses a serious threat to public health such as influenza, the Dominican Republic is preparing a **Civil Aviation Contingency Plan for Public Health Emergencies of International Concern**, in accordance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) guidelines and the International Health Regulations (IHR) of the World Health Organization (WHO).

2. OBJECTIVE

2.1 The objective of the Plan is to ensure the availability, continuity and sustainability of critical air transport services; coordinate and facilitate the implementation of health and non-health measures to protect the health and well-being of passengers, personnel and the general public; and to mitigate the spread of communicable diseases by air.

3. ACTIVITIES

3.1 For the effective execution of the plan and in keeping with the IHR, Las Americas International Airport has applied for certification as a *designated point of entry*, as part of the preparatory stage.

3.2 To this end, the Dominican Civil Aviation Institute, in cooperation with the public health authorities and all of the public and private stakeholders involved such as authorities for customs and immigration, airport security, emergency and rescue services, aircraft operators, airport managers and ground service providers have been working together to develop the Plan and achieve certification by December 2013.

3.3 One of the activities carried out has been a workshop for the development of the Point of Entry Public Health Emergency Response Plan, which was held on 1-3 July 2013 and attended by all interested parties.

3.4 Immediately after the workshop, we received a visit by AGA Officer Jaime Calderón from the ICAO Regional Office for North America, Central America and the Caribbean (NACC). Mr. Calderón is a specialist in aerodromes and ground aids, and is the CAPSCA focal point for the Americas. This was the first monitoring visit in the region outside the Regional Office headquarters country. Some of the presentations delivered during the visit are available on the website: http://www.idac.gob.do/index.php/navegacion-aerea-manuales/cat_view/78-navegacion-aerea.

3.5 With this last task, the Dominican Republic is taking final steps toward initial certification of Las Americas International Airport as a point of entry in the event of an aviation response to a public health emergency.

The table below shows the degree of completion of the Plan to date, according to the findings of the recent monitoring visit. The goal is to achieve certification of the airport by December 2013.

Progress Achieved for Each Set of Basic Capacities	
Coordination and communications	94%
Basic capacity at all times	65%
Basic capacity to respond to a public health emergency of international concern	60%
Total score	73%