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Kingston, Jamaica, 11 to 13 May 2015

Agenda Item 7: Regional Cooperation and Training Matters
7.1 Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA)

COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENT FOR THE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH EVENTS

(Presented by Dominican Republic)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Information Paper presents the meeting an overview of the progress of the preparedness measures taken by the Dominican Republic in order to deal with a public health event of international concern - PHEIC in the aviation sector, both in the country and in the Santo Domingo FIR (MDSO); as well as the inter-sector coordination and collaboration for the implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005 published by the World Health Organization (WHO) and ICAO standards related to public health.

Strategic Objectives:

- Safety
- Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency

References:

- International Health Regulation (IHR) 2005
- Chicago Convention Article 14
- Annexes 6, 9, 11, 14 and 18
- PANS-ATM (Doc 4444 – *Air Traffic Management*)
- www.capsca.org

1. Introduction

1.1 The International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005 establishes the obligation of all States to develop, strengthen and maintain core public health capacities in terms of surveillance and response. These capabilities include the ability to detect, assess and report events, report them to WHO through the National Focal Point for IHR and respond to risks and public health emergencies of international concern.

1.2 The arrangement of cooperation for the prevention and management of public health events in civil aviation (CAPSCA) set the stage to involve organizations and civil aviation authorities in the tasks that previously were only part of the duties public health authorities of the States, aimed to prevent or reduce the international spread of disease, avoiding the implementation of measures that might unnecessarily interfere with the regularity of international air transport.

1.3 Under the IHR, States are obliged to officially designate, following a protocol detailed in the regulation, those international airports, ports and ground crossings where basic capacities listed in 1.1 are installed, which include measures to ensure specific medical services, transport of sick passengers, inspection of ships, aircraft and other means of transport; quarantine and other requirements.

2. Activities developed

2.1 Based on the results of the visits made by the CAPSCA staff of ICAO, preparedness required by the RSI has been gradually consolidated, through a Health Emergency Committee responsible for directing the implementation of the actions contained in the Health Emergency Plan. This Committee plans, coordinates, directs, controls and evaluates the Plan.

2.2 The Committee includes the authorities responsible for implementing the IHR in different organisms: Ministry of Public Health, the Dominican Institute of Civil Aviation, Civil Aviation Board, Operations Managers of airports, Immigration, Customs, Animal Health authority, plant Health authority, Representative of the Center for Emergency Operations, Specialized Corps for Airport and Civil Aviation Security (CESAC), the Air Transport Association, and shipping companies.

2.3 In addition to a series of regular meetings aimed at ensuring proper fulfillment of the responsibilities of each of the stakeholders involved in implementing the Plan, as well as proper coordination in case of an Event of Public Health of International Importance (PHEIC), there have been several workshops and exercises to evaluate the coordination and implementation of procedures developed for the detection and treatment of a case of Ebola.

2.4 Following the guidelines set by CAPSCA, WHO and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), for detection and response to a case of Ebola virus disease, a drill was conducted on November 7, 2014, in which a patient with a high fever arriving in the country by the south terminal of the International Airport of the Americas-Jose Francisco Pena Gomez (AILA-JFPG) was taken, under strict biosecurity measures, to Dr. Ramon de Lara Hospital of the Dominican Air Force, which meets the requirements to handle such cases.

3. Designation of Points of Entry (POE)

3.1 Based on the assessment of the seaport of Haina, carried out to make sure it has the elements set out in Annex 1B of the IHR as basic requirements for the designation of points of entry, the Dominican Republic obtained the designation of the abovementioned port as a Point of Entry (POE) duly authorized in accordance with the criteria established by WHO.

3.2 Las Americas International Airport-Jose Francisco Pena Gomez (AILA-JFPG) was recently evaluated by the Committee and it is expected to be officially designated in May 2015 as point of entry, which will enable it to receive, and provide the suitable response, to a potential Public Health Event of International Importance (PHEIC).

4. Conclusión

4.1 The Meeting is invited to take note of the information presented in this paper.