



New regional air cargo liberalization agreement to bolster vaccine transport, long-term recovery across Latin America

For immediate release

Montréal, 24 December 2020 – As part of their regional strategies for [COVID-19 response](#) and [aviation recovery](#), ICAO's two Regional Offices for the Americas ([SAM](#) and [NACC](#)) have contributed to the development and emergence of the Latin American Civil Aviation Commission (LACAC)'s new multilateral agreement to liberalize air cargo services in the region.

The agreement comes into effect immediately among its ten signatories, and establishes expanded traffic rights, so-called “seventh freedom” traffic rights, permitting airlines from one LACAC Member State to provide all-cargo services between two other signatory States without restrictions on routes and capacity.

The 10 states involved are Brazil, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

“COVID-19 has imposed significant constraints on the entire air transport industry and enterprises of all sizes are re-evaluating their business models,” noted ICAO Secretary General Dr. Fang Liu. “To remain flexible and responsive to countries’ needs, ICAO is adapting global regulatory approaches where this can aid pandemic response and global recovery efforts.”

The agreement will remain in effect for one year, until 31 December 2021, and can be extended for a further year, at the discretion of LACAC States.

Besides its immediate impacts in terms of pandemic response and recovery, ICAO encourages other countries to view it as a significant step in advancing the ICAO [Long-Term Vision for International Air Transport Liberalization](#).

“Our hope would be to see this regional development evolve into a more permanent and global agreement enabling more liberalized and sustainable 21st century air services,” Dr. Liu emphasized.

“In the near-term it should help increase the efficiency of vaccine distribution, and in the longer term it should enable air cargo and in particular e-commerce to play even more important parts in regional economic recovery and development. I strongly encourage other States and Regions to take similar action.”



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About ICAO

A specialized agency of the United Nations, ICAO was created by governments in 1944 to support their diplomacy on international air transport matters. Since that time, countries have adopted over 12,000 standards and practices through ICAO which help to align their national regulations relevant to aviation safety, security, efficiency, capacity and environmental protection, enabling a truly global network to be realized. ICAO forums also provide opportunities for advice and advocacy to be shared with government decision-makers by industry groups, civil society NGOs, and other officially-recognized air transport stakeholders.

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