

KINGDOM OF MOROCCO
MINISTRY OF TOURISM, CRAFTS, AIR TRANSPORT AND SOCIAL ECONOMY
Directorate General of Civil Aviation

**SUMMARY OF MEASURES AND ACTIONS BY THE MOROCCAN CIVIL AVIATION
AUTHORITY IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Reply to ICAO letter EC 6/3-20/46 of 18 March 2020

Since the COVID-19 pandemic was declared a *public health emergency of international concern* and in light of the development of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 internationally, the Moroccan Civil Aviation Authority, in close coordination with the various stakeholders in particular the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Health, the Airport Authority and other institutional partners, has taken the following actions to:

- reduce the spread of COVID-19 by air transport;
- protect the health of passengers, ground and flight crews and the general public;
- ensure the continuity of cargo flights and the global air cargo supply chain.

MEASURES AND ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

As part of the *COVID-19 Observation and Response Plan* decreed by the Government of Morocco, several meetings have been held to arrange for the coordinated implementation of optimal, tailored measures to counter the effects of the virus at the national level, taking into consideration the need for continuity of essential services.

The following actions have been taken:

- Two meetings of the National Air Transport Facilitation Committee (NATFC);
- One meeting of the National Civil Aviation Security Committee (NCASC);
- Several meetings of the Local Air Transport Facilitation Committees at airports in the Kingdom;
- Participation by CAA representatives in meetings of the Central Coordination Post set up to manage crises, in particular pandemics, involving all ministerial departments concerned.

These meetings gave rise to a number of conclusions and recommendations, in particular:

- Provide aircraft operators with regular updates on the epidemic together with recommended actions;
- Provide the competent units of the Ministry of Health with information on passengers arriving from affected countries;
- Deploy extra medical staff and equipment to airport border sanitary checkpoints;
- Restrict access to Moroccan airports, for heightened security;
- Closely coordinate with concerned departments to control the traffic of persons and vehicles in movement areas;

- Encourage air operators to park their aircraft in accordance with the rules of manufacturers and the regulations in force, and insofar as possible to group them together by type of fleet in dedicated zones.

OPERATIONAL ACTIONS BY AIRPORT MANAGERS AND AIRCRAFT OPERATORS

In application of the recommendations of the NATFC and having regard to the reports of ICAO and WHO, airport managers and aircraft operators have taken actions to enhance sanitary prevention and response, in particular in respect of:

- The need for aircraft operators and airport managers to provide crew members and airport personnel with instructions on how to manage a suspected case presenting signs of acute respiratory infection on board an aircraft;
- The obligation for aircraft operators to provide their personnel stopping in China, on flights to repatriate Moroccan citizens, with the necessary information and equipment as recommended by the Authorities of the People's Republic of China (PRC);
- The obligation for aircraft operators operating flights to and from affected countries to carry Universal Precaution Kits (UPKs) with personal protective equipment for crew interacting with potentially infected individuals;
- Obligation for aircraft operators to prompt their ground personnel and crew members to identify and report any passengers who:
 - ✓ present signs or symptoms of acute respiratory infection;
 - ✓ have been in the PRC or in contact with someone arriving from the PRC in the last 14 days;
- In the event a passenger coming from the PRC is thus identified, crew members have the obligation to:
 - ✓ enter all information on the health situation on board the aircraft in the *General Declaration* (Annex 9, Appendix 1 under *Declaration of Health*), to be submitted to the health authorities upon entry into Moroccan territory;
 - ✓ recommend that passengers submit a personal declaration if they feel unwell and the aforementioned conditions apply;
 - ✓ scrupulously follow the basic principles for reducing the general risk of transmission of respiratory infections as recommended by the WHO;
- Use of the *Public health passenger locator form* as per Annex 9, Appendix 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation;
- Creation of crisis cells to track pandemic developments;
- Awareness-raising among crews and dissemination of preventive health recommendations to all personnel;
- In accordance with ICAO and WHO recommendations, procedures for the full disinfection of aircraft;

- Continuity of cargo flights and the global air cargo supply chain, at the same time introducing measures to prevent the spread of the virus;
- Comprehensive implementation of measures to protect aviation personnel at all airport facilities, including maintenance hangars;
- Provision of gloves, masks and sanitising gel to airport personnel;
- Posting and dissemination of prevention guidelines issued by the WHO in all airport terminals and premises;
- Disinfection of indoor public areas, means of transport, passenger loading bridges and security screening equipment;
- Screening of passengers and crew using heat-sensing cameras;
- Installation in airports of isolation rooms with beds and reserved areas for isolating suspected cases and observation by medical teams;
- Creation at airports of observation cells to gather information and coordinate with the relevant authorities;
- Enhancement of sanitary screening facilities with the provision of doctors and specialised personnel with adequate supplies and equipment.