



**REPORT OF THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICAN &  
EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN DIRECTORS  
GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION VIRTUAL MEETING ON  
THE ICAO CART REPORT**

*(Virtual meeting, 22 June 2020)*

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## **1. Introduction**

1.1. Following the release of the ICAO Council Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART) Report and its annexed document *Take-off: Guidance for Air Travel*, the ICAO Regional Offices for Western and Central Africa (WACAF) and Eastern and Southern Africa (ESAF) convened a virtual meeting of Directors General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Monday 22 June from 10:00 to 11:45 UTC.

1.2. The objective of the meeting was to support States and all stakeholders and align efforts to effectively plan and implement the recommended COVID-19 mitigation measures, and to ensure the restart, recovery and resilience of the aviation sector.

## **2. Attendance**

2.1 The meeting was attended by 179 participants from States, International and Regional Organizations (AUC, AFCAC, RECs, AfDB, RSOOs and RAIO) and Industry, including representatives from Aircraft Operators (AFRAA, IATA), Airport Operators (ACI), Air Navigation Service Providers (ASECNA, CANSO), Aircraft Manufacturers (AIRBUS, Boeing). The list of participants is provided as **Appendix** to this report.

## **3. Opening and Secretariat**

3.1 Mr. Barry Kashambo, Regional Director for ICAO Eastern and Southern African Office (ESAF) and Mr. Prosper Zo'o Minto'o, Regional Director for ICAO Western and Central African Office (WACAF) acted as Moderators of the meeting's sessions and the Regional Officers provided the Secretariat.

3.2 The meeting was opened by Dr. Fang Liu, Secretary General of ICAO. In her introductory remarks, she outlined the key objectives and outcome of the CART Report with emphasis on the effective implementation of its provisions that will help assure a strong foundation for standardized regional protocols for the restart and recovery of civil aviation in Africa.

3.3 She underlined the various initiatives taken by ICAO in collaboration with WHO to ensure an efficient implementation of Public Health related measures and the cooperation with the industry and stakeholders for the development of strategies and guidance to address operation safety measures for the aviation sector during the COVID-19 period, and to ensure the restart, recovery and resilience of the aviation sector.

3.4 She recognized the efforts being importantly supported through the African Union Commission and AFCAC initiatives under the High Level Task force for the recovery of Aviation in Africa.

3.5 Dr. Liu informed the meeting on the various tools developed by ICAO such as the COVID-19 Platform, the ICAO implementation packages (i-PACKs) resources with focused guidance, implementation, and training tools for States, aviation service providers, and supply chain stakeholders, the interactive dashboard for COVID-19 Operational Impacts on Air Transport.

3.6 Mr. Tefera Makonnen Tefera, Secretary General of AFCAC also addressed the meeting. He informed the meeting that as a follow up on the Recommendations of the ESAF and WACAF DGCA's virtual meetings held on 8 and 9 April 2020, respectively, the African Union Commission established a High Level Task Force (HLTF) out of the need to have a strategic and coordinated response, under the leadership of the African Union, to the COVID-19 impacts on the aviation sector.

3.7 He indicated that while adopting the ICAO CART Report, the HLTF also developed 15 complementary African specific recommendations grouped as Financial, Technical, Sustainability of Air Transport, Communication, Policy Harmonization and cooperation and Quality Data and Capacity Building.

3.8 He also informed the meeting that, prior to the HLTF work, AFCAC in coordination with Partners and the Regional Offices of ICAO, made proposals on immediate relief measures and financial assistance to the aviation industry. These proposals, which were submitted to the Chairperson of the AUC and Bureau of the Specialized Ministerial Committee of transport, resulted in a Declaration made on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020 by the STC calling for States, partners and financial institutions to support the African aviation sector.

#### **4. Working Languages**

4.1 The meeting was held in the English and French languages with simultaneous interpretation and documentation was provided in these two languages.

#### **5. Agenda**

5.1 The following agenda was adopted by the meeting:

- 1) Opening session;
- 2) Presentations;
  - 2.1. Review of ICAO CART Report and Take off guidance document;
  - 2.2. Overview of the implementation of the outcomes of previous DGCA meetings held in April 2020;
  - 2.3. Overview of AUC High Level Task Force (HLTF) Report;
  - 2.4. Proposed Regional Strategy and Action Plans to foster implementation of CART Recommendations in the Region;
- 3) Updates and interventions by DGs and participants;
- 4) Recommendations;
- 5) Closing session

#### **6. Presentations**

##### **6.1 Review of ICAO CART Report and Take off guidance document**

6.1.1 The Report of the ICAO Council's Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART) and its annexed guidance document Take-off: Guidance for Air Travel through the COVID-19 Public Health Crisis, was presented to the meeting. The CART Report and Take-off guidance document are accessible on the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Platform (<https://www.icao.int/covid/Pages/default.aspx>). This Report which aims at restarting the

international air transport system and aligning its global recovery, was developed through broad-based consultations with States and regional organizations, and with important contributions from the World Health Organization, the World Tourism Organization and key aviation industry groups.

6.1.2 The presentation laid emphasis on the CART 10 key principles for a harmonised international approach to aviation restart and recovery efforts, and 11 recommendations addressed to States, covering measures related to aviation safety, aviation public health, aviation security and facilitation, economic and financial aspects, and exchange of information and experience. It also highlighted the Take-off guidance document's risk mitigation measures to reduce public health risk to air passengers and aviation workers while strengthening confidence among the travelling public (generally applicable measures as well as measures applicable to specific 'airport, aircraft, crew and cargo modules').

6.1.3 States were encouraged to follow the key principles and recommendations outlined in the Report when defining their approach and the subsequent implementation of measures, as well as to pay particular attention to the set of recommended risk mitigation measures presented in the guidance document. It was highlighted that, while national and regional needs may require different approaches, these guidelines will facilitate mutual recognition and harmonization of aviation COVID-19 related measures across the globe in line with ICAO's standards, plans and policies. Accordingly, States were invited to implement the recommendations in coordination with ICAO Regional Offices and according to the regional plans.

## 6.2 **Overview of the implementation of the outcomes of previous DGCA meetings held in April 2020**

6.2.1 The meeting was provided with the status of implementation of the Recommendations of the DGCAs virtual meetings which were organized on 8 and 9 April 2020, in order to discuss and agree on a common and harmonized approach to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on aviation and ensure business continuity and proper planning of sustainable recovery strategies through mutual and appropriate synchronized actions.

6.2.2 The meeting noted good progress made in the implementation of the 12 Recommendations addressed by the DGCAs in April 2020, to AFCAC, ICAO, States, International and Regional Organizations and the Industry. As a way forward, the following four priorities were identified:

- a) Securing States' High Level commitment for the restart, recovery and sustainability of their aviation system
- b) Development of plans/mechanisms to successfully implement the Recommendations and derived initiatives at regional and national level;
- c) Building capacity in the region to successfully implement ICAO CART and AUC HLTF Recommendations and guidance;
- d) Provision of ICAO's assistance to States and the aviation industry.

### 6.3 **Overview of AUC High Level Task Force (HLTF) Report**

6.3.1 AFCAC Secretariat made a presentation on the AUC High Level Task Force on COVID-19 and its report which is aimed at getting high level commitment from the African Union (AU) summit of Heads of State and Government towards securing support and assistance for the post COVID-19 pandemic aviation recovery. Also highlighted was the outcome of the continental ministerial coordination committees to ensure coordination of activities and support of an overall continental strategy in the fight against the COVID-19. The meeting was informed that the establishment of HLTF under AFCAC was prompted by a request from AUC and as a recommendation by the WACAF and ESAF DGCA meetings.

6.3.2 The relationship between the High Level Task Force (HLTF) report and the ICAO CART report and take off guidance document was outlined as well as additional HLTF recommendations on the restart, recovery and resilience of the African civil aviation sector.

6.3.3 The Financial Recommendations enshrined in the HLTF report calling upon specific action was underscored. This included for the establishment and/or reinforcement of national plans and national facilitation committees, access to sufficient financial, human resources and equipment, establishment of a stimulus continental mobilization of resource by African States and prioritization of aviation needs by Governments and strengthening of dialogue to implement the fiscal and monetary relief measures to the aviation sector.

6.3.4 Recommendations on risk based technical assessment, quality data and capacity building, sustainability of Air Transport, coordination and communication strategy, monitoring and evaluation were presented to the meeting.

6.3.5 Regarding the way forward and in reaction to the AFCAC presentation, the following recommendations were accepted by the meeting:

- *African DGCA's to work with AFCAC and the ICAO Regional Offices to transpose the recommendations and guidelines of both the ICAO CART and the AUC HLTF reports into actionable items for immediate implementation;*
- *AFCAC and the ICAO Regional Offices to immediately start working on the modalities and development of a detailed awareness programme for all stakeholders of aviation and establish monitoring mechanisms for the recommendations and measures of the CART and the HLTF including capacity building for a resilient aviation sector for the sustainable development of air transport in our continent.*

### 6.4 **Proposed Regional Strategy and Action Plans to foster implementation of CART Recommendations in the Region**

6.4.1 The meeting recalled the CART 10 key principles and the Public Health risk mitigation measures generally applicable in all phases of air passenger and cargo transport, the mitigation measures applicable in specific modules (airport, aircraft, crew, cargo) and the Flight Plan for Restart and Recovery of International Civil Aviation.

6.4.2 The meeting was also informed on the availability of mechanisms and tools at global and regional levels, focused implementation packages (iPACKs) addressing aspects related to aviation safety, risk management, public health-related measures, facilitation, aviation security, aerodromes, air navigation services, air transport and economics.

6.4.3 The meeting was reminded the guidance materials and tools developed by ICAO, and noted the on-going development of the ICAO Global Implementation Roadmap (GIR) to support the implementation of the recommendations and guidance issued by the Council Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART) for the post COVID-19 Restart, Recovery and Resilience of civil aviation.

6.4.4 It was agreed that an effective communication should be maintained amongst stakeholders with the objective to develop logical implementation and harmonization of actions, streamline communication towards and from States, align all follow-up with States, and provide targeted assistance when required, rigorously coordinate the recommendations and measures outlined in the CART report at all levels in the conduct of future activities identified in the following areas:

- Coordination between Member States, regional economic communities, regional safety/security oversight organizations and commissions, industry stakeholders, WHO and other UN entities;
- Monitoring and reporting of progress achieved by States in implementing the recommendations and measures contained in the CART Report and related take-off guidance document, effectiveness of risk mitigations through easy access Dashboards and reports (level of implementation of various measures);
- Reviews and updates by continuous collection and processing of feedback received from States and other stakeholders, periodic reviews of the implementation roadmap, amendments/updates/improvements/termination as necessary;

6.4.5 Based on the CART and HLTF Recommendations and respective Roadmaps the meeting was provided with proposals for the development of a regional strategy and mechanisms to foster implementation of the CART Recommendations in the Region. Emphasis was given to the following areas:

- a) RECs and RSOOs framework to operationalize the implementation in a harmonized manner, the roadmap for the restart, recovery and resilience of the aviation system;
- b) RECs framework to enable financial resource mobilization and capacity building and sharing;
- c) RECs and RSOOs to enhance coordination/ cooperation for the provision of an agreed level of performance.

6.4.6 The meeting identified the need for national coordination mechanisms involving all the stakeholders for the restart, recovery and sustainability of the aviation system with the objective to:

- a) Coordinate the various initiatives, approaches and plans;
- b) Embrace all stakeholders on board;
- c) Identify priority activities and funding needs;

d) Operationalize the restart scheme through coordination amongst:

- Public Health Authorities
- Airport Authorities
- Airlines
- Air Navigation Service Providers
- Supporting Operators and Service Providers.

6.4.7 In order to facilitate an effective take-off and way forward process, the following recommendations were identified:

- States to monitor the implementation of CART report recommendations and measures and regularly provide updates via ICAO COVID-19 Response and Recovery Implementation Centre (CRRIC);
- Identify particular challenges and issues or newly identified best practices in order to support a well-coordinated regional and global action;
- Establish appropriate forums/mechanisms (e.g. Recovery Planning Groups) to act as a platform to coordinate, obtain and share relevant information, from Member States, International Organizations, industry and other key stakeholders;
- Member States to support global capacity building initiatives by providing relevant subject matter experts and other resources;
- Aviation authorities and national regulators to recognize and address the needs of the industry that are consistent with CART report;
- APIRG / RASG-AFI / RASFALG-AFI / AFI Plan / AFI SECFAL Plan / APIRG projects to support the implementation of CART report recommendations through respective frameworks;
- Enhanced collaboration and cooperation between AFCAC, RECs, RSOOs, ICAO and key stakeholders.

6.4.8 In line with the global and regional guidance material and measures, the meeting identified urgent items and critical actions to consider by key stakeholders for the restart and recovery of aviation as the following:

**States and service providers:**

- Maintenance of Safety Oversight capacity and compliance with ICAO SARPs including alleviation measures reflected in the CCRD (core and extended);
- Implementation of CART report recommendations related to public health measures in coordination with the national health authority;
- Insurance of aviation security;
- Coordinate the restart phase and follow up the succeeding phases;

**AUC/AFCAC/RECs/RSOOs:**

- Enable financial resource mobilization and capacity building /sharing;

## Directors General of Civil Aviation:

6.4.9 The meeting identified Champion DGCA for each category of the CART Recommendations, based on the current AFI DGCA Championship for ICAO Strategic Objectives established in 2006, as summarized in the table below. In substance, Uganda was included to the Championship for aviation safety related Recommendations, while Nigeria and Rwanda were included in the Championship for the monitoring and sharing of experiences through ICAO.

CART Recommendations	ICAO Strategic Objectives	Champion DGs for CART Recommendations	Current Strategic Objectives champion
Aviation Safety-Related Measures (1, 2, 3)	A, B	Togo /Mozambique (for SO-A); Uganda /Senegal (for SO-B)	A B (Senegal)
Aviation Public Health-Related Measures (4, 5)	A, B, C, D, E	Kenya /Gabon	E
Security- and Facilitation – Related Measures (6, 7, 8, 9)	C	South Africa /Burkina Faso	C
Economic and Financial Measures (10)	A, B, C, D, E	Cote d’Ivoire /Ethiopia	D
Monitoring and Sharing of Experiences through ICAO (11)	A, B, C, D, E	Nigeria /Rwanda	-

## 7. Discussions and Interventions by Participants

7.1 During the discussions session, interventions were made by key strategic partners and stakeholders, from the aviation industry, RSOOs, RECs and International Organizations as follows:

- a) Papa Atoumane FALL, Director Safety, AFCAC
- b) Mohamed Moussa, DG ASECNA;
- c) Ali Tounsi, Secretary General, ACI Africa
- d) Abdourahmane Berthe, Secretary General AFRAA,
- e) Romain Ekoto, Chief responsible of Aviation AfDB
- f) Sadou Marafa, Executive Secretary AAMAC;
- g) Samson Fatokun, Area Manager, South-West Africa, IATA Africa;
- h) Capt. Tidiane Bah, Executive Director, BAGASOO;
- i) François Alexandre KIAPO, ASSA-AC ;
- j) Maubert Masonama Muanamosi, CEEAC;

7.2 It was agreed that participants be given opportunity to raise clarifications, questions or inquiries after the meeting and that responses to the questions raised by participants be consolidated and made available on the ICAO public website.

## **8. Recommendations of the Meeting**

8.1 The meeting agreed to the following recommendations:

- a) *States are urged to ensure coordination with the Civil Aviation and Public Health Authorities, and provide the necessary resources and commitment to implement the ICAO CART recommendations and guidance while ensuring that aviation safety, security and environment protection is not compromised;*
- b) *ICAO Regional Offices and AFCAC should coordinate with AU organs to foster political will and effective implementation of the AU Specialized Technical Committee on Transport, Infrastructure, Intercontinental and Interregional Infrastructure, Energy and Tourism (STC-TIIET) declaration and HLTF recommendations as aligned with the CART report, including the attainment of the financial stimulus and State guarantees towards the African aviation recovery fund.*
- c) *States should endeavor to provide all necessary information and data on the progress of the implementation of the CART/HLTF recommendations and guidance to facilitate factual identification of assistance and support by ICAO and other partners.*
- d) *Collaboration and cooperation between all stakeholders including ICAO Regional Offices, AUC, AFCAC, RECs, RSOOs, industry partners and service providers, should be strengthened and with a focus on sustainable implementation of the recommended mitigation measures, and consistent compliance with ICAO SARPs.*
- e) *In coordination with AFCAC, the ICAO Regional Offices should ensure provision of the necessary assistance and guidance to States, industry partners, service providers, Regional Groups, Regional Plans and Programmes, RSOOs and RECs to ensure persistent monitoring of the implementation of global/regional recommendations and guidelines/measures, and convene regular DGCA meetings to provide update accordingly.*
- f) *ICAO, in coordination with WHO, should provide further guidance to assist States and Industry in implementing aviation public health measures related to the application of physical distancing on board aircraft, disinfection of aircraft and airports, and decontamination of passengers and luggage.*
- g) *In close collaboration with ICAO Regional Offices and AFCAC, the designated DGCA Champions should promote the exchange of information amongst States on the implementation of the CART/HLTF recommendations and guidance; report regularly on the activities conducted under the assigned ICAO Strategic Objectives; identify challenges faced by States; determine their assistance needs; and coordinate/support the implementation of the recommendations.*

## **9. Closing Session**

9.1 In her closing remarks, the ICAO Secretary General commended the level of participation to the meeting and recognized the role of AFCAC, as the Regional Aviation Commission in fostering political commitment with the aim to ensure resource mobilization for the restart recovery and resilience of the AFI aviation sector. She underscored the need for strong industry collaboration and cooperation to respond to the devastation of COVID-19 pandemic.

9.2 Dr Liu called for effective partnership and pledged ICAO support to States efforts to implement the CART recommendations and measures, and called upon States and stakeholders to continuously share their best practices, challenges and achievements to ensure collaborative and cooperative mechanisms to defeat the COVID-19 pandemic.

9.3 In conclusion, the Secretary General reaffirmed the engagement and availability of ICAO to assist States and stakeholders through the provision of various materials developed by ICAO for the successful implementation of the recommendation of the CART report in the framework of the Africa Regional initiatives.