



International
Civil Aviation
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Международная
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منظمة الطيران
المدني الدولي

国际民用
航空组织

Bureau Afrique Occidentale et Centrale / Western and Central African Office

T11/18 - 0201

30 April 2020

Subject: **Report on the First WACAF Directors General of Civil Aviation virtual meeting on the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Action required: See Paragraph 2

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to refer to the First virtual meeting of ICAO WACAF DGCAs and Partners on COVID-19 held on 09 April 2020 and forward to you the report of the meeting which benefitted from your active and commendable participation in its deliberations.

Considering the impact of COVID-19 on the air transport sector and the challenges identified at global, regional and national levels, I would like to draw your attention on the conclusions/ recommendations of the meeting which are summarized in paragraph 7-Way forward and Recommendations of this report, and particularly on the following:

- a) *The ICAO Regional Office should assist States in implementing the global strategy and the safety and air navigation operational measures developed by ICAO to support their actions to overcome the COVID-19 crisis and return to normal and safe operation of air transport. In doing so, a safety risk management approach should be adopted to support alleviations to ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices;*
- b) *ICAO should continue to facilitate training of aviation personnel;*
- c) *In the COVID-19 environment, States should facilitate humanitarian, medical and repatriation services operations and allow the performance of technical and maintenance activities as required. Proper coordination should be established between States' CAAs, Health Administrations and other relevant authorities involved in the management of COVID-19 crisis;*
- d) *There is a need to establish a Task Force under the coordination of AFCAC, tasked with the development of a comprehensive, consolidated response strategy taking into account the respective mandates and interests of all stakeholders in the African civil aviation industry, and advocacy to secure the necessary political commitment and mobilization of the resources required for the implementation of the proposed recovery strategies;*
- e) *States should consider remote working and embrace enabling technologies to support efficient and cost-effective provision of services in all areas. New types of activities which are contactless need to be defined, such as webinars, online training or applications/tools;*
- f) *States and Stakeholders should establish a secured stakeholders' platform embracing all the areas to reinforce the networking;*
- g) *States and Stakeholders should establish and promote a Trust Framework for regaining the confidence of the international community and travelling public in air transport; this should include ensuring availability of reliable data to maintain and boost confidence;*

.../...

The effective implementation of these conclusions and recommendations will ensure safe operations by maintaining compliance to the ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) while preparing for a successful resumption of post COVID-19 activities.

I take this opportunity to confirm the availability of the ICAO Regional Office to provide continuous assistance to States and partners in the management of this crisis due to the pandemic.

Please accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Prosper Zo'o Minto'o

Regional Director

Attachment: Meeting Report