



**SUMMARY REPORT OF
THE E-MEETING OF USOAP CMA NATIONAL
CONTINUOUS MONITORING COORDINATORS (NCMCs)
OF WACAF STATES ON THE COVID-19 CONTINGENCY
RELATED DIFFERENCES (CCRD)**

(Video Teleconference, 23 April 2020)

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The ICAO Regional Office for Western and Central Africa (WACAF) held an E-Meeting of USOAP CMA National Continuous Monitoring Coordinators (NCMCs) of its accredited States on the COVID-19 Contingency Related Differences (CCRD) on Thursday, 23 April 2020 following the publication of the ICAO State Letter Ref.: AN 11/55-20/50 dated 3 April 2020 on the Operational measures to ensure safe operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting was held as an outcome of the First ICAO/AFCAC WACAF DGCA's Virtual Meeting on COVID-19 held on 9 April 2020.
- 1.2. The objective of the NCMC meeting was to provide guidance to States on the provision of information on COVID-19 Contingency Related Differences (CCRD) with respect to the Nine (9) Standards contained in Annex 1 – Personnel Licensing (2 Standards); and Annex 6 - Operation of Aircraft (Part I (3 Standards), Part II (2 Standards), Part III (2 Standards)). In view of the specialties concerned, the target audience included USOAP CMA NCMCs and Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) in the areas of Personnel Licensing (PEL) and Aircraft Operations (OPS).
- 1.3. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, ICAO urged States to take various actions to enable service providers and personnel to maintain the validity of their certificates, licenses, and other approvals during the period of the crisis; and to put in place various contingency measures to facilitate safe air transport operations.

Working languages and Attendance

- 1.4. The meeting was conducted in both English and French Languages and attended by 87 participants from States, Regional Safety Oversight Organizations (RSOOs) and WACAF Regional Office Staff. The list of participants is provided as Appendix-C to this report.

Officers and Secretariat

- 1.5. Mr. Ousman K. Manjang, Regional Officer, Airworthiness and USOAP CMA Portfolio Holder for ICAO Western and Central African Office (WACAF) States acted as Moderator and Secretary of the meeting. Regional Officers from all sections of the WACAF Regional Office supported him during this meeting.

2. Agenda

The following agenda was adopted by the meeting:

- 2.1. Welcome Remarks and Introduction
- 2.2. Presentation on COVID-19 Contingency Operational Safety Measures Framework
- 2.3. Review of the Guidance Material on COVID-19 Contingency-Related Differences (CCRD)
- 2.4. Questions and Answers (Q&A);
- 2.5. Closing Remarks.

2.1 Welcome Remarks and Introduction

- 2.1.1 Mr. Ousman Kemo Manjang, ICAO Regional Officer/Airworthiness, welcomed participants and led the meeting through the Agenda and Work Programme. Thereafter, Mr. Prosper Zo’o Minto’o, the ICAO Regional Director/WACAF also welcomed the participants and thanked the Directors General of the respective Civil Aviation Authorities for honouring the invitation at very short notice and allowing the NCMCs to attend the meeting. He expressed his appreciation of the high turnout and specifically recognized the participation of Messrs. Moses Tiffa Baio, Director General of Sierra Leone CAA; Vasco Viera, Vice-President of the Board of Directors, Cabo Verde CAA; Captain Tidiane Bah, Executive Director, BAGASOO, Marafa Sadou, Executive Director, AAMAC and Mr François Alexandre Kiapo, the Director General of ASSA-AC. The objective of the meeting, he recalled, was to provide guidance to States on the provision of information on COVID-19 Contingency Related Differences (CCRD) with respect to the core Nine (9) Standards contained in Annex 1 – Personnel Licensing; and Annex 6 - Operation of Aircraft (Parts I, II, III).
- 2.1.2 Furthermore, the ICAO Regional Director encouraged States to establish and implement measures to facilitate air transport operations, whilst recognizing their obligations under Articles 38, 39 and 40 of the Chicago Convention with respect to identification/notification to ICAO of any differences between State requirements and practices vis-à-vis relevant Standards of Annexes to the Chicago Convention, endorsement of certificates/licenses and recognition/acceptance of difference filed by other States. In this regard, he reminded States of the creation of a COVID-19 Contingency-Related Differences (CCRD)/ Electronic Filing of Differences (EFOD) sub-system accessible through the USOAP CMA OLF dashboard (www.icao.int/usoap) and the need to provide relevant information on any temporary differences that may have arisen as a result of the pandemic.
- 2.1.3 In conclusion, Mr. Zo’o Minto’o urged attendees to take the meeting seriously, participate actively in the deliberations and ensure that appropriate actions are taken on the outcomes of the meeting.

2.2 Presentation on COVID-19 Contingency Operational Safety Measures Framework

- 2.2.1 Mr. Rene Tavarez, Regional Officer/Flight Safety, delivered a presentation on the COVID-19 Contingency Operational Safety Measures Framework established by ICAO. The presentation provided a brief background on the Nine (9) Standards available on the CCRD/EFOD to which States are required to review and provide information on any resulting differences that may exist between the Standards and their national requirements and practices. He also reminded the meeting of the existence of the ICAO COVID-19 OPS website, which contains Quick Reference Guides (QRG) in specific operational areas in order to support States in facilitating international air transport operations during this pandemic. The presentation is provided as **Appendix-A** to this report.

2.3 Review of the Guidance Material on COVID-19 Contingency-Related Differences (CCRD)

2.3.1 Mr. Kebba Lamin Jammeh, Regional Officer/Flight Safety, guided the meeting through the review of the Guidance Material on COVID-19 Contingency-Related Differences (CCRD) with the aim of providing clarification and guidance on the process of filing differences and accepting differences filed by other States. He advised States to utilize Legal Instruments (i.e. Directives, Orders, Instructions, etc.) in order to make the temporary differences binding; and to bring same to the notice of the industry and other aviation stakeholders through circulars, publication in the Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP) and the CAA website. He further advised States to be cognizant of the restart of normal operations in the post COVID-19 era, when granting extensions to the validity of licences, certificates and authorisations. The Guidance Material is provided as **Appendix-B** to this report.

2.4 Questions and Answers (Q&A)

2.4.1 The meeting noted the information provided on the situation prevailing in WACAF States due to COVID-19, actions taken in the industry with regards to the spread of COVID-19, activities undertaken to ensure business continuity, exemptions and other conditions in the current status of operations (PEL, OPS, AIR, AIG, ANS and AGA), and the challenges being encountered.

2.4.2 Following the questions raised by participants, the meeting was informed that, so far, there were no alleviation measures related to Airworthiness of aircraft. However, Quick Reference Guides were made available on the ICAO COVID-19 website and provide guidance on new measures to be established, to ensure safe operations during COVID-19 crisis. Inclusion of other technical areas was to be considered in future.

2.4.3 Furthermore, States were invited to file differences to the initial scope of CCRD comprising nine (9) Standards in Annex 1 and Annex 6 (Parts I, II & III) in order to facilitate air transport operations during the crisis; and to accept differences filed by other States.

2.4.4 With respect to the publication of CCRD in AIPs, States wishing to do so were encouraged to publish their alleviations in their AIPs as an additional means of communicating with users and aviation stakeholders on the temporary measures being taken by them to address COVID-19 challenges.

2.5 Closing Remarks by the ICAORD/WACAF and Close of Meeting

2.5.1 In his closing remarks, the ICAORD put emphasis on the completion of the CCRD/EFOD by States, as requested by the ICAO State Letter Ref.: AN 11/55-20/50 while maintaining a continuous communication with the users to whom regulations and alleviations apply.

2.5.2 He also reminded States on the need to accept CCRD notified by other States and reaffirmed the availability of the Regional Office to provide support as necessary. The meeting agreed that 30 April 2020 be the deadline for the completion of the CCRD/EFOD by States.

2.5.3 The meeting was informed of DGCAs' recommendation to establish a regional Task Force that will innovatively identify opportunities for African aviation industry towards a stable and sustainable aviation industry recovery.

2.5.4 It was also agreed that a cooperative and collaborative network of all stakeholders be established to seek the required assistance at international, regional and national levels in order to support the Recovery Plan aimed to ensure the gradual recovery of the aviation industry in Africa.

3 Way forward and Recommendations

The meeting agreed in principle, on the following recommendations and conclusions as the way forward:

States to:

- 3.1 Provide information on the CCRD/EFOD relating to differences identified and accept differences filed by other States, with the aim to facilitate continued operations;*
- 3.2 Establish a continuous dialogue with stakeholders and other States to better understand how the service providers are coping with the situation;*
- 3.3 Collect and constantly update relevant data and information to support the data-driven decision making process;*
- 3.4 Evaluate how the crisis currently impacts the stakeholders and their aviation activities;*
- 3.5 Assess the risks and identify suitable mitigation actions to manage the safety risks and the subsequent impacts of COVID-19 to the air transport system.*
