



International
Civil Aviation
Organization

Organisation
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de Aviación Civil
Internacional

Международная
организация
гражданской
авиации

منظمة الطيران
المدني الدولي

国际民用
航空组织

Ref.: S 12 : AP-RD0009/20

1 May 2020

Subject: Convening of a COVID-19 Information Sharing Teleconference Session with APAC CAA Director Generals

Dear Directors General/Chief Executive Officers of Civil Aviation Authorities, Pacific Region,

I refer to my recent correspondence with Ref. A 2/6.7: AP-RD0006/20 dated 24 March 2020 as well as the subsequent Video Teleconference (VTC) conducted on 31 March.

The VTC on 31 March related to the Declaration adopted by the ICAO Council at the Fourth Meeting of the 219th Session on 9 March 2020 (attached) relating to the outbreak of novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The Council in its Declaration stressed the importance of engaging in cross-sector collaboration and the principles of multilateralism, strong international cooperation and coordination among all entities involved in the joint action against this unprecedented pandemic; and urged Member States and stakeholders to foster and implement a culture of collaboration and information sharing among public health and civil aviation authorities.

While a number of representatives from the Pacific Island States attended the VTC, it was noted that perhaps the timing was not conducive for participation of all and/or the format and large numbers of participants did not allow for sufficient time for specific focus on the Pacific Islands Region.


In this regard, I would like to reaffirm that ICAO would continue to support Pacific Islands States in their response measures as appropriate and towards this end I would like to invite you to a teleconference via WebEx (see the joining instructions attached) on **Tuesday 12 May 2020 at 0900am Bangkok time / ICT (UTC +7)**.

The objective of this VTC will be to provide relevant information and updates from ICAO and to allow for the sharing of experiences in the Pacific Region particularly with regard to contingency measures that have been put in place to ensure business continuity at State regulatory bodies, airports, airlines and air traffic control units. Apart from allowing for the sharing of experiences, this forum can also be used to highlight any particular concern in the areas of Safety, Security, ANS and other related areas. The agenda for the meeting is attached.

It would be helpful if you can indicate your availability to join this VTC. I fully appreciate the tremendous amount of work on your hands so in case you are unable to join then you may consider nominating a suitable official to represent you. Please confirm your participation to APAC@icao.int.

Looking forward to your active participation in the tele-conference.

Yours sincerely,


Arun Mishra
Regional Director

Enclosures:

- Declaration adopted by the ICAO Council at the Fourth Meeting of the 219th Session on 9 March 2020 relating to the outbreak of novel coronavirus (COVID-19)
- Agenda
- Join a Webex Meeting Instructions

**Declaration adopted by the ICAO Council at the Fourth Meeting of the 219th Session
on 9 March 2020 relating to the outbreak of novel coronavirus (COVID-19)**

The Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), at its Fourth meeting of the 219th session held on 9 March 2020:

Recalled in particular, Articles 14 and 44 of the *Convention on International Civil Aviation*;

Affirmed the urgent need to reduce the public health risk of the spread of COVID-19 by air transport and protect the health of air travellers and aviation personnel;

Stressed the importance of:

- a) ensuring that response actions and measures are based on science and facts;
- b) engaging in cross-sector collaboration and the principles of multilateralism, strong international cooperation and coordination among all entities involved in the joint action against this public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC); and
- c) providing reliable and timely information to aviation authorities, airlines and other aircraft operators, airports and the public to help control the further spread of the virus.

Expressed strong support for the calls by the World Health Organization (WHO) for States to perform their own risk assessments and adapt their response measures accordingly, taking into account the *International Health Regulations* (IHR 2005);

Expressed concern at the economic impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on air transport and civil aviation;

Expressed appreciation for the cooperation of airlines, airports and other industry participants in working with governments and international organizations to help implement these response measures;

Urged Member States and stakeholders to:

- d) apply existing regulations and guidance, particularly the Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) of Annex 9 (Facilitation) and other relevant international standards contained in the other Annexes to the *Convention on International Civil Aviation*, when addressing outbreaks of communicable diseases that pose a public health emergency of international concern;
- e) apply existing recommendations and guidance provided by the WHO, in accordance with each country's risk assessment and unique circumstances;
- f) foster and implement a culture of collaboration and information sharing among public health and civil aviation authorities through the establishment of National Facilitation Committees comprising all relevant entities, in line with ICAO provisions;
- g) proactively join, contribute to and assist the Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA);
- h) take the necessary actions to maintain the sustainability of air transport and the highest level of safety;

Reaffirmed that ICAO would continue to support the aviation sector by working with Member States, and cooperating with the WHO and other relevant agencies of the United Nations system, and industry partners such as the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and Airports Council International (ACI); and

Further reaffirmed that the Council will continue to closely monitor the situation, supports Member States in their response measures as appropriate, and stands ready to take further action as circumstances develop.

**Agenda for the ICAO/Pacific Island States Video Teleconference (VTC)
Tuesday 12 May 2020 at 0900am Bangkok time / ICT (UTC +7).**

1. Introductory address by Regional Director ICAO APAC
2. ICAO presentation relating to COVID-19, including;
 - States' implementation of the relevant Annex 9 SARPs as mentioned through recent State Letters;
 - ICAO framework to deal with contingency operational safety measures (CCRD/EFOD);
 - Airport Closures/Restrictions (including Notam issuance);
 - Update on CAPSCA and Public Health facilitation matters
3. Sharing of experience by DGs/CEOs of Pacific Island States CAAs – (5-min each)