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Agenda Item 24: Aviation Safety and Air Navigation Priority Initiatives

AVIATION PUBLIC HEALTH MANAGEMENT SCHEME IN RESPONSE TO PANDEMICS

(Presented by China)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
This paper outlines the interdepartmental coordination mechanisms established by China's civil aviation sector in recent years in response to pandemics, as well as its public health work plans including emergency preparedness, risk surveillance and early warning, and response measures based on the concept of risk management.	
<i>Strategic Goals:</i>	This working paper relates to <i>Aviation Delivers Seamless, Accessible and Reliable Mobility for All</i> .
<i>Financial implications:</i>	None.
<i>References:</i>	Annex 9 — <i>Facilitation</i> Doc 10152, <i>Manual on COVID-19 Cross-border Risk Management</i> <i>Take-off: Guidance for Air Travel through the COVID-19 Public Health Crisis</i> HLCC 2021-WP/20, <i>Implementation of Public Health Corridors (PHCs) during Public Health Emergencies</i>

¹ English and Chinese versions provided by China.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In the event of global outbreaks of large-scale epidemics, effective interdepartmental coordination is crucial for managing public health emergencies. It plays a key role in preventing and mitigating the impact of such emergencies on the sustainable development of the global aviation industry.

1.2 To protect public health, cooperation with public health authorities and relevant stakeholders is essential to ensure safe and efficient operations of air transport under all circumstances.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 To effectively fulfil the obligations stipulated in Annex 9 – *Facilitation* to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, the Chinese government has established the Subcommittee on Air Transport Facilitation under the National Facilitation Committee. This subcommittee coordinates efforts among competent authorities, airlines, airports, and other entities to ensure the smooth advancement of facilitation. It aims to harmonize relevant domestic policies and regulations, facilitate international civil air transport, improve the efficiency of customs clearance for aircraft, crew members, passengers, cargo, baggage, and postal items, and enhance passenger services, laying a solid foundation for China's civil aviation sector to address specific public health risks or Public Health Emergencies of International Concern.

2.2 To implement the requirements of the International Health Regulations (IHR) regarding preparedness and response to public health emergencies, the Chinese government has enacted a series of laws and regulations, including the Law of the People's Republic of China on Prevention and Treatment of Infectious Diseases, the Frontier Health and Quarantine Law of the People's Republic of China, the Emergency Response Law of the People's Republic of China, the Regulations on the Administration of Emergency Response Plans for Public Emergencies, and the Regulations on the Administration of Emergency Response Plans for Infectious Disease Outbreaks, providing a legal basis for timely and effective handling of public health emergencies. Based on this, a unified national emergency management system has been formed featuring unified command by the central government and tiered management by local governments at different levels in a coordinated and interactive manner. A joint prevention and control mechanism has been established at both national and local levels for public health emergencies. During large-scale outbreaks, multi-department meetings on joint prevention and control are held regularly to coordinate efforts in areas such as infectious disease surveillance and early warning, risk assessment, epidemiological investigation, testing and inspection, emergency response, and pharmaceutical research and development.

2.3 China's civil aviation sector has strengthened information sharing and collaborative coordination by establishing a shared list of infectious disease surveillance information with departments such as the National Health Commission, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the General Administration of Customs, and the National Immigration Administration. This list primarily includes emergency information on public health risks related to global epidemic surveillance, zoonotic and animal epidemic monitoring, and monitoring of inbound aircraft as well as on-board aircrew and passengers associated with infectious diseases. Information exchange is carried out through the "Infectious Disease Data Sharing and Exchange Platform System".

2.4 China's civil aviation has also developed a pandemic emergency response toolkit, which includes: infectious disease surveillance and early warning systems, public health risk assessments for flights, health screening for travel risks, personal protection measures for crew and passengers, aircraft

cleaning and disinfection, and sanitary handling of cargo, animals, and waste. These public health measures can effectively block the spread of infectious diseases via air transport.

2.5 Relevant entities involved in public health emergency response—such as industry regulators, airlines, airports, and health authorities—formulate emergency response plans according to laws and regulations. They also regularly organize practical emergency drills involving multiple departments, scenarios, and processes. Based on the drill results, evaluations and inspections are conducted on personnel readiness, equipment and supplies, and support measures.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 The Assembly is invited to note the information contained in this paper. China will continue to advance the development and application of new management philosophies and technologies in civil aviation for responding to pandemics, and will work with States worldwide to realize the vision of minimizing unnecessary disruptions to international trade and traffic caused by such pandemics.

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