



**Agenda Item 7: Other business**

**COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENT FOR THE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH EVENTS IN CIVIL AVIATION (CAPSCA)**

(Presented by the Dominican Republic)

**SUMMARY**

This note describes the joint and coordinated actions taken by ICAO, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other organizations, due to outbreaks of diseases that are communicable by air travel, in order to prevent the spread of said diseases. It also describes the actions taken by the Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA) to assist the States and Territories in the implementation of the new SARPs related. It also informs the Meeting about the development of a Standardized Training Package (STP), under the TRAINAIR PLUS methodology, aimed at providing the required training to new generation aviation professionals for an efficient and timely response.

Suggested action for GREPECAS/18 in section 4.

*Strategic Objectives: Aviation Security and Facilitation*

*Environmental Protection*

**References:**

- *Annex 6 – Operation Of Aircraft*
- *Annex 9 – Facilitation*
- *Annex 11– Air Traffic Services*
- *Annex 14 – Aerodromes*
- *PANS–ATM/Doc 4444 Procedures for air navigation services*
- *Doc 9284-AN/905– Technical Instructions for the safe transportation of dangerous goods by air*
- *Doc 7300 – Convention on International Civil Aviation*
- *ICAO Guidelines for States Concerning the Management of Communicable Diseases Posing a Serious Public Health Risk*

## **1. Introduction**

1.1 As a result of a series of outbreaks of emerging diseases and possible spread through international travel, ICAO decided to establish communication with States and several agencies, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the International Airports Council (ACI) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention of the United States (CDC), for the development and implementation of preventive actions before the imminence of an outbreak of a serious communicable disease.

1.2 The appearance of an outbreak of disease usually causes uncertainty, confusion and urgency. Article 14 of the Chicago Convention, and the new Standards and Recommended Practices contained in Annexes 6, 9, 11 and 14, require States to take preventive action in this regard. In addition to the elements contained in the Annexes, ICAO has published the "ICAO Guidelines for States regarding the management of communicable diseases that cause a serious public health risk".

1.3 Consequently, all States and Territories must develop measures for an integrated and coordinated response at the national, regional and global levels, with special emphasis on crossed inter-institutional links, prior to an outbreak of a serious communicable disease. To this end, the cooperation and joint work of the Civil Aviation, Public Health, Tourism, Airports, Airlines, Migration, Customs and Emergency and Disaster Response agencies are promoted.

1.4 ICAO has established the Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA) to assist States and Territories in the implementation of the new requirements, with the aim of reducing the spread of diseases transmitted by air travelers and mitigate, if they occur, the effects of these diseases, on the health of the populations and on the economy of the States, through cooperation between participating States/Administrations, airports, airlines and public health authorities.

## **2. Discussion**

2.1 The objectives of CAPSCA can be summarized as follows:

- protection of Public Health - general public, travelers by air and aviation personnel;
- assistance to States to establish national aviation plans for public health emergency preparedness;
- adhesion to Article 14 of the Convention;
- compliance with ICAO SARPs (Annexes 6, 9, 11 and 14) and Procedures (PANS-ATM);
- compliance with WHO regulations RSI (2005);
- implementation of ICAO, WHO, ACI and IATA guidelines;
- national cooperation between civil aviation authorities, public health authorities, airports, air traffic services and airlines;
- regional cooperation among States - a mechanism for sharing resources and experts;
- training of technical advisors, assistance visits to the States including evaluation of airports, development of basic capacities, and advice to the States; and
- development and improvement of guidance material for the aviation sector

2.2 The work carried out by CAPSCA, coordinating the efforts of the Civil Aviation and Public Health authorities, together with other authorities related to air transport, has made it possible to identify areas of common responsibility that must be standardized in order to achieve the objectives

described above. In light of the foregoing, ICAO has introduced amendments to the Annexes and Documents that regulate functions related to prevention and preparation as well as to the response that the State must give to a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC).

2.3 Once the tasks in charge of each one of the actors of the system had been identified, which must be consigned by the States in the applicable Emergency Plans, ICAO incorporated in the SARPs guidelines for the Application of the International Health Regulations and related provisions, through amendments to Annexes 6 (*Operation of aircraft*), 9 (*Facilitation*), 11 (*Air traffic services*), 14 (*Aerodromes*), in PANS-ATM / Doc 4444 (*Procedures for air navigation services*); as well as in Doc 9284-AN/905 (*Technical Instructions for safe transportation of dangerous goods by air*).

2.4 In order to guarantee the effective training of the human resources responsible for each of the disciplines involved in the application of the guidelines contained in the aforementioned ICAO documents, related to public health events due to diseases transmitted by air, the Dominican Institute of Civil Aviation (IDAC), through the Superior Academy of Aeronautical Sciences (ASCA) has begun the development of a Standardized Training Package (STP), under the TRAINAIR PLUS methodology, aimed at providing aviation professionals due training for the efficient, timely and effective performance of their functions.

### **3. Conclusion**

3.1 The aforementioned Standardized Training Package is intended to be part of the initial and recurrent training of technicians from each one of the disciplines involved in the work of prevention and response to the possible spread of communicable diseases through air transport. This material will be made available to ICAO for use by the States of the Region that require it; either for its utilization through their own TRAINAIR centers, or through the collaboration and facilities offered by the Superior Academy of Aeronautical Sciences (ASCA).

### **4. Suggested actions**

4.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) take note of the information provided in this working paper
- b) consider the advisability of implementing a training program on the matters described above, that guarantees the appropriate level of compliance with the applicable SARPs by the States.