



WORKING PAPER

AVSEC/FAL/RG/Ex02-WP/03
 17/09/20

**Second Extraordinary Virtual Meeting of the ICAO/LACAC NAM/CAR and SAM Aviation Security and
 Facilitation Regional Group
 (AVSEC/FAL/RG/Ex02)
 24 September 2020**

Agenda Item 6: Presentation of public health measures and use of the technology to fight COVID-19.

TEMPORARY ADVISORY CIRCULAR ON AVSEC IN FACE OF COVID 19

(Presented by Paraguay)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
<p>This working paper addresses domestic and international air operations, and is applicable to security, and to all institutions that operate and are present at airports (government institutions, commercial concessionaires, service providers), airport officials and aircraft operators, passengers and users in general. It provides guidance to all those involved in security, on the procedures implemented to effectively resume operations during the global crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, while maintaining the robustness of the aviation security system and adopting measures to ensure a true balance between minimising health risks and maintaining flight operations as a development tool in Paraguay, based on the health protocols established by the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare (MSPYBS).</p>	
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present temporary advisory circular on COVID 19
<i>Strategic objectives:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security and facilitation
<i>References:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICAO Annex 17 - Security • ICAO Doc 8973 – Aviation Security Manual • Declaration by the World Health Organization (WHO) of PANDEMIC caused by COVID-19, on 11 March 2020, urging States to take immediate and decisive action for the identification, confirmation, isolation, monitoring of potential cases and treatment of confirmed cases, as well as the dissemination of preventive measures, all of which should lead to the mitigation of transmission. • CART document “Take Off: Guidance for air travel through the COVID-19 public health crisis”.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICAO guidelines for aviation security contingency measures during the COVID-19 pandemic. • Law N° 6524 /2020 “declares the state of emergency throughout the territory of Paraguay in view of the pandemic declared by the World Health Organization due to COVID-19 or CORONAVIRUS, and establishes administrative, fiscal and financial measures”. • National Civil Aviation Security Programme (PNSAC). • Decree N° 3456/2020 issued by the President of the Republic of Paraguay, “declaring the state of health emergency for the implementation of preventive measures in view of the risk of spread of COVID-19”. • Protocol of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare of Paraguay for the reactivation of international flights with Uruguay, in the current epidemiological context of Uruguay.
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1. Introduction

1.1 The International Civil Aviation Organization and the World Health Organization, specialised agencies of the United Nations (UN), the International Air Transport Association (IATA), and Airports Council International (ACI) have produced material on the restart of aeronautical activities.

1.2 Since the beginning of the crisis caused by the new coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the aviation system has been facing increasing difficulties. Demand for air transport services worldwide has decreased to an unprecedented level and the industry as well as States have suffered great economic losses since the beginning of the pandemic.

1.3 International civil aviation continues to be targeted by terrorist groups, and all contracting States to the Chicago Convention have as their primary objective the safety of passengers, crews, ground staff and the general public in all matters relating to safeguarding civil aviation against acts of unlawful interference. The impact that the pandemic is having on aviation security is uncertain.

1.4 Creative, effective approaches to security, cooperation, transparency, mutual respect and dedication of all stakeholders, which are perceived by the public as a logical response to new and emerging threats, must be supported.

1.5 Given the international nature of aviation, States must embrace an equivalent or similar set of principles, in order to promote cooperation in international aviation security in an effective, robust and sustainable manner, while respecting the sovereignty of each State and observing ICAO standards and recommended practices as international benchmarks.

1.6 The Temporary Advisory Circular on Covid 19 was developed on the basis of ICAO and WHO standards, practices and documents, laws, decrees and resolutions in force in Paraguay, and aligned with the standards of ISO 9001-2015 Quality Management System.

2. Discussion

2.1 It is the responsibility of States to implement measures to effectively restart operations during the global crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, while maintaining the robustness of the system, adopting measures that facilitate a real balance, and managing health and security risks.

2.2 It is important to acknowledge the importance of aviation as a means of development for our region and the world at this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. This new obligation requires improved capabilities, both in terms of trained inspectors as well as inspection and detection technologies, and in oversight.

2.3 States have pursued financial policies in support of the aviation industry, considering that all civil aviation sectors have suffered from economic contractions on an unprecedented scale worldwide and from the reduction of aviation activities.

2.4 The COVID-19 virus poses a serious health risk, which is also affecting the global economy. Accordingly, the adoption of preventive measures that are globally similar in all daily activities and especially in civil aviation should be encouraged as a cultural matter.

2.5 Passenger confidence in the aeronautical industry should be restored through synergies in actions, harmonising criteria and efforts, in order to standardise security and health procedures.

2.6 Human and financial resources should be optimised in the current context of civil aviation, in order to prevent them from generating a higher operational cost and impacting on the cost of air tickets and economically affecting passengers and users in general.

3. Suggested action

3.1 In view of the above, the Meeting is invited to share and adopt as best practice the Temporary Advisory Circular on COVID-19 and attain regional standardisation on security matters, taking into account new and improved security measures at airports, risk assessment of screening procedures for passengers, baggage, cargo and mail, relevant training for control and screening personnel, and the acquisition and/or use of technology according to the situation of each country.

3.2 Reconcile and harmonise public health measures with NAR/CAM and SAM security systems, in order to strengthen public confidence, clearly communicate measures for restarting industry activities, and promote the recovery of aviation activities.

3.3 Optimisation of human and economic resources through common quality measurement procedures to ensure continuous improvement, and so that their evaluation by passengers may generate empowerment with the industry and the quality of the service will make the passenger want to repeat the air transport experience.