

Collaboration, coordination and communication at the center of the second session of the round table promoted by ICAO, to exchange information on the challenges facing commercial aviation against COVID-19



The second session of the Round Table promoted by ICAO, to exchange information on the challenges facing commercial aviation against COVID-19, was attended by Mr. Cmdte. Anyelo Acosta, Director General of the General Directorate of Civil Aviation (DGAC) of Ecuador, and Mr. Nicholas Reyes, Director for the Western Hemisphere, Office of International Affairs of the United States Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

During the conversation, it was highlighted that the way forward in the face of this pandemic, and after it, is through adequate **collaboration, coordination** and **communication**, between States, International Organizations and service providers.

The determination of public health measures against COVID-19, have been in charge of the health authorities, who have taken the necessary measures to protect the health of their citizens, including the total closure of borders in most of Latin American countries. The impact of these measures, in many cases sudden, has been very large for the airline industry. It is important to learn the lessons that this situation has left, to mitigate the effect on aviation when we face such a situation again.

When preparing to reactivate air transport activities, it is essential that States take into account, in addition to their internal needs, the importance of **coordinating** with their neighboring countries and other countries in the region, a **unified strategy** that allows a smooth and fluid regional interconnection. A **harmonized voice** will also be essential to regain the trust of air transport users.

Two aspects were highlighted that represent challenges that must be addressed as a priority to allow a faster and more efficient normalization of operations. First, a **uniform regulatory environment** that allows countries to meet a single public health standard in relation to national and international air transport, and second, an **effective communication strategy** that facilitates awareness of the importance of air transport for economic recovery at the local, regional and global level.

Our role as States, industry and as International Organizations is to take advantage of this moment, while you cannot fly, to start this dialogue and allow us to build a path in a coordinated and collaborative way.

Finally, the guests agreed that keeping communication channels open is not only necessary but **essential**.

You can find more details and information about this conversation by accessing the full version through the following link: