



International Civil Aviation Organization
South American Regional Office

Third Virtual Meeting of Civil Aviation General Directors of the South American Region on the Response to COVID-19
(Lima, Peru, 22 September 2020)

RV3/DGAC - WP/10
21/09/2020

Agenda Item 2: Progress of the activities of the SAM strategic framework in response to COVID-19

TEMPORARY ADVISORY CIRCULAR ON COVID 19 AVSEC

(Presented by Paraguay)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This working paper on the "TEMPORARY ADVISORY CIRCULAR ON COVID 19", which may be found attached, offers guidance on national 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 an 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).-

Action:	Present the Temporary advisory circular on COVID-19.
Strategic objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide guidance on biosafety measures in security activities.
References:	<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 must lead to the mitigation of transmission. • CART document “Take Off: Guidance for air travel through the COVID-19 public health crisis”. • ICAO guidelines for aviation security contingency measures during the COVID-19 pandemic. • Law N° 6524 /2020 “that 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 to address 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.

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 of the Chicago Convention have as their primary objective the security of passengers, crews, ground staff and the general public on all matters related to safeguarding 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, decided and sustainable manner, **while respecting the sovereignty of each State and observing ICAO standards and recommended practices as international points of reference**.

1.6 The **Temporary Advisory Circular on COVID-19** was developed on the basis of **ICAO and WHO standards, practices and documents**, and on the **laws, decrees and resolutions** in force in **Paraguay**, in alignment 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 enable a real balance between health and security risks.

2.2 It is important to recognise **the importance of aviation as a tool for development** in 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 oversight.

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

2.4 The COVID-19 virus poses a serious health risk, which is also affecting the global economy. Therefore, the adoption of globally standardised preventive measures in all daily activities, and especially in civil aviation, should be encouraged, imbedding them into our culture.

2.5 Passenger confidence in the aeronautical industry should be restored through synergies in our 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 avoid increasing operational costs and impacting air tickets, which would economically affect passengers and users in general.

3. **SUGGESTED ACTION**

3.1 In view of the above, the Meeting is invited to share and adopt best practices on matters of security and the COVID-19 pandemic, pursuing their standardisation, taking into account new and improved security measures at airports, through a risk assessment of screening procedures for passengers, baggage, cargo and mail, timely training of control and screening personnel, and the acquisition and/or use of technology tailored to the situation of each country.

3.2 Reconcile and harmonise public health measures with security systems, in order to strengthen public confidence, clearly communicating measures in order to resume industry activities and foster the recovery of aviation activities.

3.3 Optimise human and economic resources through common quality measurement procedures to ensure continuous improvement, providing for their evaluation by passengers to generate empathy towards the industry. Service quality will make the passenger want to repeat the air transport experience.

3.4 Please find attached the "**Temporary advisory circular on COVID - 19**", aligned with the **CART Take-off: Guidance for air travel through the COVID-19 public health crisis**, and the ICAO guidelines for aviation security contingency measures during the COVID-19 pandemic, with a view to standardising procedures, taking into account the current situation of the aviation industry and of the States, analysing the risks related to security and the pandemic, seeking a harmonious and uniform experience for passengers, and resuming aeronautical activities in a safe manner within the current context.

The best practices of Paraguay are submitted to the consideration of the States.