



**MEASURES TAKEN BY VENEZUELA TO ADDRESS COVID-19
 “CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR AIR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT (ATM) IN CASE OF A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OF INTERNATIONAL CONCERN (PHEIC) IN THE PROXIMITY OF, AND WITHIN, ATM FACILITIES”**

(Presented by Venezuela)

SUMMARY	
<p>This information paper presents the response of Venezuela with the adoption of measures to minimise the risk of spread of a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) among technical operational personnel in ATM facilities, maintaining high levels of safety and continuous provision in air navigation services, starting on 13 March 2020, when the President of Venezuela declared the state of national alarm.</p>	
REFERENCES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Health Organization (WHO) • State letter AN 13/35-20/47 • Presidential decrees of Venezuela 	
ICAO strategic objectives:	<p><i>A - Safety</i> <i>B – Air navigation capacity and efficiency</i> <i>E – Environmental protection</i></p>

1. Introduction

1.1 The World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic on 30 January 2020, since the virus had spread to several countries, quickly affecting individuals. Since the health authorities of Wuhan (Hubei, China)—epicentre of the global outbreak—formally reported high rates of people infected with the virus on 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) has confirmed more than 3’555,790 cases in 195 countries and little more than 267,000 deaths. About 75% of cases are concentrated in six countries: United States, France, United Kingdom, China, South Korea and Italy.

1.2 Cases identified as COVID 19 in Venezuela were reported on 13 March 2020. Accordingly, in view of the fast global spread of the virus, Venezuela decreed collective social quarantine in the entire country.

1.3 In this sense, the National Institute of Civil Aviation (*Instituto Nacional de Aeronáutica Civil - INAC*), together with the air navigation services (ANS) of Venezuela, immediately defined a set of measures to prevent the spread of the virus and mitigate its dissemination in the national territory.

2. Implementation

2.1 The initial measures adopted by INAC/ANS to control COVID-19 were the following:

- Flow control: an analysis was conducted together with the ATFM office of air navigation services, which helped reduce staffing at ATM units while preserving safety at the Maiquetía FIR.
- Flight plan reception and communication services continue to be available, in order to provide the necessary support to operations and to receive/issue NOTAMs.
- Sensitisation briefings to service personnel on prevention and spread of COVID-19.
- Quarantine measures were applied to all officials in international missions, to avoid the risk of infection of the rest of the aeronautical community. Sanitary control will also be guaranteed if so required.
- Use of headsets or microphones of personal use by all operators on duty in air traffic services, flight information services, and aeronautical telecommunications.
- Publication of NOTAMs issued to date on the condition of air navigation services and airport services as a result of COVID-19. It should be noted that the publication of NOTAMs has been in keeping with the requirements of the Executive and the recommendations of the ICAO South American Regional Office, namely:
 - Restriction of flights to/from Europe and Colombia (Saturday, 14 March 2020).
 - Restriction of flights to/from Panama and Dominican Republic (Sunday, 15 March 2020).
 - Issuance of NOTAM A0161/20 17MAR2020 1600UTC to 14APR20 at 2359UTC, restricting operations of general, private and commercial aviation to/within Venezuela due to COVID-19, with the exception of overflights, landing and take-off of cargo and mail aircraft.
 - Issuance of NOTAM A0202/20 12MAY20 1555UTC to 12JUN20 at 2359 UTC, closing airports to all international flights to prevent the spread of COVID19, with the exception of the following flights to/from Venezuela:
 - 1. Aircraft in emergency
 - 2. Cargo and mail flights
 - 3. Technical stops
 - 4. Humanitarian / MEDEVAC / repatriation flights

2.2 Regarding measures taken by the *Instituto Nacional de Aeronáutica Civil* (INAC), as the aviation authority of Venezuela, in the Maiquetia flight information region (FIR), the following is noted:

- Social and collective quarantine in the entire country, covering 23 states and the capital district, starting on 17 March 2020.

- All services are active for overflights, and continental and RNAV airways are under full surveillance and monitored by air navigation services.
- Operations of State and military aeroplanes will be approved through permits issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela.
- Operations of aircraft in operational emergency will be authorised at all international airports of Venezuela; once on ground, passengers and crew will undergo medical evaluation before disembarking.
- ATM, CNS, AIM, MET, and SAR services are 100% operational, in accordance with the service duties agreed in the initial contingency plan.
- Humanitarian, cargo, mail, search and rescue (SAR), emergency and ambulance services are exempt from restrictions; however, they are subject to coordination.

2.3 Venezuela has organised special flights with the sole purpose of repatriating its nationals and residents using State aeroplanes, humanitarian flights or chartered commercial flights, without embarkation or disembarkation of other passengers for “pay or hire”. Likewise, regarding “repatriation flights” conducted on a commercial basis by other States, note should be taken of the facilities offered by Venezuela. Furthermore, non-scheduled flights have been authorised, subject to the conditions imposed by Venezuela by virtue of its obligations under Article 5 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention) of 1944, as a result of the extraordinary circumstances of COVID-19.

2.4 Venezuela reasserts its commitment to prevent the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) within and outside the national territory. To this end, very strict follow-up and control measures are being taken at ports, international airports and border posts, following each of the recommendations emanating from the World Health organization (WHO), the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), and the ICAO Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA), in order to curb the development of this terrible pandemic that is jeopardising the life of millions of persons worldwide.

3. Suggested action

- 3.1 The Virtual Meeting of Civil Aviation General Directors of SAM States is invited to:
- a) take note of the information contained in this paper.
