



Agenda Item 3: Analysis of the challenges of CATCs continuity of activities in the context of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Activities of the *Instituto Universitario de Aeronáutica Civil Mayor (Av.) Miguel Rodríguez (IUAC)*, in times of pandemic

(Presented by Venezuela)

Summary	
This working paper informs the Meeting on the activities of the <i>Instituto Universitario de Aeronáutica Civil Mayor (AV.) Miguel Rodríguez (IUAC)</i> , in the context of the COVID19 pandemic.	
References: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ICAO Doc 9868 – Procedures for Air Navigation Services - Training.• Latin American Regulation 141 (LAR 141)• Venezuelan Aeronautical Regulation 141 (RAV 141)• Resolutions issued by the <i>Ministerio del Poder Popular para la Educación Universitaria</i>	
ICAO strategic objectives:	<i>A – Safety.</i> <i>B- Air navigation capacity and efficiency.</i> <i>C- Economic development of air transport</i>

1. Background

1.1 On 13 March 2020, the first cases of Covid-19 were reported in Venezuela, for which the national government decreed a state of alarm, in order to reduce the exposure of the population, and avoid high morbidity and mortality rates.

1.2 For its part, Venezuela's educational authority, the *Ministerio del Poder Popular para la Educación Universitaria (MPPE)* communicated the preventive closure of schools, universities and educational centres of all kind and level, and also announced the "Every Family, a School" plan, for early, middle and diversified education, and "University at Home" for higher education. The plan called on all educational centres in the country to activate virtual education strategies and continue their pedagogical activities through home-based teaching.

1.3. In accordance with the above and in order to continue contributing to the ICAO NGAP programme, the IUAC, in coordination with the Venezuelan aeronautical authority (INAC), implemented a plan to distribute curricular modules in the areas of education and training that, because of their nature, could be offered under this methodology, without affecting the development of academic competencies. For this purpose, digital platforms such as Moodle and Classroom Google, Zoom, among others, were used in order to design and open all virtual classrooms.

2. Discussion

2.1 Due to the interruption of traditional educational activities until further notice, IUAC, in compliance with the regulations issued by the MPPE and committed to the ICAO NGAP programme, launched the "University at Home" plan to give continuity to the training activities related with the aeronautical sector. This plan is based on the use of digital platforms for virtual education, both synchronous and asynchronous. To this end, the facilitators of each of the modules of our curricular plan developed strategies under this modality to fulfil curricular and academic objectives. Use is made of digital classrooms, and informative, demonstrative and expository videos are developed, as well as material for each of the modules of the units, constantly communicating with students via WhatsApp, text messaging or available media, as appropriate. Likewise, the IUAC keeps operational the resources for follow-up and monitoring of educational progress, delivering the elements that make up the digital portfolio, the evaluation criteria, and regularly following the procedures established for the evaluation and development of students.

2.2 There are currently **162 classrooms** opened as a means of training, **146** of which use the **Moodle** platform and **16** use the **Classroom** platform, making a total of 1,144 students enrolled and attending academic activities in the different virtual classrooms with full normalcy. The evaluation strategies applied by each of the curricular units represent more than 70% of the strategies applied, without major difficulties.

2.3 These data reflect the continuous training of regular students (undergraduate) of the Institute in the different fields of expertise, as well as the continuous updating and training of the technical personnel working in air navigation services and the security area, through the implementation of an open, synchronous and asynchronous plan for updating work competencies.

2.4 Regarding the achievement of the goals established for the continuity of the academic offer, it is worth mentioning the great effort of adaptation and shared responsibility of the Institute's teaching staff, students and management teams in carrying out academic activities and facilitating support, as well as the digital infrastructure necessary to operate under the remote modality.

2.5 Starting on 25 October, as established by the national Executive, a new academic process has begun in a semi-attendance mode, in small groups, where a higher percentage of students will be allowed to be present for practical classes, without neglecting all the biosafety protocols, aimed at a gradual return to the classrooms.

3. Suggested action

The Meeting is invited to:

- a) take note of the action taken by the IUAC in order to give continuity to the academic development of the aeronautical technical and teaching staff, in times of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- b) continue to support the ICAO NGAP Programme, based on the participation of the new generations of aeronautical professionals in the "University at Home" plan in order to continue enhancing their academic and professional profile during the contingency.

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