

Message from ICAO Eastern and Southern African (ESAF) Office on COVID-19



Like many other Regions globally, all States accredited to the ESAF Regional Office have reported cases of COVID-19 since declaration of the pandemic on 8 April 2020. With the initial transmission being mainly through air travel, ICAO has endeavored to provide assistance and leadership as mandated in guiding all stakeholders and partners to share and access information related to the spread of the Coronavirus in the Region and beyond.

Barry Kashambo – Regional Director

The virtual meeting of Director Generals of Civil Aviation held on 15 March 2020, recommended the establishment of a continental framework under the auspices of AU and coordinated by AFCAC, to monitor the spread of the virus, and most importantly, systematically lead activities towards an all-encompassing sustainable and strong recovery strategy of the aviation industry in Africa.

As part of guidance to operation measures to mitigate COVID-19, ICAO has issued State letters to be implemented by all States for a harmonized approach to safe procedure during this challenging period.

At Regional level, strong collaboration and cooperation with other organizations such as IATA, AFCAC, AFRAA, WHO and Africa CDC has resulted in seamless sharing of information, conduct of joint training activities, and discussion of matters of mutual interest related to the COVID-19. ESAF Office is also a member of several teams including the High-level Task Force (HLTF) post-COVID-19 Recovery Strategy for the African Aviation Industry; ICAO Secretariat COVID-19 Emergency programme Group (SCEPG), WHO/ICAO CAPSCA technical working group etc.

In light of the numerous restrictions imposed by States, ESAF Office in collaboration with the ICAO WACAF, MID and EUR/NAT Regional Offices continues to provide guidance and advise to stakeholders and aviation industry partners.

As a member of the Senior Management Team (SMT) and Crisis Management Team (CMT) for UN fraternity in Nairobi, we have provided shared information as necessary especially as related to aviation. In compliance with the activated Regional Office's Business Continuity Plan (BCP) and in line the procedures of the UNON/Kenya disaster Emergency phase, the Regional Office is exercising working from home processes except for critical staff until further notice. However, the RO is able to provide and receive services with all internal or external clients.