



ICAO

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

Eighth Meeting of the Africa-Indian Ocean Regional Aviation Safety Group (RASG-AFI/8)

7 - 11 November 2022

Agenda Item 3: 3.3. Other Safety Initiatives

Establishment of a Regional CAPSCA Management

(Presented South Africa)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The advancement in technology, globalization, global warming and other factors contribute to a number of Public Health Events of International Concern, and with ultra-long flights communicable diseases can spread from one continent to the other within 24-hours.

The aim of the CAPSCA Programme is to mitigate the risk of Public Health Events (communicable diseases, radiation and chemical accidents) at a population level, on board an aircraft (protect crew and passengers) and the financial implications of an outbreak.

This working paper supports the ICAO Mutual Agreements relating to the CAPSCA Programme and will hopefully ensure that the response to future Public Health Emergencies in the aviation and health sector will be timely, robust, coordinated (nationally & internationally) and harmonized

<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compliance to ICAO Annexes and WHO International Regulations (2005) 2. Harmonized regulations and training of the CAPSCA Programme 3. Sharing of information and inspectors 4. Mutual Agreements among States relating to Public Health Measures
<i>Financial implications:</i>	None, but not know till ICAO indicates/provide framework to the state on promotion and enhancement of the sharing and exchange of safety data and information.
<i>References:</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ICAO Manual on COVID-19 Cross-border Risk Management: Doc10152 2. ICAO Council Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART) 3rd Edition 3. ICAO Assembly Resolution A39-14 4. Africa CAPSCA Meeting Conclusion 2022. 5. EASA Return to service of aircraft after storage: Guidelines in relation to the COVID-19 Pandemic 6. ICAO CART III 7. Others

1. INTRODUCTION

The aim of the CAPSCA Programme is to mitigate the risk of Public Health Events (communicable diseases, radiation and chemical accidents) at a population level, on-board an aircraft (protect crew and passengers) and the financial implications of an outbreak.

The medical standards and recommended practices for the CAPSCA Programme are prescribed under Annexes 6; 9; & 11; (PANS ATM), 14; & 18; and supported by ICAO Article 14; of the International Convention promulgated in the nineteen forties;

Although ICAO introduced the CAPSCA Programme to Africa since 2007; in Gabon and the SARPS relating to Public Health forms part of the ICAO audit. Despite a number of African CAPSCA meetings held in the various regions of the African continent, the Programme received limited recognition and support from the various African aviation and health platforms until the COVID-19 Pandemic, which resulted with the response being reactive, in a panic mode and not harmonized.

Africa aviation and health platforms ignored the CAPSCA Programme despite several outbreaks unique to the continent such as Ebola, Plague and others, which highlighted the continent as a high risk with limited public health resources to ensure business continuity;

The lack of the implementation of the WHO Health Regulations (2005) and the CAPSCA Programme worsen the response to public health systems in Africa which have limited resources such as laboratory capacities impacting accurate statistics of mortality and morbidity due to communicable diseases, genetic sequencing, trained health specialist, research and many others

The COVID-19; Pandemic, outbreak of Ebola in East/Central Africa, previous Ebola outbreak in West Africa, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, Zika in South America, Plague in Madagascar among others highlighted the importance of the ICAO-WHO Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA).

The implementation of the Public Health Corridor and Regional Safety Oversight System will strengthen the CAPSCA Programme and will hopefully ensure that future Public Health Emergencies in the Aviation and Health sector's response to the threat of a possible pandemic/public health has to be timely, robust, coordinated (nationally & internationally) and harmonized;

2 Discussion

How do we ensure the following recommendations of the Public Health Corridor are achieved in the AFI Region?

1. Establishment of sub-regional and regional aviation safety and safety oversight bodies in the CAPSCA Programme as it will strengthen cross-border health risks, for example, exchange of information through PHCs will enable States to mutually recognize their respective public health risk management frameworks and to establish temporary and exceptional bilateral or multilateral arrangements within which air travel can be resumed.
2. That the ICAO CAPSCA Programme Public Health Corridor concept is aligned to the ICAO Assembly Resolution A39-14; which recognizes the establishment of Sub-regional and Regional Aviation Safety and Safety Oversight Bodies, including Regional Safety Oversight Organizations (RSOOs)
3. That States in complying with their obligations under the Chicago Convention through economies of scale and harmonization on a larger scale resulting from the collaboration among Member States in establishing and operating a common Safety Oversight System;

4. That African States support the establishment of the targeted assistance in the ICAO Implementation Package (iPack) relating to Public Health Corridors which ICAO has developed and the PHC template on the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Implementation Centre (CRRIC) that enables States to actively share information and a new application (PHC App) featuring the PHC arrangement template and online builder to facilitate discussions between two or more States and/or a region which include amongst others Public Health Corridor
5. That Member States ICAO developed the “Establishing a PHC” Implementation Package (iPack), which expands on existing guidance, provides access to certificated training courses, as well as a practical hands-on workshop updated regularly with the latest scientific evidence and lessons learned. It also includes dedicated subject matter experts to work remotely with States and industry partners
6. That African States support the initiative from WHO, Africa CDC and collaboration at a regional level with ICAO be implemented at a State Level;
7. That African States consider other Public Health Emergencies of International Concerns such as radiation accident similar to Fukushima, Daichi, which took place in Japan and chemical accidents. South Africa has signed an MOU with the National Nuclear Regulator in preparation for public health relating to radiation accidents, consideration should be taken based on the impact of the current war in Russia where nuclear has been mentioned as possible use of warfare;

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

The Meeting is invited to:

Provide guidance to the States on how the above recommendations can be achieved by the AFI Region to help improve our response to future Pandemics i.e. responding in a timely, robust, coordinated and harmonized fashion.