



DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION-MIDDLE EAST REGION

Third Meeting (DGCA-MID/3) (Doha, Qatar, 27-29 April 2015)

Agenda Item 5: Aviation Safety

COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENT FOR THE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH EVENTS IN CIVIL AVIATION (CAPSCA)

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper provides an overview on the ICAO Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA) programme. It also highlights the current status of CAPSCA-MID project and the outcome of the (CAPSCA-MID/4) and (CAPSCA Global/5) Meeting which was held in Cairo, Egypt, from 17 to 20 November 2014.

Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The ICAO Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA) project was initiated in 2006 with a focus on preventing and managing the spread of communicable diseases by air travel. It assists States to implement public health-related amendments to the ICAO Annexes, which in turn are based on the World Health Organization International Health Regulations (2005).

1.2 The main objective of CAPSCA programme is to bring to the attention of participants the importance of the joint efforts by States and international organizations involved in the framework of the CAPSCA project, as well as to coordinate and harmonize this activity in the ICAO MID Region and globally.

1.3 CAPSCA is the only ICAO programme that brings different sectors together in a formalized and routine manner. It helps aviation and Public Health partnerships to be developed and improves generic preparedness plans. Good planning will save lives and mitigate financial losses in the event of a future public health emergency.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Air travel is the primary transportation mode of the spread of communicable diseases such as SARS and Influenza H1N1. Public health emergencies of international concern (PHEIC) of this type can occur in any part of the world and spread rapidly across the globe with no respect to boundaries or borders. The aviation sector is also the first to be financially affected by health concerns.

2.2 The World Health Organization's International Health Regulations (WHO IHR 2005) came into force in June 2007 and they include many references to airports and aircrafts. The main challenge facing the aviation sector is to bring together the various organizations that need to be involved in preparedness planning in the aviation sector to ensure that the response to a serious public health risk is effective and proportionate to the risk.

2.3 After the impact on air travel from the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), ICAO strengthened its support of Article 14, Prevention of Spread of Disease to the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Doc 7300). The emerging threat from pandemic influenza in 2005 further focused efforts in this area and the (CAPSCA) project was commenced by ICAO in Asia, in September 2006. Subsequently, CAPSCA started in Africa (2007) and the Americas (2009). The First CAPSCA Workshop/Meeting in the Middle East (CAPSCA-MID/1) was held from 11 to 15 December 2011 at the ICAO MID Regional Office in Cairo, Egypt.

2.4 CAPSCA is meant to be an ICAO technical assistance programme to support States, ANSPs, airport and aircraft operators' implementation of the public health related SARPs in Annexes 6, 9, 11, 14, PANS-ATM (Doc. 4444) and Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air (Doc 9284), and requires no financial contribution from States to participate and benefit. In 2013, the revised ICAO USOAP Safety Audit Protocol Questions incorporated the public health related SARPs.

2.5 The programme provides meetings, training events and assistance visits to States and international airports which strengthen public health preparedness plans at global, regional and national levels. It is managed by ICAO, in close collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and 12 other UN Agency and Aviation International Organization partners, including ACI and IATA, in order to assist States to implement public health-related amendments to the ICAO Annexes, which in turn are based on the WHO International Health Regulations (IHR 2005). Such a multi-sector approach is fundamental to achieving effective communication, coordination, cooperation and collaboration between the main stakeholders, especially the civil aviation and public health sectors, at global, regional, national and local levels.

2.6 CAPSCA is currently operating in all Regions (Europe, Asia Pacific, Africa, the Americas and the Middle East). The project is managed by ICAO, in close collaboration with the World Health Organization, and additional partners including Airports Council International (ACI) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

2.7 The meeting may wish to note that 107 States have joined CAPSCA out of 191 ICAO Member States and 58 visits were conducted. In the MID Region, eleven (11) out of the fifteen States (Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Sudan) joined the CAPSCA programme and so far, four (4) Assistance Visits have been conducted to Jordan, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and Sudan.

2.8 The Fourteenth Meeting of the Middle East Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Group (MIDANPIRG/14) reviewed CAPSCA MID Regional Project status and recognized the need for all MID States to join and support the CAPSCA-MID project and benefit from the Assistance Visits. Accordingly, MIDANPIRG/14 agreed through Conclusion 14/1 to urge MID States that have not yet done so, join the CAPSCA-MID Project, request a CAPSCA State and Airport Assistance Visit, and provide voluntary contributions to the CAPSCA-MID project.

2.9 The Fourth CAPSCA Middle East Regional Meeting (CAPSCA-MID/4) and the Fifth CAPSCA Global Coordination Meeting (CAPSCA GLOBAL/5) were hosted by the Ministry of Civil Aviation of Egypt from 17 to 20 November 2014 at Le Meridien Cairo Airport Hotel in Cairo, Egypt. The meeting was attended by a total of one hundred and thirteen (113) participants from twenty five (25) States (Brazil, China, Cote D'Ivoire, Egypt, France, Georgia, Germany, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Netherlands, Oman, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Guinea, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda and United States) and six (6) International Organizations (WHO, IATA, Eurocontrol, CDC, AIRSAN, and MedAire).

2.10 The CAPSCA-MID/4 and CAPSCA Global/5 meeting developed 24 Conclusions aiming at a continuous support from States and concerned Stakeholders to implement the CAPSCA objectives. The recent outbreak of Ebola Virus disease (EVD) was one of the main topics discussed and highlighted by the meeting.

2.11 The meeting recommended that States implement core capacities and WHO temporary Recommendations during a PHEIC (e.g. EBOLA), and report progress periodically to WHO in accordance with the IHR (2005). In addition, the meeting encouraged States to: join CAPSCA, if not yet members; request Assistance Visits to State and Airport, if not yet received; provide officers to be trained as Technical Advisors, if desired; consider offering to host a regional meeting; and consider contributing voluntary funds to CAPSCA. The meeting summary report including the list of Conclusions is available on the following link: www.icao.int/MID/Pages/capsca-mid.aspx.

2.12 State Letter Ref.: AN 5/25-15-14 date 27 February 2015 has been issued by ICAO to invite States and Organization to participate in the Global Symposium of (CAPSCA) programme which will be convened by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) from 28 to 30 April 2015, at the ICAO Headquarters in Montréal, Canada.

2.13 Further details on the CAPSCA programme are available on the ICAO MID website at: www.icao.int/MID/Pages/capsca-mid.aspx and the CAPSCA website: www.capsca.org.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to urge MID States, that have not yet done so, to:

- a) join the CAPSCA-MID Project and request Assistance Visit; and
- b) support and provide voluntary contributions to the CAPSCA-MID project.