



International Civil Aviation Organization

**Summary of Discussion
Second DGCA-MID Virtual Meeting**

(18 June 2020, 11:00 - 14:00 UTC)

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Attendance

1.1 The Second DGCA-MID Virtual Meeting was successfully held on Thursday 18 June 2020 from 11:00 to 14:00 UTC using ZOOM facility. The meeting was attended by a total of eighty-four (84) participants from fourteen (14) States (Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, UAE, UK and Yemen) and seven (7) Organizations (AACO, ACAO, ACI, IATA, IFATCA, IFALPA, and ICAO). The list of participants is at **Attachment 1**.

Agenda and Documentation

1.2 The Agenda for the meeting included the followings:

- Welcome and Introduction;
- Global, Regional and National developments related to COVID-19;
- Briefing from ICAO (CART Report, Guidance Material, State Letters, COVID-19 response and recovery platform, CAPSCA, MID COVID-19 web page, etc.);
- Outcome of the MID RPTF;
- Briefing from States (Restart/Recovery Plan, Resumption of operations (domestic & International Flights), airport operability, etc.);
- Industry views and proposals;
- Round Table Discussion (CART implementation, developments, challenges, plans, way forward, etc); and
- AOB and Closing

1.3 The virtual meeting's materials including, presentations and the Summary of Discussion are available at: <https://www.icao.int/MID/Pages/DGCA-MID-Conf.aspx>

Opening

1.4 Mr. Mohamed Smaoui, the Acting Regional Director, ICAO MID Office, welcomed all participants and thanked them for accepting the invitation to join the Second DGCA-MID Virtual Meeting. He welcomed and expressed sincere appreciation to H.E. Eng. Saud A.R. Hashem, Representative of Saudi Arabia on the Council of ICAO and First Vice-President of the ICAO Council, as well as H.E. Eng. Angie A. Mostafa and H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Elhassan, Representatives of Egypt and Sudan on the Council, respectively, for their participation. Mr. Smaoui thanked also Mr. Stephen Creamer, Director Air Navigation Bureau, ICAO HQ, and Mr. Mohamed Rahma, Director Air Transport Bureau, ICAO HQ for their participation and continuous support.

1.5 H.E. Eng. Saud A.R. Hashem, Representative of Saudi Arabia on the Council of ICAO and First Vice-President of the ICAO Council, delivered opening remarks on behalf of H.E. Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano President of the ICAO Council, wishing the meeting all success in finding the best way in collaboration with all Stakeholders in implementing the CART recommendations in order to restore the civil aviation sector in the MID Region.

Remarks by the Secretary General of ICAO, H.E. Dr. Fang Liu

1.6 The meeting was honored by the participation of H.E. Dr. Fang Liu, ICAO Secretary General, who provided guiding remarks to the meeting. Dr. Liu commended the MID Region on the high level commitment and collaborative approach, and the MID Office for reaching out to all MID States, and for providing timely updates, support and guidance as part of ICAO's ongoing strategy to respond to and recover from the crisis. Dr. Liu highlighted the main purpose of the CART Report and the associated Take-off Guidance Document and underlined that they should be considered as the reference for a harmonized restart and recovery of the air transport system; and efforts should be put towards the implementation of CART.

1.7 In this respect, she highlighted the regional efforts exerted by the ICAO MID Office, in coordination and collaboration with all stakeholders, to promote the implementation of CART and provide necessary assistance to States for a harmonized and smooth restart and recovery of the aviation system. She commended in this respect the work of the MID Region Recovery Plan Task Force (RPTF).

1.8 In closing, Dr. Liu requested States to continue interaction with the ICAO MID Office for a harmonized implementation of the CART Recommendations and Guidance and for reporting on the measures taken using the COVID-19 Restart and Recovery Implementation Centre (CRRIC). Dr. Liu ended her remarks with a call to Donor States and Organizations for voluntary contributions to support the MID States facing financial problems to implement necessary measures related to COVID-19.

2. DISCUSSIONS

2.1 Mr. Smaoui, the Acting Regional Director, ICAO MID Office delivered a presentation covering the latest developments related to COVID-19 at global and regional levels. He highlighted the key principles and recommendations of the CART Report and the role of the ICAO MID Office, in coordination with all stakeholders, in ensuring a well-coordinated and harmonized implementation of the measures to support the restart and recovery of the aviation system in the MID Region.

2.2 Mr. Smaoui recalled the main outcomes of the First DGCA-MID Virtual Meeting held on 23 April 2020 including identified challenges and agreed actions, and underlined that the second DGCA-MID Virtual meeting is organized mainly to share information about CART implementation-related issues and plans as well as the ICAO existing and future assistance programme and tools. In this respect, he provided a short briefing on the CART Global Implementation Roadmap and the implementation support tools, in particular, the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Implementation Centre (CRRIC).

2.3 The meeting was updated on the measures taken at regional level, which were coordinated in collaborative manner with all stakeholders, including but not limited to:

- ICAO MID Office continuous support and communication with the 15 MID States, providing updates and assistance for restart and recovery phases, and collecting necessary information for monitoring purpose and sharing of best practices;
- coordination with WFP and with States to facilitate the Humanitarian flights (UNHAS) managed by (WFP);
- posting information and daily update on the ICAO MID COVID-19 webpage: www.icao.int/MID/Pages/COVID19/COVID19.aspx
- close coordination with International/Regional Organizations and with the Chairpersons of MIDANPIRG, RASG-MID and MID-RASFG;
- regular Teleconferences with the Heads of Organizations (AACO, ACAO, IATA and ICAO MID);
- organizing a joint webinar with UAE GCAA: "Collectively Designing the Future of ATM Post COVID – 19" (15-16 June 2020);
- two DGCA-MID Virtual Meetings (23 April 2020 and 18 June 2020); and
- organizing the MID CART Webinar back-to-back with the Second DGCA-MID Virtual Meeting on 18 June 2020.

2.4 In the same vein, the meeting commended the work of the MID Region Recovery Plan Task Force (RPTF), which was established to monitor global restart and recovery developments and ensure the harmonization, and where necessary regional customization, of the implementation of these global developments at the Regional level. It was highlighted, in particular, that four (4) technical work streams have been established under the RPTF: 1- Public Health Requirements; 2- Operational Safety Measures; 3- Airport & Passenger Facilitation; and 4- ANS/ATM; and that a platform was created on the ICAO MID website to be used as a repository containing available guidance material from ICAO, States and other International Organizations organized by technical streams:

<https://www.icao.int/MID/Pages/RPTF/MIDRPTF.aspx>

2.5 On behalf of AACO, ACAO and IATA, Mr. Abdul Wahab Teffaha, AACO's Secretary General delivered a joint presentation proposing a set of recommendations including a phased approach to restarting aviation in line with CART guidelines, risk-based measures, utilizing technology for mitigation of transmission risk. He highlighted the measures to be avoided, such as rigorous and unclear measures that do not provide added protection and which could be hard to comply with, and burdening the industry with additional charges/fees.

2.6 The meeting received with appreciation the presentations delivered by:

- H.E. Capt. Haitham Misto, CEO/ Chief Commissioner – CARC-Jordan;
- Mr. Abdulaziz Aldahmash, General Manager Quality and Customer Protection, GACA-Saudi Arabia; and
- Mr. Ismaeil Mohammed Al Blooshi, Assistant Director General Aviation Safety Affairs Sector, GCAA-UAE.

Through the presentations, the meeting was apprised of Jordan, Saudi Arabia and UAE strategies and best practices in addressing the challenges and the recovery, restart and resumption activities.

2.7 With respect to CART implementation, and as part of the ICAO Implementation Support activities, the meeting received with appreciation a presentation by Mr. Hatem Oueslati, Field Project Officer, ICAO Technical Cooperation Bureau, on the COVID-19 Implementation Packages (I-Packs), which highlighted, in particular, the objectives and structure of the first two (2) I-Packs: 1- *Strengthening National Air Transport Facilitation Committees for the Re-start and Resilience of Civil Aviation*; and 2- *Aviation Safety Risk Management related to COVID-19 for CAAs*.

2.8 The meeting was apprised of the status of MID States' readiness for restart and recovery based; on information collected by the ICAO MID Office and MID RPTF.

2.9 After the presentations, a round table discussion took place to address the following questions/subjects:

- What are the challenges of States vis-à-vis the restart of commercial air transport and what support may be required during the coming period from all stakeholders based on the CART Recommendations, taking into consideration the work being progressed by the MID RPTF?
- Besides the CART recommendations and guidance, what measures do you recommend or demand for the recovery phase and to support the industry taking into consideration also that ANSPs are not covered by the CART recommendations?
- How can States foster the implementation of CART recommendations and guidance in a harmonized manner?

2.10 The round table discussion provided an opportunity to all States to share information about their plans with regard to the implementation of CART recommendations and guidance; and the challenges they are facing for the resumption of the commercial international flights, in particular. In this respect, the industry representatives, namely, AACO and IATA, recalled the discussion which took place during the MID CART Webinar; and re-iterated that the quarantine and testing measures represent the main challenges for the resumption of operations by the industry. There was a consensus that the quarantine and testing measures represent the main impediments for the restart of operations; however, it was highlighted that these measures are not taken at the level of the Civil Aviation Authorities but generally imposed by the Governments based on the recommendations by their Ministries of Health.

2.11 The meeting agreed that it is very important for ICAO and all stakeholders to continue working collaboratively towards a gradual reinstate of full scale operations in a sustainable, safe, secure and orderly manner, as soon as practicable. In this respect, it was agreed that the MID RPTF should continue to be used as the regional forum to develop and support the implementation of a tailored MID Region Implementation Roadmap, which is consistent with the CART framework and its Global Implementation Roadmap, while addressing the Region's specific priorities.

3. CLOSING

3.1 In closing, the Acting Regional Director of the ICAO MID Office, provided a summary of the highlights and key takeaways from the Second DGCA-MID Virtual meeting, as follows:

- total consensus that the CART Report and Take-off Guidance should be used as the framework and reference for a harmonized restart and recovery of the aviation system;
- agreement on and appreciation of the ICAO leadership role in this unprecedented crisis;
- the meeting provided an excellent forum to share information about States' measures and plans related to the resumption of operations, as well as the industry views on the main impediments for the restart and recovery of the aviation system;
- gaining passenger confidence to fly again is very important to reap the intended benefits;
- need to follow a layered and risk-based approach in accordance with the CART guidelines;
- consider flexibility of national guidelines as health facts and resources become gradually more available;
- States and industry to invest in Technology to encourage a touchless process that mitigates transmission risk, and to enhance travel facilitation in the time of social distancing;
- avoid implementation of unnecessary measures that would create undue burden and complications, and would jeopardize or at least delay the restart of operations; and most importantly avoid any measure, which could compromise the safety and security of civil aviation as well as the health of travelers.

3.2 H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Elhassan, Representative of Sudan on the Council, commended the ICAO MID Office for the successful organization of this important meeting in excellent timing. He highlighted that some States with specific challenges, such as Sudan will indeed benefit from the outcomes of this meeting including the gradual approach. In this respect, he invited ACAO to focus on enhancing the political commandment between States during this crisis, which is an essential factor for a successful restart and resumption.

3.3 Mr. Smaoui recalled at the end Dr. Liu's statement "*We remain extremely grateful for the commitments and achievements of our Member States during this period, and please accept my steadfast assurance that we will be a partner you can rely on in all civil aviation matters in the exciting decades ahead*". He reiterated that ICAO remains extremely grateful for the commitments and achievements of Member States during this period; and thanked all States, International and Regional Organizations for their participation and excellent collaboration.

DGCA-MID VIRTUAL MEETING
18 JUNE 2020, 11:00 TO 14:00 UTC

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