



International Civil Aviation Organization

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

(3 June 2021, 10:30 - 14:30 UTC)

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Attendance

1.1 The Fourth DGCA-MID Virtual Meeting was successfully held on Thursday, 3 June 2021 from 10:30 to 14:30 UTC. The meeting was attended by a total of one hundred sixty (160) participants, from seventeen (17) States (Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, UAE, USA and Yemen) and ten (10) Organizations, (AACO, ACAO, ACI, AFCAC, CASP-MID, IATA, IFALPA, IFATCA, UNEC, and ICAO). The list of participants is at **Attachment 1**.

Agenda and Documentation

1.2 The following Agenda was proposed and approved:

Agenda Item 1- Welcome & Introduction

Agenda Item 2- Global Developments related to COVID-19

Agenda Item 3- Regional Developments related to COVID-19

Agenda Item 4- Roundtable Discussion

Agenda Item 5- ICAO MID Office Priorities and Work Programme for 2021

Agenda Item 6- AOB and Closing Remarks

1.3 The virtual meeting's materials including, presentations, working papers and the Summary of Discussion are available at <https://www.icao.int/MID/Pages/DGCA-MID/DGCA-MID-virtual-4.aspx>

Opening

1.4 Mr. Mohamed Smaoui, the Acting Regional Director, ICAO MID Office, welcomed all participants to the Fourth DGCA-MID Virtual Meeting. He thanked everyone for attendance and continuous support. Mr. Smaoui introduced H.E. Dr. Fang Liu, the ICAO Secretary General to officially open the meeting.

1.5 H.E. Dr. Fang Liu, the ICAO Secretary General opened the meeting by welcoming States' Officials and all participants. Dr. Liu recalled that health, safety, security, and sustainability are the key drivers of regional and global aviation recovery. She highlighted that following the emergence of new virus variants, vaccine rollouts, and other innovations to battle COVID-19, the work of the CART is targeting specific issues related to States' multilayer risk management strategies, with the ultimate objective of restoring public confidence in air travel and getting passengers to fly again. She mentioned, in particular, that CART Phase III supports the creation of public health travel corridors, safe and efficient global vaccine distribution, the facilitation of all-cargo air services, and standardized COVID-19 testing certificates for secure international use. Dr. Liu underlined latest Phase III adjustments have been strategized under (3) three key areas of coordination priority, as follow:

- 1) establishment of national and regional risk management strategies to gradually open air routes based on mutually-recognized public health measures;

- 2) possibly profound long-term implications for traditional air transport business models and operations post-pandemic; and
- 3) how we continue learning together from COVID-19, as well as how we use that knowledge to improve overall air transport crisis preparedness, enhance the sector's overall economic and environmental sustainability, and achieve smarter operations.

1.6 H.E. Dr. Fang Liu, informed the meeting that the issues she just highlighted would be at the forefront of discussions at the High-Level Conference on COVID-19 (HLCC) which ICAO is convening in October 2021. She concluded by expressing her tremendous gratitude for the support provided by the MID States throughout the past six (6) years of her tenure as ICAO Secretary General, and acknowledged the historic and ongoing contributions of MID States to international civil aviation.

1.7 Participants from States were introduced briefly by the Heads of Delegations.

1.8 It is to be noted that it was planned to conduct the meeting in English and Arabic using the Zoom application; however a serious incident happened at the opening of the meeting. The Zoom application went down in all of Egypt. The unfortunate situation caused a major disruption to the meeting and prevented the use of the (already paid for) interpretation services (English to Arabic and vice-versa). The crisis was well managed in a record time, an alternate MS Teams invitation/link was issued and all participants managed to join within a 20-30 minute buffer. Accordingly, the meeting was conducted in English only.

2. DISCUSSIONS

Global Developments related to COVID-19

2.1 The subject was addressed through a presentation by ICAO HQ. Mr. Mohamed Rahma, Director of the Air Transport Bureau (D/ATB), provided an overview of the civil aviation post COVID-19 pandemic highlighting CART Phase III Outcomes and Recommendations. Mr. Rahma was supported by the following subject matter experts from ICAO HQ who provided necessary updates on the CART Phase III Recommendations, as follows:

- Dr. Johanna Jordaan, Chief, Aviation Medicine Section, ANB/SAF/MED provided an update on the 3rd Edition of the TOGD and 2nd Edition of the Manual on Testing and Cross Border Risk Management Measures; as well as on Recommendation 14 (Revised) on Public Health Corridors; and Recommendations 18 and 19 on Vaccination.
- Mr. Miguel Marin, Chief, Operational Safety Section, ANB/SAF/OPS provided an update on Recommendation 12 (Revised) – Aviation Safety related measures, with an emphasis on the Transition from CCRD to TEs.
- Dr. Katherine Rooney, Chief, Cargo Safety Section, ANB/SAF/CSS provided an update on Recommendation 15- safe Transport of Cargo.
- Mr. Cortney Robinson, Air Transport Officer (Air Cargo), ATB/ECD/ERF, provided an update on Recommendation 16 - Facilitating Air Cargo Movement. In this respect, the meeting encouraged States to actively participate in the Regional 7th Freedom Webinar (6 July 2021) dedicated to the implementation of CART Recommendation 16 and share their experiences, best practices and challenges.
- Mr. Ciaran Carolan, Programme Officer, Public Key Directory, ATB/ASF/FAL provided updates on Recommendation 17-Testing Certificates, including the ICAO Visible Digital Seal (VDS) specifications for testing and vaccination certificates.
- Mr. Hatem Oueslati, Field Operations Officer, TCB/FOS/AME provided an update on the ICAO assistance to States through the deployment of iPacks.

2.2 Mr. Rahma highlighted the objective and Structure of the High Level COVID-19 Conference, which will be organized from 12 to 22 October 2021 on Virtual or Hybrid basis. The aim of the Conference is to reach a global consensus on a multilateral approach, supported by political will and commitments of States, to enable the safe and efficient recovery of aviation from the COVID-19 crisis, and to build a foundation to strengthen resilience in aviation and make it more sustainable in the future.

2.3 Dr. Kalil M. Khalil, Head of Aviation Medicine Department, CARC-Jordan and Chairman of CAPSCA-MID provided a brief update on the Task Force on Health Issues Outbreaks in Aviation (TF-HIOA).

Regional Developments related to COVID-19

Regional Status

2.4 Mr. Smaoui, the Acting Regional Director, ICAO MID Office delivered a presentation covering the latest developments related to COVID-19 at the regional level, including the follow-up on the Conclusions of the 3rd DGCA-MID Virtual Meeting, Regional Implementation Status of CART Recommendations (Phase I, II & III), resumption of flights, passengers and flight restrictions, COVID-19 PCR test certificate, mandatory quarantine, recognition of vaccination certificates, the Disease Translocation Risk Level (DTRL).

MID Region Recovery Plan Task Force (MID RPTF)

2.5 Mr. Smaoui, recalled that the MID-RPTF was established by the 1st DGCA-MID Virtual Meeting held on 23 April 2020, to serve as a platform for coordination and cooperation amongst all stakeholders to support the recovery of the aviation industry in the Middle East Region.

2.6 In order for the MID-RPTF to provide support and targeted assistance to States in line with the MID CART Implementation Plan, would allow sharing of information about common challenges and best practices related to the implementation of CART recommendations and measures and avoid duplication of efforts, the 21st MID RPTF meeting proposed to include the States CRRIC Focal Points and States Representatives in the MID RPTF membership and agreed to amend the MID RPTF Terms of Reference (TORs). The meeting supported the updated MID RPTF TORs at **Appendix A**, which was finalized by the 22nd MID RPTF virtual meeting, and encouraged States and Stakeholders to support the MID RPTF activities. Accordingly, the meeting agreed to the following Conclusion:

VIRTUAL DGCA-MID CONCLUSION 4/1 –MID RPTF TORs

*That, the MID RPTF TORs be updated as at **Appendix A**.*

2.7 The meeting was provided with a brief update on the MID-RPTF and ICAO MID Office activities in support of CART implementation.

Webinar on Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Aviation

2.8 The meeting was apprised of the outcomes of the Webinar on Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Aviation, which was successfully held from 5 to 6 April 2021. It was highlighted that the main objective was to address the economic impact of COVID-19 on aviation, as well as other subjects, which have a direct or indirect economic impact on aviation, such as the implementation of quarantine measures, testing and testing certificates, vaccines and vaccine certificates, air cargo and transportation of vaccines, etc.

2.9 The meeting supported the Recommendations emanating from the Webinar, and agreed to the following Conclusion:

VIRTUAL DGCA-MID CONCLUSION 4/2 – WEBINAR ON ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON AVIATION

That, States and stakeholders are encouraged to implement the Recommendations emanating from the Webinar on Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Aviation at Appendix B.

MID Air Connectivity

2.10 Mr. Kamil Al-Awadhi, IATA Regional Vice President Africa & Middle East, briefed the meeting on the Air Connectivity in the MID Region and he highlighted in particular that quarantine measures kill the demand and the boarder restrictions limit the recovery. It was underlined also that it is essential to have Complete, Timely, Accurate, Consistent information without any ambiguities for ALL information data users (Operational Personnel, Ground Staff / Check-in and Travelling Public).

2.11 IATA proposed the followings:

- implement testing and vaccine as an acceptable alternative to quarantine;
- exempt passengers from testing upon arrival & quarantine if vaccinated;
- States to adopt digital process for COVID testing & vaccination certification;
- crew to be treated as essential staff with testing & quarantine measures alleviated;
- support restart through efficient and sustainable operations; and
- slot relief for winter 2021/22 season.

COVID-19 Challenges in the MID Region

2.12 The meeting identified the following common challenges/difficulties:

- need for harmonization of precautionary measures to facilitate air transport restart;
- fake COVID-19 PCR Test Certificates;
- mutual recognition of COVID-19 Test and Vaccine Certificates;
- economic and financial support to the Civil Aviation Sector, to meet air transport operational requirements and support the aviation system recovery;
- cooperation between States to ensure the availability and distribution of vaccines;
- coordination between the Health and Aviation Authorities and active participation of CAAs in the decision making process at the National level; and
- unprecedented operational challenge for airports due to space constrained facilities (physical distancing) and potential multiple and diverse COVID-19 checks.

Roundtable Discussion

IATA Travel Pass

2.13 IATA updated the meeting on the IATA Travel Pass developments and status including the high-level data privacy and security.

Advancements in Air Cargo Connectivity

2.14 Mr. Courtney Robinson, Air Transport Officer (Air Cargo), ATB/ICAO HQ, provided an update on Advancements in Air Cargo Connectivity. It was highlighted that Air Cargo services are a key component of global supply chains, offering fast and reliable transport of high-value goods, including vaccines and medical equipment. However, the pace of digitalization has been slow compared to other modes.

2.15 In connection with the above, the meeting noted that the objective of the ICAO-UNECE collaboration is to develop multimodal standards for information exchange across the supply chain as

part of the UN Development Account (UNDA) Transport and Trade Connectivity in the Age of Pandemics project, which represents an integrated approach to transport policy, encompassing air cargo and mail supply chains. The meeting encouraged States to consider participation in pilot implementation (e.g., digital cargo corridors) of the new United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) deliverables and actively participate in the upcoming engagements to keep abreast of relevant developments including the ICAO Middle East Region Webinar - *Air Cargo Digitalization in COVID-19 Times* scheduled for 25 August 2021.

Regional Approach to the Normalization of Air Transport

2.16 The subject was addressed in WP/3 presented by Capt. Khalid Humaid Al Ali, from UAE and WP/4 submitted by the Arab Civil Aviation Organization (ACAO) and the Arab Air Carriers Organization (AACO), and presented by Eng. Manar Abdennebi, Director General of ACAO.

2.17 In their WP, UAE raised serious concerns regarding the slow pace of the normalization of the operations of international air transport operations, despite the recommendations from the ICAO CART and the resolutions issued by the Ministerial meetings of the Arab Executive Councils for Tourism, Health and Transport. An update on the barriers to normalization of Air Travel in the ICAO-MID Region was provided. The meeting supported the UAE's proposal to develop a Regional Approach to the Normalization of Air Transport.

2.18 In WP/4, AACO and ACAO recommended the following:

- a) In light of the recent decisions of the Arab Health Ministers Council, we see the importance of recommending to the Health Ministers to include in the Arab Strategy, that is being developed, the mutual recognition of vaccine certificates among Countries that are ready. In addition, on the bilateral level, to recommend to the Health Ministers to start opening talks with other Countries for the mutual recognition of vaccine certifications.
- b) Given that the European Union has announced its readiness to receive travelers from non-EU Countries who were vaccinated under certain conditions, it is useful to coordinate with the Health Ministers to open talks with the European Union for the purpose of reaching a solution for the mutual recognition of vaccine certificates, especially given the fact that passenger numbers between the latter and the member States of the Arab Civil Aviation Organization reached 110 million passengers in 2019. In this regard, we also consider it necessary to include the opening of talks with the European Union for the mutual recognition of vaccines within the aforementioned Arab strategy.
- c) Emphasizing to Health Ministers that public health corridors should not be considered an amendment to the current air services agreements or a reason for future negotiations on air services agreements.
- d) Lifting restrictions imposed on air cargo operations, including but not limited to granting additional bilateral rights to facilitate the transfer of essential goods, medical supplies and coronavirus vaccines.

2.19 Based on all the foregoing the meeting supported the Statement on National and Regional Approach to Aviation in addressing the COVID-19 Pandemic initially drafted by UAE, ACAO, AACO, and IATA. Accordingly, the meeting agreed to the following Conclusion:

***VIRTUAL DGCA-MID CONCLUSION 4/3 – REGIONAL APPROACH TO THE
NORMALIZATION OF AIR TRANSPORT***

That, the Statement on National and Regional Approach to Aviation in addressing the COVID-19 Pandemic at Appendix C is endorsed.

Work Programme for 2021

2.20 The Chairs of the MIDANPIRG, RASG-MID and MID-RASFG updated the meeting on the Groups' Activities and Achievements.

2.21 The meeting recalled that due to the continuous COVID-19 crisis, the MIDANPIRG/18 & RASG-MID/8 (Virtual Meetings, 15 – 22 February 2021) agreed that no ICAO face-to-face meetings/events should be conducted until at least 15 August 2021. Considering the measures taken by States to reduce the spread COVID-19 and in order to avoid re-scheduling of events, the meeting agreed that no ICAO face-to-face meetings/events should be conducted until 15 November 2021, with reassessment of the situation by September 2021.

2.22 The meeting recalled that the DGCA-MID/6 meeting is planned to be held in Abu-Dhabi, UAE, 2-4 November 2021 back-to-back with the MENA RSOO Steering Committee meeting (1 November 2021). Based on the above and considering that the High Level COVID-19 Conference will be organized from 12 to 22 October 2021, the meeting agreed that the next DGCA-MID meeting should be held virtually during the second half of September 2021; the duration of the meeting will be two (2) days. It was also decided that it is not necessary that the MENA RSOO Steering Committee meeting be conducted back-to-back with the 5th DGCA-MID Virtual meeting.

MENA RSOO

2.23 Saudi Arabia apprised the meeting of the latest updates related to MENA RSOO. It was agreed that the MENA RSOO Technical Coordination Meeting would be held beginning of July 2021 with the objective to come up with a clear and detailed action plan for the start of the MENA RSOO operations, to be presented to the next Steering Committee Meeting, for approval.

CLOSING

2.24 In closing, Mr. Smaoui, provided a summary of the key takeaways from the Fourth DGCA-MID Virtual meeting and thanked the participants for their attendance and active participation.

**MID REGION RECOVERY PLAN TASK FORCE
TERMS OF REFERENCE (ToRs)**

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant and unprecedented challenges to the aviation sector, shutting down all commercial international passenger operations. The High-Level MID Regional Meetings/Teleconferences between ICAO, AACO, ACAO and IATA on COVID-19 Crisis Management agreed to establish the MID Region Recovery Plan Task Force (RPTF). The establishment of the MID RPTF was further supported by the First DGCA-MID Virtual Meeting held on 23 April 2020; to provide necessary guidance and facilitate a harmonized restart of commercial passengers' flights in a sustainable, safe, secure and orderly manner as soon as practicable taking into consideration the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic and the decisions by International and National Public Health Authorities. The final objective is to create a harmonized and cooperative effort to maintain global connectivity while ensuring public health security.

1.2 The MID-RPTF would serve as a platform for coordination and cooperation amongst all stakeholders to support States for the recovery plan of the aviation industry in Middle East during COVID-19 pandemic period and at the same time prepare for the post COVID-19 recovery phase. It will also ensure that there is no duplication of efforts with associated Regional Groups.

2. SCOPE | OBJECTIVES

THE KEY FUNCTIONS OF THE MID RPTF:

2.1 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.

2.2 Advocate for the harmonization of national restart and recovery plans with the Regional and Global plans.

2.3 Address the persistent and most immediate issues affecting the MID Region, and ensure that measures are put in place to avoid any impediment to operational continuity, restart, and recovery of international air transport.

2.4 Recommend to the Directors General of Civil Aviation in the MID Region specific and prioritized, actions which States would consider to manage the crisis as well as in the restart and recovery phases.

2.5 Support and assist States in implementing the recommendations and measures contained in CART including the implementation of a multi-layer risk management Strategy in accordance with the guidance contained in ICAO Doc 10152.

2.6 Encourage States in sharing information about common challenges and Best Practices related to the implementation of CART recommendations and measures

2.7 Regularly monitor the progress made by States on the implementation of recommendations and measures contained in CART through CRRIC which would facilitate the identification of gaps and needed support.

2.8 Foster the implementation of MID CART implementation plan and associated MID Regional Groups CART implementation plans of actions.

2.9 Prioritize its activities to focus on the most important and common issues. As such, the MID RPTF work should be centered on specific work streams supported by a work Programme that allow the continuous adaptability and flexibility in the Task Force's activities that may be required as we move through contingency, restart, and recovery phases.

3. TASK FORCE COMPOSITION

3.1 The Task force shall comprise the following members:

3.1.1 Chairpersons of MIDANPIRG, RASG-MID, MID-RASFG and CAPSCA-MID

3.1.2 States Representatives, including CRRIC Focal points

3.1.3 Representatives from the following Regional and International Organizations: AACO, ACAO, ACI, CANSO, IATA, ICAO, IFALPA, and IFATCA.

3.1.4 Operators, and/or Service Providers may be invited to participate in the MID RPTF meetings, as required.

OUTCOME OF THE WEBINAR ON ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON AVIATION

The Webinar on Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Aviation was successfully held from 5 to 6 April 2021, 12:00 - 14:30 UTC using MS Teams facility. The Webinar was organized jointly by ICAO, AACO, ACAO, ACI and IATA and supported by other International Organizations such as CANSO.

The main outcomes of the Webinar were formulated in the form of Recommendations, which are listed below.

1. All industry stakeholders to promote and raise awareness on the role of aviation as a socio-economic catalyst at the national, regional and global level.
2. States are encouraged to safely and progressively reactivate economies and air travel by applying CART Recommendations and guidance in their National risk management strategies.
3. All industry stakeholders to promote the implementation of CART Recommendation 10 by utilizing the ICAO Guidance on Economic and Financial Measures.
4. States are encouraged to provide essential financial and regulatory support for aviation to help mitigate the liquidity and financial strain on the industry and to maintain readiness of the industry to restart.
5. States are invited to establish a clear framework for State economic and financial support to aviation, in line with State's overarching fiscal and monetary policy in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and implement travel market stimulation initiatives once borders start to reopen.
6. States are invited to evaluate and implement appropriate economic and financial support measures, in consultation with all parties involved and taking into account the needs of all aviation stakeholders.
7. States are invited to align and integrate aviation development plans with national and/or regional economic development plans and strategies.
8. States are encouraged to assess the need to extend/enact taxes and charges alleviations for air operators to stimulate demand recovery.
9. States are invited to ensure that ICAO policies on taxation of international aviation and charges for airport and air navigation services should be followed by States.
10. States are encouraged to bear the costs of mandatory health measures.
11. States are invited to conduct cost-benefit analysis on whether to continue levying passenger-based taxes or to generate higher national income from additional economic activity arising from aviation.

12. States should exercise caution when implementing measures that provide support to one party at the cost of another, and strike an appropriate balance between the respective interests of service providers (airports and ANSPs) and of users (airlines) and end-user.
13. All industry stakeholders to promote multi-stakeholders cooperation and encourage financial support to aviation and engagement of financial institutions.
14. States and International Organizations are invited to establish a process for cross-sectoral cooperation and collaboration between aviation and other economic sectors such as tourism, trade, finance, and public health, etc.
15. States and International Organizations are invited to strengthen regional and international cooperation, and encourage sharing of information, knowledge, experience and best practices.
16. States are encouraged to create a transparent, stable and predictable investment climate to support aviation development through diversifying funding sources and elevating the role of private sector.
17. Need to review jet fuel prices at different international airports in the MID Region to improve alignment with international benchmarks.
18. States are invited to enable sustainable funding of civil aviation authorities to perform the necessary safety and security oversight functions.

Statement on National and Regional Approaches to Aviation in addressing the COVID-19 Pandemic
Issued by the Directors General of Civil Aviation in ICAO-MID Region at their Meeting of the 3rd of June 2021

The Directors General of Civil Aviation in the ICAO-MID Region convened a meeting on the 3rd of June 2021 under the auspices of ICAO, and issued a Statement as follows, related to national and regional approaches to aviation in addressing COVID19 pandemic:

Rationale/Introduction

- During 2020, revenues of the Region's airlines decreased by 69.1%, whereby accumulated revenue losses reached USD49.2 billion, while net losses reached USD7.1 billion representing -32.2% of revenues.
- By the end of 2020, financial support provided by the Region's Governments to their airlines covered only 14% of incurred revenue losses by those airlines, recording the lowest level of support as compared with other regions.
- Data released during Q1-2021 show that travel demand for the Region's airlines is lower by 65.6% in 2021 as compared to 2019, and revenues decreased by 59.6% for the same period, with net losses that may reach USD4.1 billion for 2021.
- Job losses in the travel and tourism sector constituted 55% of total job losses in the Region in 2020.
- The travel and tourism sector's contribution to GDP in the Region constituted 14.4% in 2019 and was reduced to 5.4% in 2020 due to the impact of the COVID19 crisis and, particularly, the restrictions that were applied on the Travel and Tourism industry.
- At its 33rd Meeting on 22 October 2020, the Council of Arab Transport Ministers adopted decision No.488 (**attached**) calling for a harmonized approach to travel based on, inter alia, ICAO CART recommendations, and the need for a Regional Policy through a joint effort by Health, Transport and Tourism Ministers in the Region.
- At its 23rd Meeting, the Council of Arab Tourism Ministers adopted Decision No. 290 echoing the Transport Ministers' decision. (**attached**)
- At its 55th Meeting held on 23 May 2021, the Council of Arab Health Ministers adopted Decisions No.1 and No.6, (**attached**) stressing the importance of balance between economic and health aspects and establishing a Working Group to develop an Arab strategy to standardize procedures for registering and approving vaccinations and using them within Arab Countries for the revitalization of their tourism industry.
- The ICAO CART has made recommendations and guidelines for States to address mitigation of exposure to COVID19 and the re-start of aviation activities (CART related material is available [here](#)). Following those guidelines should lead to a harmonized global approach and help aviation to re-start its contribution to the economy.
- The World Health Organization's International Health Regulations Emergency Committee has formulated recommendations to States on continuous coordination and collaboration with aviation stakeholders. (The recommendations are available on this [link](#))

- The rollout of vaccinations started since December 2020, yet the level of inoculation in the world is still low and varies between States.

Based on the above, the DGCA in the ICAO MID Region decided to put forward the following Recommendations:

1. At the National Level:

Based on the Resolutions by the Councils of Arab Ministers of Health, Transport and Tourism referred to above, the Civil Aviation Authorities (CAAs) in the Region agreed on the need to communicate with their relevant National Health Authorities to recommend that they urgently take the following steps:

- a- Each Health Ministry needs to make available to the public and stakeholders the criteria on which they base their procedures regarding travel while addressing the COVID19 pandemic.
- b- The above criteria need to take into account CART's guidelines as included in this [link](#), which recommend that the level of national restrictions on travel be tied with criteria which primarily include three indicators for individual countries of origin or destination, namely: disease prevalence, test positivity rate and testing rate as follows:
 1. Disease prevalence – measured in the number of cases per 100,000 rate (rolling rate averages).
 2. Test positivity rate – the percentage of positive tests compared to overall testing at a given time frame (the cut-off rate needs to be flexible in countries where testing capabilities are limited).
 3. Testing rate – the number of tests conducted per 100,000 inhabitants.

Note: based on scientific evidence, as it becomes available, additional criteria might be added in future, e.g. vaccination status and circulating variants of concern, etc.

- c- It goes without saying that adapting those procedures to national situations and requirements will continue to be in the hands of the national authorities concerned, yet it is paramount that any procedure or amendment thereof be discussed with aviation stakeholders (Civil Aviation Authorities, Airlines, Airports, etc.) and made available to the public well in advance of implementation except in emergency cases.
- d- Governments are encouraged to take data-driven decisions to manage risk and reopen borders using the enormous amounts of data collected since the start of COVID-19 to drive a recovery effort. Critical to such decisions must be the restoration of the freedom to travel for tested and/or vaccinated persons while avoiding quarantine measures (*decisions should be always based on scientific evidence, studies and data*).
- e- Public Health Corridors can be a good interim solution for States that agree on mutual criteria for travel and health measures, yet air services operations between those States should be based on existing agreed air transport arrangements.

2. At the Regional Level:

The CAAs in the Region also agree to work on a regional level with the concerned entities to strive to achieve the following:

- a. In light of the recent decisions of the Council of Arab Health Ministers, stressing the importance of balance between economic and health aspects and establishing a Working Group to develop an Arab Strategy to standardize procedures for registering and approving vaccinations and using them within Arab Countries; to include in the Arab Strategy the mutual recognition of vaccine certificates among Countries that are ready, including opening talks with the EU for the same purpose of the Strategy, and to direct those concerned to coordinate with the Secretariat of the League of Arab States to assist them in developing that Strategy as quickly as possible.
 - b. To work with the concerned authorities to allow for the mutual recognition of health/vaccine certificates with other Countries and / or groups of Countries.
 - c. Allow the industry to provide inputs on operationalizing the solutions to declare passenger health data to ensure smooth passenger experience at airports while protecting public health.
 - d. Inasmuch as the European Union has announced its readiness to receive travelers from non-EU Countries who are vaccinated under certain conditions or COVID-19 test certificates and certificates after recovery from Covid19, the opening of talks, through national or regional channels, with the European Union for the purpose of reaching a solution for the mutual recognition of health/vaccine certificates.
- 3.** The need for CAAs in the Region, through the appropriate channels, to open talks with States to lift any restrictions imposed on air cargo operations, and, where necessary, the granting of extra-bilateral rights to facilitate the transfer of essential goods, medical supplies and coronavirus pharmaceuticals.
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General Secretariat

Economic Sector - Transport and Tourism Department

Technical Secretariat of the Council of Arab Transport Ministers

Council of Arab Transport Ministers

33 rd Ordinary session

Alexandria: October 21-22, 2020

Headquarters of the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport

Report and Resolutions

Email management: tratou.dept@las.int

Arab League website

www.leagueofarabstates.net

Item Eleven: A proposal for a joint approach of the Council of Arab Transport Ministers and the Council of Arab Health Ministers to support the launch and recovery in the Arab air transport sector

- The Council of Arab Transport Ministers, in its 33rd regular session, held on 10 / 22-2020, in Alexandria at the headquarters of the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport, and after reviewing:

- The memorandum of the General Secretariat in this regard,
- The explanatory memorandum submitted by the Arab Civil Aviation Organization in this regard
- The recommendation of the Executive Office of the Council at its 65th session held on 10/20/2020, in this regard,

And after deliberation

Decided

1. Welcoming the approach adopted by the European Union for the re-start and recovery air transport and the possibility of implementing it in the Arab air transport sector, taking into account the health and economic trends in the Arab countries.

2. Referring the approach adopted by the European Union for the restart and recovery of air transport to the Council of Arab Health Ministers to express their views on the following: -

A - The possibility of applying the European approach in the Arab region and coming up with a common Arab policy that relies exclusively on health standards in the air travel sector.

B - The possibility of adopting a rapid test to detect the Corona virus as an alternative to all quarantine procedures.

C- Emphasis on the use of health measures for air transport to revive the aviation sector, as recommended by the ICAO Council Working Group (CART), which included the World Health Organization and a number of governments and international, regional and Arab organizations .

(Q: 488-D.P. (33) 10 / 21-2020 / 22)



الأمانة العامة

القطاع الاقتصادي- إدارة النقل والسياحة

الأمانة الفنية لمجلس وزراء النقل العرب

ج12- /33(10/20)-02/ق(0271)

مجلس وزراء النقل العرب

الدورة العادية (33)

((مدينة الإسكندرية: 21-22 أكتوبر 2020))

((بمقر الأكاديمية العربية للعلوم والتكنولوجيا والنقل البحري))

التقرير والقرارات

موقع جامعة الدول العربية
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البند الحادي عشر: مقترح مقارنة مشتركة لمجلس وزراء النقل العرب مع مجلس

وزراء الصحة العرب لدعم إطلاق وتعافى في قطاع النقل

الجوي العربي

- إن مجلس وزراء النقل العرب في دورته العادية (33) بتاريخ 21-22/10/2020، في مدينة الإسكندرية بمقر الأكاديمية العربية للعلوم والتكنولوجيا والنقل البحري، وبعد اطلاعه على:-

- مذكرة الأمانة العامة في هذا الشأن،
- المذكرة الشارحة المقدمة من المنظمة العربية للطيران المدني في هذا الشأن
- توصية المكتب التنفيذي للمجلس في هذا الشأن، في دورته (65) بتاريخ 20/10/2020،

وبعد المداولة ،،،

يقرر

1. الترحيب بالمقاربة التي تبناها الاتحاد الأوروبي لإعادة إطلاق النقل الجوي وتعافيه، وإمكانية العمل بها في قطاع النقل الجوي العربي مع الأخذ في الاعتبار المنحى الصحي والاقتصادي في الدول العربية.
2. إحالة المقاربة التي تبناها الاتحاد الأوروبي لإعادة إطلاق النقل الجوي وتعافيه إلى مجلس وزراء الصحة العرب لإبداء الرأي فيما يلي:-
 - أ- إمكانية تطبيق المقاربة الأوروبية في المنطقة العربية والخروج بسياسة عربية مشتركة تعتمد على المعايير الصحية في قطاع السفر جواً بشكل حصري.
 - ب- إمكانية اعتماد الفحص السريع (Rapid Test) للكشف على فيروس كورونا كبديل عن كل إجراءات الحجر الصحي.

ج- التأكيد على الاسترشاد بالإجراءات الصحية للنقل الجوي لإنعاش قطاع الطيران والتي أوصى بها فريق عمل مجلس الإيكاو (CART) والذي ضم منظمة الصحة العالمية وعدداً من الحكومات والمنظمات الدولية والإقليمية والعربية.

(ق:488- د.ع (33) 21-22/10/2020)

General Secretariat

Economic Affairs - Department of Transport and Tourism

Technical Secretariat of the Arab Ministerial Council for Tourism

C 23/16 (20/12)/02 - Qi (0357)

The 23rd Ordinary Session of the Arab Ministerial Council for Tourism

Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain: 12/23/2020

Report and Resolutions

Management email : tratou.dept@las.int

Arab League website

www.leagueofarabstates.net

Item number Six: Recommendations to support the Re-start and Recovery of the Travel and Tourism Sector in the Arab Countries

-, in its 23rd regular session held on 12/23/2020, in Manama in the Kingdom of Bahrain, The Arab Ministerial Council for Tourism, after reviewing the memorandum of the General Secretariat :

- The memorandum of the Arab Tourism Organization in this regard,
- The memorandum of the Arab Civil Aviation Organization submitted to the Council of Arab Ministers of Transport in this regard,
- • The recommendation of the Executive Office of the Council in this regard, at its 27th session held on 12/22/2020,

And after deliberation

Decided

1- Call on the Council of Arab Health Ministers to adopt standard procedures, similar to those that the European Union is working on, so that health measures required for prevention are fully dependent on the level of exposure to the new Corona virus for those coming from the concerned country.

2- Invite Arab countries to re-launch air traffic and activate tourism between the Arab countries and between them and the rest of the world through:

a- the follow up of the international guidelines regarding health measures for travel recommended by the ICAO Council Task Force (CART) and the follow up of the health measures for tourism published by the Arab Tourism Organization based on the recommendations of the World Health Organization.

B - Urging the use of rapid tests at airports before travel, where only persons who are proven virus free at the time of travel shall be allowed to travel.

C- Where PCR tests before travel are imposed, it is necessary to reconsider dispensing travelers of quarantine procedures because they add no value to the prevention of the pandemic.

d- Work on the necessity of generalizing insurance coverage for travelers on their travels, including infection with the Corona virus.

3- Assigning the General Secretariat to coordinate to hold a joint meeting of the executive offices of the Arab Ministerial Councils for Tourism, Health and Transport, with the participation of the Arab Tourism Organization and the World Tourism Organization, with the aim of establishing standardized health procedures with regard to tourism and travel to be implemented in the Arab world.

4- Authorizing the joint meeting referred to in Paragraph (3) above to act in accordance with the decisions issued in this regard.

(Q: 290- d.p. (23) 12/23/2020)

Original text in Arabic

ملحق ب



الأمانة العامة

الشؤون الاقتصادية- إدارة النقل والسياحة
الأمانة الفنية للمجلس الوزاري العربي للسياحة

ج 16/23 (12/20) / 02 - ق (0357)

الدورة العادية (23)

للمجلس الوزاري العربي للسياحة

بمدينة المنامة بمملكة البحرين: 2020/12/23

التقرير والقرارات

موقع جامعة الدول العربية
www.leagueofarabstates.net

البريد الإلكتروني للإدارة
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البند السادس: توصيات دعم إعادة إطلاق وانعاش قطاع السياحة والسفر في الدول العربية

- إن المجلس الوزاري العربي للسياحة في دورة انعقاده العادية (23) بتاريخ 2020/12/23، بمدينة المنامة في مملكة البحرين، وبعد اطلاعه على:
- مذكرة الأمانة العامة في هذا الشأن،
 - مذكرة المنظمة العربية للسياحة في هذا الشأن،
 - مذكرة المنظمة العربية للطيران المدني المقدمة إلى مجلس وزراء النقل العرب في هذا الشأن،
 - توصية المكتب التنفيذي للمجلس في هذا الشأن، في دورته (27) بتاريخ 2020/12/22،

وبعد المداولة ،،،

يقرر

- 1- دعوة مجلس وزراء الصحة العرب لاعتماد إجراءات قياسية من قبله على غرار تلك التي يعمل عليها الاتحاد الأوروبي، بحيث تكون الإجراءات الصحية المطلوبة للوقاية معتمدة بشكل كلي على مستوى التعرض لفيروس كورونا المستجد للقادمين من البلد المعنى.
- 2- دعوة الدول العربية لإعادة إطلاق الحركة الجوية وتنشيط السياحة بين الدول العربية وبينها وبين العالم من خلال:
أ- اتباع الإرشادات الدولية بما يتعلق بالتدابير الصحية للسفر التي أوصى بها فريق عمل مجلس الإيكاو (CART) والاسترشاد بالتدابير الصحية للسياحة التي نشرتها منظمة السياحة العربية المبنية على توصيات منظمة الصحة العالمية.

Arab Council of Health Ministers

55th ordinary session

Via teleconferencing : May 23, 2021

Resolution No. 1 on

A draft Arab strategy and its implementation mechanism for acquiring Covid-19 vaccines and uniting efforts to ensure the provision and equitable distribution of vaccines in Arab countries.

The Council of Arab Health Ministers,

After reviewing :

- The memorandum of the Technical Secretariat on the subject,
- The Recommendation of the 10th meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Arab Health Ministers Council held on May 19, 2021, and
- after listening to the interventions of Their Excellencies the Ministers,

Decided

1. To thank His Excellency the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States for the proposal to prepare the Arab strategy for acquiring Covid-19 vaccines and unifying efforts to ensure provision and equitable distribution of vaccines to Arab countries, stated by His Excellency in his inaugural speech at the the 54th Ordinary Session of the Council of Arab Health Ministers held on March 2021.
2. Thanks the Ministry of Health and Population of the Arab Republic of Egypt for preparing the draft Arab strategy for acquiring Covid-19 vaccines and unifying the efforts made to ensure the provision and equitable distribution of vaccines to Arab countries and its implementation.
3. Assigning the technical secretariat to circulate the draft of this strategy to the Arab member states, in order to kindly sharing their comments on it in view for preparing its final version in coordination with the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population and the Regional Office of the World Health Organization for the Eastern Mediterranean.

Resolution No. 6 on

The Decision of the Arab Ministerial Council for Tourism No. 290 on supporting the re-start of the tourism and travel sector in Arab countries

The Council of Arab Health Ministers,

After reviewing :

- the Memorandum of the technical secretariat on the subject,
- the Recommendation of the tenth meeting of the Advisory Technical Committee of the Council of Health Ministers held on May 19, 2021,
- the Decision of the Arab Ministerial Council for Tourism No. 290 on supporting the re-start of the recovery of the tourism and travel sector in Arab countries, to the Council of Arab Health Ministers,

Decided

- 1- To commit to the specificity and procedures of Arab member states in line with the international health regulations of the World Health Organization and the national health regulations to preserve the citizen's public health.
- 2- Emphasize on the importance of balancing the economic and health aspects in a way that ensures the recovery of air traffic and tourism anew without affecting the national, regional and international health.
- 3- Establish a technical working group headed by the Arab Republic of Egypt, with the membership of specialists from Arab member states, the Technical Secretariat of the Council of Arab Health Ministers, and the World Health Organization's Regional Office for the East Mediterranean, to develop a strategy designed to standardize the procedures for registering and approving vaccinations and their use within the Arab countries that would allow revitalizing the Arab tourism.



قطاع الشؤون الاجتماعية
إدارة الصحة والمساعدات الإنسانية
الأمانة الفنية لمجلس وزراء الصحة العرب

قرارات

الدورة العادية 55 لمجلس وزراء الصحة العرب
عبر تقنية الفيديو كونفرانس: 23 مايو 2021

قرار رقم 1

بشأن

مشروع استراتيجية عربية وآلية تنفيذها للحصول على لقاحات كوفيد 19 وتوحيد الجهود المبذولة لضمان التوفير والتوزيع العادل للقاحات على الدول العربية.

إن مجلس وزراء الصحة العرب،

بعد اطلاعه على:

- مذكرة الأمانة الفنية حول الموضوع،
- توصية الاجتماع العاشر للجنة الفنية الاستشارية لمجلس وزراء الصحة العرب المنعقد بتاريخ 19 مايو 2021،
- وبعد الاستماع إلى مداخلات أصحاب المعالي الوزراء،

يقرر

1. تقديم الشكر إلى معالي الأمين العام لجامعة الدول العربية على مقترح إعداد الاستراتيجية العربية للحصول على لقاحات كوفيد 19 وتوحيد الجهود المبذولة لضمان التوفير والتوزيع العادل للقاحات على الدول العربية، الذي تفضل به خلال كلمة معاليه في افتتاح أعمال الدورة العادية 54 لمجلس وزراء الصحة العرب/ مارس 2021.
2. تقديم الشكر إلى وزارة الصحة والسكان بجمهورية مصر العربية على إعداد مشروع الاستراتيجية العربية للحصول على لقاحات كوفيد 19 وتوحيد الجهود المبذولة لضمان التوفير والتوزيع العادل للقاحات على الدول العربية وآلية تنفيذها.
3. تكليف الأمانة الفنية بتعميم مشروع هذه الاستراتيجية على الدول العربية الأعضاء للتفضل بإبداء ملاحظاتها حولها، تمهيدا لإعدادها في صيغتها النهائية بالتنسيق مع وزارة الصحة والسكان المصرية، والمكتب الإقليمي لمنظمة الصحة العالمية لشرق المتوسط.

مجلس وزراء الصحة العرب

الدورة العادية (55)

عبر تقنية الفيديو كونفرانس: 23 مايو 2021

قرار رقم 6

بشأن

قرار المجلس الوزاري العربي للسياحة رقم 290 حول دعم إعادة إطلاق إنعاش قطاع السياحة
والسفر في الدول العربية

إن مجلس وزراء الصحة العرب،

بعد اطلاعه على:

- مذكرة الأمانة الفنية حول الموضوع،
- توصية الاجتماع العاشر للجنة الفنية الاستشارية لمجلس وزراء الصحة العرب المنعقد بتاريخ 19 مايو 2021،
- قرار المجلس الوزاري العربي للسياحة رقم 290 حول دعم إعادة إطلاق إنعاش قطاع السياحة والسفر في الدول العربية، على مجلس وزراء الصحة العرب،

يقرر

1. الالتزام بخصوصية وإجراءات الدول العربية الأعضاء بما يتماشى مع اللوائح الدولية الصحية لمنظمة الصحة العالمية واللوائح الصحية الوطنية للحفاظ على الصحة العامة لمواطنيها.
2. التأكيد على أهمية التوازن بين النواحي الاقتصادية والصحية بما يضمن انتعاش حركة الطيران والسياحة من جديد ولا يؤثر على الأمن الصحي الوطني والإقليمي والدولي.
3. تشكيل فريق عمل فني برئاسة جمهورية مصر العربية، وعضوية المتخصصين من الدول العربية الأعضاء والأمانة الفنية لمجلس وزراء الصحة العرب، والمكتب الإقليمي لمنظمة الصحة العالمية لشرق المتوسط، لوضع استراتيجية لتوحيد إجراءات تسجيل واعتماد التطعيمات واستخدامها داخل الدول العربية تسمح بتنشيط حركة السياحة العربية.

DGCA-MID/4 VIRTUAL MEETING
3 JUNE 2021, 10:30 TO 14:00 UTC

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