International Civil Aviation Organization

MIDANPIRG/19 and RASG-MID/9 Meetings

(Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 14-17 February 2022)

Agenda Item 2:   Global & Regional Developments

OUTCOMES OF THE HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON COVID-19 (HLCC 2021) –
FACILITATION STREAM

(Presented by the Secretariat)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper presents the outcomes of the Facilitation Stream of the High-level Conference on COVID-19 (HLCC 2021).

Action by the RASG-MID is in paragraph 4.

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1.   **INTRODUCTION**

1.1   The High-level Conference on COVID-19 (HLCC 2021) was held virtually from 12 to 22 October 2021. In total, 1,786 members and observers nominated by 129 Member States and 38 international organizations, as well as advisers and others, attended this conference. Fifty-six Ministers and Deputy Ministers and 24 heads of international organizations attended the Ministerial Plenary sessions of the Conference. Parallel to the agenda items discussed under the Safety Stream, the Facilitation Stream discussed five agenda items, namely Agenda Items 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

1.2   This working paper presents for information purposes to the RASG-MID Work Programme an overview of the recommendations of the Conference under the Facilitation Stream, which covered a wide range of subjects discussed under the following agenda items:

   a)   Agenda Item 6: Facilitation operational measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond;

   b)   Agenda Item 7: Enhancing National Coordination and International Cooperation;

   c)   Agenda Item 8: Enhancing digital data sharing to facilitate seamless and contactless processes during and beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic;

   d)   Agenda Item 9: Future approaches to the management of sustainable health-related facilitation measures for the passenger experience and advancing the implementation monitoring; and

   e)   Agenda Item 10: Other issues to be considered by the Facilitation stream.

1.3   The HLCC 2021 made 79 recommendations under the Facilitation stream on matters related to its agenda. Most of the recommendations consist of two parts:

        a) calls for action addressed directly to States; and

        b) calls for action by ICAO.

1.4   With respect to all agenda items, some of the work called for by the recommendations:

        a) are either already being progressed or can be accomplished by expert groups;

        b) can be fulfilled through the dispatch of State letters or other communication means including rollout plans;

        c) are being progressed or can be accomplished by the Secretariat within the current Work Programme of the Organization; or

        d) will require new tasks in the Work Programme of the Organization, which may require additional resources and creation of new expert groups.

At the time of publishing this working paper, recommendations can be found in the Yellow Cover Report, available on the ICAO website, at Yellow Cover Report (icao.int).

2.   **DISCUSSION**

2.1   Under **Agenda Item 6**, *Facilitation operational measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond,* the Conference discussed the issues faced by States in protecting the health of the travelling public and aviation personnel, mitigating the risk of transmission of communicable diseases by air transport, as well as the challenges faced by States in implementing the Facilitation-related Council Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART) recommendations. The Conference made 22 recommendations under this Agenda Item.

2.2   Under **Agenda Item 7**, *Enhancing National Coordination and International Cooperation,* the Conference discussed the importance of collaboration between public health authorities and aviation authorities, including regional Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA) coordinators and States' focal points of the ICAO CAPSCA Programme, noting that this was necessary to facilitate effective air transport operations during the pandemic and beyond. It discussed systematic development of a National Air Transport Facilitation Programme (NATFP) and the related implementation of National Air Transport Facilitation Committees (NATFCs). It also considered the good practices to follow for the preparation and implementation of all the measures of a national emergency aviation plan in preparation for an outbreak of a communicable disease. The Conference agreed on 22 recommendations under this Agenda Item.

2.3   Under **Agenda Item 8**, *Enhancing digital data sharing to facilitate seamless and contactless processes during and beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic,* the Conference deliberated on the collection and exchange of passenger contact and health information to facilitate seamless processes for secure and globally-interoperable health-proofs. It appraised the possible use of ICAO's existing solutions in the travel document domain, in particular eMRTDs, the ICAO Digital Travel Credential (DTC) and the Public Key Directory (PKD), to stimulate short-term recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. It also considered ICAO's outreach and capacity building to roll out effective solutions, involving States and all

the stakeholders in an agile and flexible manner. The Conference agreed on 13 recommendations under this Agenda Item.

2.4   Under **Agenda Item 9**, *Future approaches to the management of sustainable health-related facilitation measures for the passenger experience and advancing the implementation monitoring,* the Conference considered the necessary steps to be taken to ensure that airport facilities and services are adapted to the needs of persons with disabilities and provide adequate access to air services while public health measures are maintained. The Conference also considered the need to effectively monitor the implementation of the new and/or revised health-related provisions of Annex 9 — *Facilitation* and the continuing need for financial and in-kind contributions to supplement ICAO Regular Programme Budget funds in order to raise awareness of the importance of Facilitation during times of crisis. It also examined how to ensure that maximum efforts are made to assist States in overcoming Annex 9 implementation challenges during health outbreaks. The Conference agreed on 12 recommendations under this Agenda Item.

2.5   Under **Agenda Item 10**, *Other issues to be considered by the Facilitation stream,* the Conference discussed other subjects that were not covered by a specific agenda item, including assistance to aircraft accident victims and their families, unruly and disruptive passenger incidents in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, ICAO template Air Services Agreement in relation to crises in international air transport, freight liberalization in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and equivalence of security measures – one-stop security and public health corridors. The Conference agreed on 10 recommendations under this Agenda Item.

3.   **NEXT STEPS**

3.1   The follow-up to the recommendations of the Conference will require considerable work by ICAO. The Facilitation Panel may be required to accomplish this work, supported by the relevant Facilitation Panel working groups, the Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA), and the Secretariat. Based on the decision by the Council on the recommendations of the High Level Conference, there will be a need for an amendment to the activities of the Organization for the next triennium including new tasks that will require additional Secretariat resources.

3.2   The Air Transport Committee (ATC) will review the HLCC 2021 recommendations for the Facilitation stream. Once this review is completed, the ATC will discuss and report accordingly to the Council, which is scheduled to take place in February 2022. The report will require the Council's final approval of the actions proposed on relevant recommendations, taking into consideration the resource implications of implementing all the recommendations that require action in the next triennium.

4.   **ACTION BY THE MEETING**

4.1   The Meeting is invited to note the HLCC 2021 recommendations for the Facilitation stream.

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