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ASSEMBLY — 37TH SESSION

TECHNICAL COMMISSION

Agenda Item 42: Cooperative Arrangement for the Prevention of Spread of Communicable Disease through Air Travel (CAPSCA)

SUMMARY OF ACI'S WORK IN SUPPORT OF THE CAPSCA PROGRAMME

(Presented by the Airports Council International)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The aim of this Information Paper is to inform the Assembly of the work Airports Council International (ACI) has undertaken in support of ICAO's Cooperative Arrangement for the Prevention of Spread of Communicable Disease through Air Travel (CAPSCA) Programme, in 2009 and 2010.

ACI has actively supported the CAPSCA initiatives in the three regions in which it has been established. This has included the passing of a resolution at the ACI World Annual General Assembly in 2009 promoting the programme to airports worldwide, developing preparedness guidelines for airports, participation in the regional Steering Committee and Regional Medical Assistance Team meetings and making presentations in regional workshops. In 2010, ACI has agreed to work with ICAO to extend the current guidance material to include Business Continuity Planning and Preparedness guidelines for airports, recognising that infectious disease pandemics have the potential to disrupt civil aviation operations for a protracted period of time.

ACI will continue to accord priority to its support of the ICAO CAPSCA Programme.

<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	This working paper relates to Strategic Objective E: Continuity – Maintain the continuity of aviation operations to assist States to respond quickly and positively to mitigate the effect of natural or human events that may disrupt air navigation and cooperate with other international organisations to prevent the spread of disease by air travellers.
<i>Financial implications:</i>	Not applicable.
<i>References:</i>	A37-WP/58

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The aim of this Information Paper is to inform the Assembly of the work Airports Council International (ACI) has undertaken in support of ICAO's Cooperative Arrangement for the Prevention of Spread of Communicable Disease through Air Travel (CAPSCA) Programme, in 2009 and 2010.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 During the past decade, ACI has supported ICAO and the WHO in their efforts to improve the implementation of the International Health Regulations. In 2003, the outbreak of SARS spread quickly from Hong Kong and Southern China to other regions through infected air travellers. This experience highlighted the important role that airports and the aviation sector need to play in preventing the spread of communicable disease. ACI, in conjunction with ICAO, developed guidelines to help airports develop contingency plans for outbreaks of infectious disease. These included arrangements for health screening of arrival and departing passengers, as well as contingency measures to respond to arriving flights with suspected cases of infectious disease on board.

2.2 This collaboration with ICAO has continued with the CAPSCA Programme. The A(H1N1) Influenza pandemic in 2009 served to remind us that infectious diseases can break out in any region of the world and that every region needed to be prepared. In this regard, the CAPSCA programme was a timely initiative, serving to build capacity and preparedness.

2.3 Recognising the importance of this initiative, ACI resolved to prioritise its support for CAPSCA. At the ACI World Annual General Assembly, in Kuala Lumpur, on 3 November, 2009, the Assembly passed Resolution No.1 'Airports urge government authorities and industry organisations to enhance their preparedness and capacity to respond to outbreaks of communicable disease.' The resolution called on:

- (i) National authorities to ensure that appropriate arrangements and adequate resources are provided to the aviation sector to develop core capacities to routinely minimise the risk of spreading infection and to respond to outbreaks of communicable disease;
- (ii) National authorities to consult with airport operators on contingency measures for outbreaks of communicable disease at airports and to ensure the adequacy of these arrangements through exercises and practice drills; and
- (iii) National authorities to participate in the ICAO CAPSCA initiative in their region and to encourage the development of similar regional initiatives where they are currently unavailable, and called on airports and industry organisations to actively support these efforts.

2.4 In 2009 and 2010, ACI has participated in and contributed to the work of the following CAPSCA Regional initiatives and meetings:

CAPSCA Africa	Nairobi, 8-9 June 2010
CAPSCA Americas	Mexico City, 25-26 June 2009 Dallas, 22-23 June 2010 Toronto, 16-17 November, 2010 (<i>scheduled</i>)
CAPSCA Asia Pacific	Kuala Lumpur, 24-26 May 2010

2.5 Under the work plan for 2010, ACI has agreed to help ICAO extend the existing guidance material to include Business Continuity Planning and Preparedness guidelines for airports. It is recognised that an infectious disease pandemic has the potential to disrupt civil aviation operations over a protracted period of time and therefore control authorities, airports, airlines and their service providers need to have robust arrangements in place. It is envisaged that these guidelines will be promulgated and promoted through workshops in 2011.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 ACI has actively supported the CAPSCA programme in the three Regions in which it has been established and will continue to do work with ICAO to build capacity and preparedness to prevent the spread of communicable disease through air travel. ACI will also continue to support ICAO's efforts to establish CAPSCA initiatives in other Regions.

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