



**Nineteenth Meeting of the CAR/SAM Regional Planning and Implementation Group (GREPECAS/19)**  
 Online, 27 – 29 October 2021

**Agenda Item 2: Topics in Support of the COVID-19 Contingency: CAR/SAM Follow-up to the Activities in Support of the ICAO Aviation Recovery due to the COVID-19 Pandemic**

**SUPPORT TOPICS COVID-19 - SAM REGION**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	
<p>This working paper presents a summary of the support activities developed by the SAM Regional Office for the response of the States to COVID-19, including the level of implementation of the Council Aviation Recovery Taskforce (CART) SAM Region and the <i>Take-off</i> document; likewise, it extends an invitation to the States to take actions related to the pandemic.</p>	
<b>Action:</b>	Suggested actions are presented in Section 3.
<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency</li> <li>• Economic Development of Air Transport</li> </ul>
<i>References:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities of the SAM Region in response to COVID-19  <a href="https://www.icao.int/SAM/COVID-19">https://www.icao.int/SAM/COVID-19</a></li> <li>• ICAO actions in response to COVID-19  <a href="https://www.icao.int/covid/Pages/default.aspx">https://www.icao.int/covid/Pages/default.aspx</a></li> <li>• SAM Strategic Framework in response to COVID-19  <a href="https://www.icao.int/SAM/SECURITY-FACILITATION/COVID-19/Pages/COVID19-StrategicFramework.aspx">https://www.icao.int/SAM/SECURITY-FACILITATION/COVID-19/Pages/COVID19-StrategicFramework.aspx</a></li> </ul>

**1 Introduction**

1.1 Since the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the States of South America organized with the support of the Secretariat of the ICAO SAM Regional Office to respond, in a harmonized and orderly manner, to the crisis.

1.2 During the first virtual coordination meetings (April 2020), the Directors General of Civil Aviation agreed to designate focal points to work on the creation of a *strategic working group* on the guidelines for the establishment of a regional restart, recovery and resilience strategy. This strategy will contemplate the operational, health, financial, communication and other areas that will address the issues faced by the Region. This work should be a collaborative effort between States, industry, regional organizations, Regional Safety Oversight Cooperation System (SRVSOP), in close coordination with Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA) and other international organizations.

1.3 Since its creation, the **SAM Region Strategic Group** has held seven (7) virtual sessions and has prepared a Regional Strategic Framework, which has served as the basis for States to implement regional recovery measures under a common framework.

1.4 One of the essential tasks developed within the regional strategy was the coordinated implementation of the CART Recommendations and its “Takeoff document”, as well as the report of progress in the implementation in the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Implementation Centre (CRRIC), which has served as input to ICAO for decision making related to CART.

1.5 During the meetings held, the Strategic Group also identified several activities that needed to be developed, and that had a direct impact on air navigation services, mainly related to the efficiency and operational safety of the Air Navigation Services (ANS). Among these actions, we can mention the coordination with the States and service providers for the operation of flights on direct routes (from point to point), which has contributed to the efficiency of operations in the Flight information region (FIRs) of the SAM Region.

1.6 Related to the issue of safety, it coordinated closely with other regional mechanisms such as the SRVSOP, which developed a significant number of guidance documents for various issues related to safety within the context of COVID-19. In the areas of AGA and ANS, several advisory circulars were developed that can be found in both languages at the following link: [COVID-19 »SRVSOP](#)

1.7 Currently, thanks to the implementation of risk-based measures, several States have opened their borders to aviation and others are in the process of doing so; however, some challenges still persist in this regard, especially the pressures on a weakened system for financial and resource reasons (including human resources) and the challenges derived from the countries' response to COVID-19, mainly in the harmonization of measures, such as immunization schemes, detection tests, quarantine, among others.

## 2 Analysis

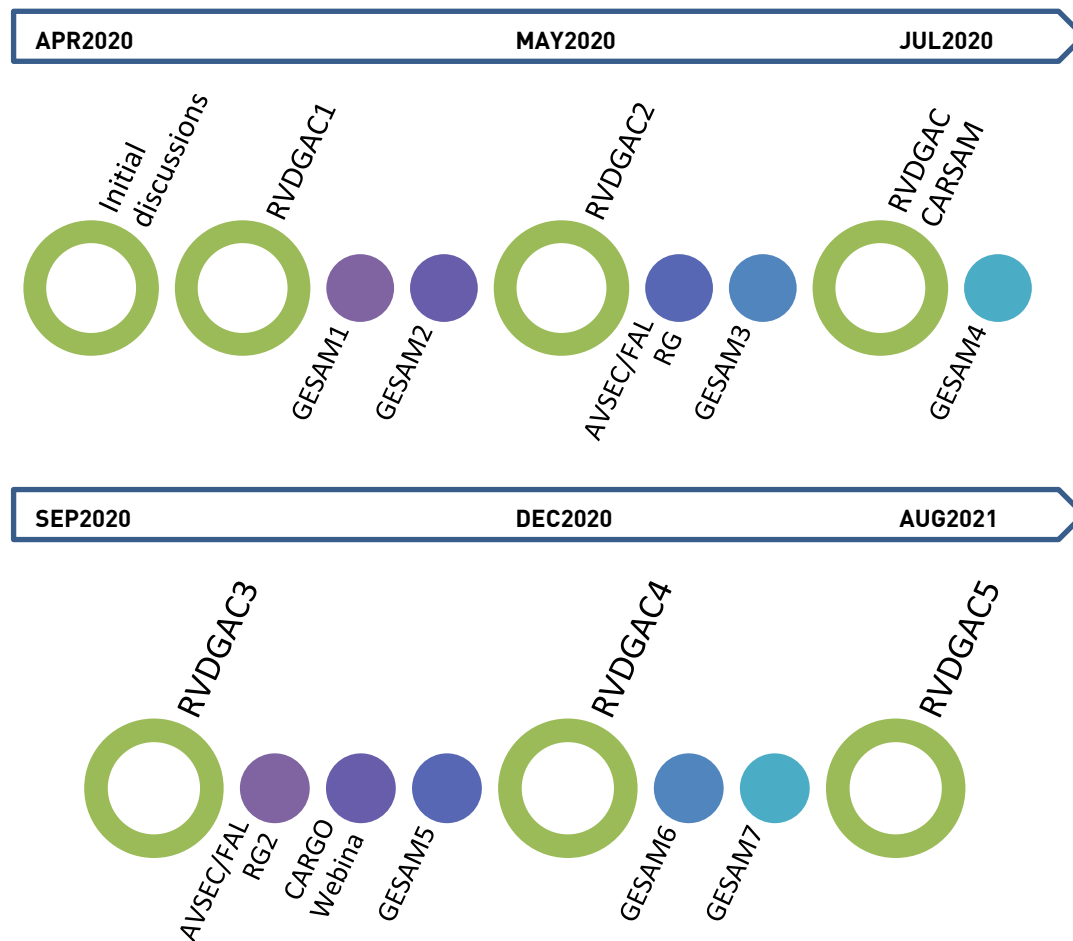
### *Traffic evolution in the SAM Region*

2.1 The percentage of traffic in the SAM region, compared to 2019, increased every month between May and August, after having decreased significantly in the months of February to April. In August, the total number of passengers boarded in the region, as estimated by the SAM Regional Office, reached 61% of the result obtained in the same period of 2019. This percentage represents a growth of 26 percentage points in the last four months. In the same period, the region experienced a reduction in the number of deaths associated with COVID-19, as well as an increase in the number of people vaccinated.

2.2 The domestic market continues to account for most of the recovery. In this market segment, traffic in August corresponded to 69% of the same period of 2019. In the international segment, however, the recovery continues to be slower: in June, international traffic only reached 31% of the result of 2019.

### *Support activities for the Region*

2.3 Since the beginning of the Pandemic, the SAM Region has carried out the following activities in support of States in response to COVID-19:



2.4 All these meetings, their reports, as well as other resources related to them and the support of the SAM Regional Office to the States regarding COVID-19 can be found on the page <https://www.icao.int/SAM/COVID-19>.

2.5 The SAM Strategic Framework can be found at <https://www.icao.int/SAM/SECURITY-FACILITATION/COVID-19/Pages/COVID19-StrategicFramework.aspx>

2.6 The Secretariat continues to work with the States in monitoring activities related to the response to COVID-19, also including reporting under the CRRIC and the acceptability of temporary safety exemptions (the SAM region at 100%).

***CRRIC Report - SAM***

2.7 The SAM Region has achieved the highest percentage of reporting on the implementation of the CART Recommendations, achieving 96% in the report; however, the CRRIC platform shows that only 64% has been achieved in the effective adoption of the CART Recommendations; leaving an important gap that must be addressed by the States.

2.8 The ICAO Secretariat published last 5 October an updated list of recommendations of the ICAO CART and the fourth edition of its *Takeoff document*. With this new update, it is expected that States will apply the recommendations and follow the guidelines they contain in coordination with the ICAO regional offices and present and update in the CRRIC the status of implementation of the CART recommendations and guidelines.

**3 Action Required**

3.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) take note of the information presented;
- b) propose specific aspects that could be addressed in future meetings of the SAM Strategic Group and the Virtual Meeting with the Civil Aviation Directors (RVDGAC) of the SAM Region;
- c) take actions regarding the implementation of the CART Recommendations, the *Take-off* document measures, and the report in the CRRIC; and
- d) take other actions that it consider convenient.