



AC-HQ/1.12 - 168

8 October 2014

Subject: ICAO CAPSCA and the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)

Dear Director General,

I have the honour to refer to the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) which is currently ravaging parts of West Africa and to re-emphasize the need for ALL African States to take necessary and adequate measures to combat the spread of the disease.

One of the most immediate measures which Civil Aviation Authorities can take which will lead to a long term solution is to join the ICAO CAPSCA (Cooperative Arrangement for the Prevention of Spread of Communicable disease through Air Travel)

CAPSCA is an assistance programme that assists States to implement SARPs (Annexes 6, 9, 11, 14 and PANS-ATM) and relevant aspects of the World Health Organization International Health Regulations (2005) relating to public health emergency planning (such as for a pandemic) in the aviation sector. A multi-sector approach is promoted with the main partner being the World Health Organization. IATA and ACI are also important partners.


Already, Africa has an active and expanding CAPSCA project and 22 States have so far joined. Furthermore, the ICAO Assembly and AFI-RAN Resolutions have urged ICAO members States to join CAPSCA. Thus far in Africa, 10 international airports have received CAPSCA Assistance Visits and four Technical Advisers from States have received training.

In view of the foregoing, AFCAC member States are again urged to join this cooperative arrangement which remains very relevant in view of the current situation which requires that all States be equipped to fight what is gradually becoming a pandemic. With the CAPSCA, States will be in a state of readiness at all times to withstand the spread of any communicable diseases.

Finally, States are urged to advise their airlines to be guided by the WHO/ICAO direction in respect of flight operations which had earlier been forwarded to States by AFCAC, so that lives are not lost unnecessarily because health care workers cannot travel to affected countries, and delivery of life saving equipment and supplies are not delayed.

Please accept Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.




Iyabo O. Sosina (Ms.)
Secretary General