

**ICAO CAPSCA GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM**  
*“The impact of Public Health Events in Aviation - Lessons Learnt for a Resilient Future”*

The CAPSCA Global Symposium held on 29 – 31 March 2022;

1. Considering that Article 14 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation states that “Each contracting State agrees to take effective measures to prevent the spread by means of air navigation of cholera, typhus (epidemic), smallpox, yellow fever, plague, and such other communicable diseases as the contracting States shall from time to time decide to designate, and to that end contracting States will keep in close consultation with the agencies concerned with international regulations relating to sanitary measures applicable to aircraft”;
2. Recalling that the rise and spread of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003 and the rapid and wide dissemination of Avian Influenza in 2005 raised the concern in aviation for building of consensus on a common approach to the worldwide concern about avian influenza and the possibility of a human pandemic;
3. Recalling ICAO and Member States considered it necessary to address potential disruption that a human influenza pandemic, as well as other communicable diseases and non-communicable health risks of serious public health concern could cause on air travel;
4. Recalling that the development of aviation-related public health preparedness plans was identified as a need for States to prevent, as far as possible, the spread of influenza of pandemic potential and similar communicable diseases by air travelers and to mitigate the socioeconomic consequences;
5. Recalling that the Cooperative Arrangement for the Prevention of Spread of Communicable Disease through Air Travel (CAPSCA) was established in 2006 as a project with the primary objective of reducing the risk of spreading communicable diseases by air travelers and in mitigating the effects of such diseases, should they occur, through cooperative arrangements between the participating States, Airport and Aircraft Operators, Air Navigation Service Providers and Public Health Authorities;
6. Recalling that funding for CAPSCA in the beginning was provided as in kind contributions from States and international organizations with most costs being met from the UN Central Fund for Influenza Action (CFIA);
7. Recalling that CAPSCA evolved with time as the “Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation” to combine efforts to improve public health preparedness planning and response to a wide variety of public health events that affect the aviation sector and working together with ICAO member States and, international, regional, national and local partner organizations;

8. Acknowledging CAPSCA's assistance provided to States for the implementation of public health related ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices in the Annexes to the Chicago Convention, Procedures for Air Navigation as well as WHO's International Health Regulations of 2005 in collaboration with health authorities through Technical Assistance visits to States, capacity building support, conduct of regional and global CAPSCA Annual meetings and providing advice and guidance to States;
9. Recognizing CAPSCA's significant contribution during the COVID-19 pandemic to the ICAO Council Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART) in the development of CART Recommendations, Take-off Guidance for Air Travel through the COVID-19 Public Health Crisis (TOGD) and the Manual on COVID-19 Cross-border Risk Management (Doc 10152);
10. Acknowledging the consistent and steadfast support of the CAPSCA partner organization to the work of CAPSCA voluntarily, regularly and effectively since the beginning of CAPSCA's engagement with COVID-19 pandemic support activities;
11. Noting that ICAO High-level Conference on COVID-19 (HLCC) of October 2021 recommended through Facilitation Stream Recommendation 7/1 that States should recognize the importance of the CAPSCA and become members of CAPSCA, and ensure that the relevant national agencies participate within their CAPSCA membership;
12. Endorsing that public health events preparedness planning should be considered an essential activity to build future resilience in aviation;
13. Noting that the HLCC also recommended that States, to the extent feasible, make available financial and human resources to participate in CAPSCA activities;
14. Noting that the HLCC through Facilitation Stream Recommendation 7/1 recommended ICAO to review the CAPSCA framework and governance to optimize preparedness planning and response to public health emergencies, as well as support the strengthening of the CAPSCA framework;

Unanimously agreed to:

1. Urge the CAPSCA Member States to support implementation of the conclusions of the CAPSCA Global Symposium;
2. Endorse CAPSCA's recommendation that an Aviation Health Plan with objectives, priorities, goals and targets as necessary should be developed;
3. Request CAPSCA partners to continue providing in-kind collaboration for CAPSCA's future work;
4. Request CAPSCA non-Member States to become members to build global aviation related public health emergency preparedness and response planning and resilience; and

5. Request CAPSCA to continue to build closer collaboration with all relevant Organizations to assist States through Technical Assistance visits to aviation stakeholders.