PROGRESS UPDATE ON THE ICAO COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT FOR THE PREVENTION OF SPREAD OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE THROUGH AIR TRAVEL (CAPSCA) – AMERICAS

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This working paper presents the activities and achievements of CAPSCA Americas since the last C/CAR/DCA/10 Meeting, as well as the updated organization and future work plan.

References

- Report of the Tenth Meeting of Directors of Civil Aviation of the Central Caribbean (C/CAR/DCA/10), Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, 18 to 21 August 2009
- Report of the First Meeting of the CAPSCA Americas Regional Aviation Medicine Team (RAMT), Lima and Cuzco, Peru, 2 to 7 December 2009
- Report of the Second Meeting of the Steering Committee of CAPSCA Americas, Dallas Fort Worth International Airport, United States, 22 to 23 June 2010

This working paper is related to Strategic Objectives D (Efficiency) and E (Continuity).

1. Introduction

1.1 This working paper presents the achievements of CAPSCA Americas since the previous C/CAR/DCA/10 meeting, the updated organization and future work plan, and encourages C/CAR States and Territories, which are not yet members of CAPSCA Americas, to join by informing ICAO.
2. Discussion

2.1 The C/CAR DCAs adopted the following conclusion at the tenth meeting:

CONCLUSION 10/10 ICAO COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT FOR THE PREVENTION OF SPREAD OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE THROUGH AIR TRAVEL (CAPSCA) – AMERICAS PROJECT

That C/CAR States and Territories are encouraged to:

a) prepare, test and update aviation pandemic preparedness plans in collaboration with public health authorities by 30 November 2009;

b) become participating members of the ICAO CAPSCA-Americas Project by informing the ICAO NACC Regional Office by 30 September 2009;

c) nominate experts to join the ICAO CAPSCA-Americas Regional Aviation Medicine Team (RAMT) who will be trained by ICAO and undertake airport evaluations at international airports of States and Territories, which are participating in the project, and inform the ICAO NACC Regional Office by 31 October 2009;

d) enable the RAMT experts to attend the first RAMT meeting, training and airport evaluation planned to be conducted in Lima, Peru, during the first week of December 2009; and

e) volunteer international airports to be evaluated by the ICAO CAPSCA-Americas Project and inform the ICAO NACC Regional Office by 31 December 2009.

2.2 C/CAR States which have confirmed participation in the project to date are the following: Bahamas, Cuba, Dominican Republic, and Jamaica. Aruba, Cayman Islands, Haiti, Netherlands Antilles, and Turks and Caicos have not yet joined CAPSCA Americas.

2.3 C/CAR Experts have been nominated and trained as airport evaluators from the following States: Cuba and Dominican Republic.

2.4 C/CAR Airports scheduled for evaluation are in Dominican Republic in August 2010 and Cuba in the first quarter of 2011.

2.5 Since the C/CAR/DCA/10 Meeting, CAPSCA Americas has undertaken the following activities:

- First Meeting of the Regional Aviation Medicine Team (RAMT), Lima and Cuzco, Peru, 2 to 3 December 2009
- Training of Airport Evaluators, Lima and Cuzco, Peru, 3 to 7 December 2009
• Lima Airport Evaluation, Peru, 4 December 2009
• Cuzco Airport Evaluation, Peru, 7 December 2009
• Second Meeting of the Steering Committee, Dallas Fort Worth International Airport, United States, 22 to 23 June 2010

2.6 The 2nd Steering Committee Meeting (SCM/2) recognized the achievements of CAPSCA Americas during the first year since its launch, of which the principal milestones are summarized as follows:

• 1st Steering Committee Meeting – June 2009 – 7 Member States confirmed as CAPSCA members.
• 1st Regional Aviation Medicine Team Meeting, State Airport Evaluator Training, and 1st Airport Evaluations (Peru) – December 2009 – 10 State Airport Evaluators trained; 10 more awaiting OJT.
• 2nd Steering Committee Meeting – June 2010 – Membership increased to 20 States representing more than half of the Americas.
• Airport Evaluations scheduled in Guatemala and Mexico in July; and in Dominican Republic in August 2010.

2.7 The 2nd SCM dealt with the following agenda items:

• Review progress and update work plan including meetings, training and airport evaluations
• Review the Methodology and Guidelines for Airport Evaluations.
• Launch the new CAPSCA web site.
• Review other related developments in States and International Organizations.
• Review DFW International Airport Pandemic Preparedness Plans.

2.8 The SCM/2 recalled that the unique initiative of CAPSCA:

• Provides aviation sector contribution to public health protection.
• Promotes collaboration at national and international levels between authorities responsible for:
  - Civil aviation
  - Public health
  - Tourism
  - Industry – airports and airlines
  - Emergency response
2.9 The CAPSCA objectives were summarized as follows:

- Public Health Protection – general public, air travellers and aviation personnel.
- Assistance to States/Territories to establish national aviation pandemic preparedness plans, and:
  - adherence to Article 14 of the Convention;
  - compliance with ICAO SARPs (Annexes 6, 9, 11 and 14) and Procedures (PANS-ATM);
  - compliance with WHO IHR (2005) regulations; and
  - implementation of ICAO, WHO, ACI and IATA guidelines
- National cooperation amongst civil aviation authorities, public health authorities, airports, air traffic services, and airlines.
- Regional cooperation amongst States and Territories – a mechanism for pooling and sharing expertise and resources.
- Training of airport evaluators, evaluation of airports, development of core capacities, and provision of advice to States and Territories.
- Further development and improvement of guidelines for the aviation sector.

2.10 The Secretariat presented the Report of the First CAPSCA - Americas Steering Committee Meeting (SCM/1) and proposed future combined SC and RAMT Meetings. The Secretariat also presented the new CAPSCA Web site: (http://www.mexico.icao.int/CAPSCA/index.html) and the ICAO CAPSCA - Americas updated organization and work plan. The Airport Evaluation Methodology and draft guidelines were presented to the Meeting. The RAMT Leader presented the First CAPSCA - Americas Regional Aviation Medicine Team Meeting (RAMT/1) Report. The CAPSCA Asia-Pacific Coordinator provided an update on CAPSCA activities in other regions and a draft template for an Aviation Public Health Emergency Preparedness Plan.

2.11 The SCM was also provided with presentations by the World Health Organization/Pan-American Health Organization (WHO/PAHO), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Air Transport Association of America (ATA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, United States (CDC), Pandemic Influenza Coordination and UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (PIC-OCHA), UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), International Federation of Air Line Pilots’ Associations (IFALPA), for which it presented its appreciation. State presentations were also provided by Barbados, Canada and Panama. Likewise, presentations were provided to the SCM by the DFW International Airport Panel. A visit was carried-out by the SCM to the DFW Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) at the DFW International Airport followed by a presentation of the Terminal “walk-through”.
2.12 The second SCM of CAPSCA-Americas reviewed the outstanding Conclusions from the SCM/1 Meeting and also the adopted new Conclusions, which are presented in Appendix C to this paper. In particular, the Meeting is invited to note the following Conclusion:

**CAPSCA Americas SCM Conclusion 2/3**

States and Territories are encouraged to:

a) prepare and update aviation pandemic preparedness plans in collaboration with public health authorities, and perform exercises to test such plans;

b) become participating members of the ICAO CAPSCA – Americas, if not yet members, by sending a letter to the ICAO NACC or SAM Regional Office; and

c) accept international Aviation Pandemic Preparedness Assistance Visits by the ICAO CAPSCA - Americas Project.

3. **Suggested action**

3.1 The meeting is invited to encourage C/CAR States and Territories to join and participate actively in CAPSCA Americas.

3.2 States are also reminded to reply to ICAO State Letter dated 22 June 2010 (Ref.: EC 6/22-10/51), presented in Appendix D to this paper, on National aviation plan: communicable diseases by returning to ICAO the completed questionnaire by 1 October 2010.
APPENDIX A

ICAO CAPSCA Americas Organisation

Observers:
- International Organisations
  - IATA, ACI, ICAO, IFALPA, UNWTO, OCH, HA, WFP, OMI

ICAO Regional Offices
- Regional Coordinators
  - Michiel Vredenburgh (NACC)
  - Lia Ricalde (SAM)

AMericas Member States
- CAAs & PHAs

Regional Safety Oversight Organisations
- ACSA, CASSOS, ARV/OPS

WHO / PAHO
- Donor Agencies & States
  - UN CFIA, CAAS

ICAO Chief AVMED
- Project Manager
  - Dr. Anthony Evans

ICAO TCB
- Project Administration

SC Chairperson
- Laura Valero
  - United States

RAMT Leader
- Dr. Valente Aguilar
  - Mexico

Steering Committee (SC)

Regional Aviation Medicine Team (RAMT)
- State Airport Evaluators
## CAPSCA Americas Work Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>ICAO Coordinator / Evaluator Names (State/Org.)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1st Steering Committee Meeting (SCM/1)</td>
<td>25 – 26 June 2009</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
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<td>A. Evans (ICAO)</td>
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<td>2 – 7 December 2009</td>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>Lima</td>
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<td>Santo Domingo TBD</td>
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<td>P. Gonzalez (Cuba)</td>
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<td>15 – 16 October 2010</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>A. Evans (ICAO) / J. Singh (CAPSCA Asia-Pac)</td>
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<td>Toronto (Meeting &amp; Open Airport Evaluation) Montreal (Closed Airport</td>
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APPENDIX C

Outstanding Valid Conclusions from the SCM/1 Meeting

SCM Conclusion 1/2

The SCM noted and encouraged the close cooperation between ICAO and WHO, and between their respective regional offices such as PAHO, in order to facilitate closer interaction between States’ aviation and public health sectors in their development of an aviation preparedness plan that is congruent with the national preparedness plan. In this regard,

• CAPSCA-Americas should explore the possibility of coordinating this project with WHO/PAHO more closely and arranging for joint meetings, possibly collaborating on Aviation Pandemic Preparedness Assistance Visits, thus strengthening the cooperation between public health officials and aviation medical officials; and

• the SCM noted with thanks the statement by PAHO of their commitment to contribute support for States’ PHA participation in CAPSCA Americas.

Note: PAHO/WHO re-affirmed its support and collaboration in CAPSCA airport and joint ICAO/PAHO Aviation Pandemic Preparedness Assistance Visits to State airports are planned.

SCM Conclusion 1/3

The SCM urged all States/Administrations in the Americas that have not yet joined CAPSCA-Americas to do so at the earliest opportunity in order for the Project to reach its full objective;

Note: Conclusion replaced by new SCM Conclusion 2/3.

SCM Conclusion 1/6

The SCM noted the draft work plan for CAPSCA-Americas, which, utilising the grant funds provided for the Project, includes:

• further updating of the State (ICAO), Airport (ACI), Airline (IATA) and any relevant WHO guidelines for harmonized pandemic preparedness planning, using the benefit of experience resulting from the current Influenza A(H1N1) Pandemic;

• carrying out Aviation Pandemic Preparedness Assistance Visits at major international airports of CAPSCA-Americas member States;

• exploring the possibility of WHO/PAHO becoming a collaborative partner, with ICAO, in implementing the CAPSCA project; and

• providing further training.

Note: The work plan has been updated and is presented in Appendix B of this report.
SCM Conclusion 1/10

The SCM endorsed holding regional CAPSCA-Americas seminars, including communications exercises between members, in order to evaluate ICAO State guidelines to effect a harmonised response.

*Note:* A seminar is planned to be held in conjunction with the 3rd SCM/RAMT Meeting in 2011.

SCM Conclusion 1/12

The SCM agreed that the RAMT study the feasibility and practicality of training existing airport border control, airline cabin personnel and others in initial health screening.


### New Conclusions from SCM/2 Meeting

**SCM Conclusion 2/1**

Steering Committee and Regional Aviation Medicine Team meetings will be combined from 2011 onwards and it is agreed that global meetings be held once a year in combination with a regional SCM/RAMT meeting, on a rotating basis, with the Americas scheduled to host the 3rd Global meeting in 2012.

**SCM Conclusion 2/2**

It is agreed to launch the CAPSCA web site with the Global and Americas pages and ICAO shall complete the development of the Asia-Pacific page by October 2010, and for the other regions by December 2010.

**SCM Conclusion 2/3**

States and Territories are encouraged to:

a) prepare and update aviation pandemic preparedness plans in collaboration with public health authorities, and perform exercises to test such plans;

b) become participating members of the ICAO CAPSCA – Americas, if not yet members, by sending a letter to the ICAO NACC or SAM Regional Office; and

c) accept international Aviation Pandemic Preparedness Assistance Visits by the ICAO CAPSCA - Americas Project.

**SCM Conclusion 2/4**

ICAO and partner organisations collaborating with CAPSCA will strive towards harmonised common global guidelines, templates and checklists by coordinating between the regions and agencies.
SCM Conclusion 2/5

The SCM accepted the draft Template for an Aviation Public Health Emergency Preparedness Plan and ICAO will post it on the CAPSCA web site and invites further comments.

SCM Conclusion 2/6

The SCM accepted the draft Aviation Pandemic Preparedness Assistance Visits Methodology, Guidelines and Checklist and ICAO will post them on the CAPSCA web site and invites further comments.

SCM Conclusion 2/7

ICAO will propose to the first global CAPSCA meeting in October 2010 to re-name “Airport Evaluations” to “Aviation Pandemic Preparedness Assistance Visits”. The agreed phraseology from the meeting will be recommended for acceptance to subsequent regional SCMs.

SCM Conclusion 2/8

States and Territories are urged to consider business continuity management in preparing and updating aviation pandemic preparedness plans.

SCM Conclusion 2/9

A SAM Region State should offer to host the 3rd SCM/RAMT meeting in May/June 2011.

SCM Conclusion 2/10

States are encouraged to provide their National Aviation Public Health Emergency Preparedness Plans to ICAO for posting on the CAPSCA Web site to share with other States.

SCM Conclusion 2/11

States are encouraged to invite other States when conducting aviation public health emergency exercises, in order to share experiences and lessons learned.
Ref.: EC 6/22-10/51 22 June 2010

Subject: National aviation plan: communicable diseases

Action required: Return completed questionnaire by 1 October 2010

Sir/Madam,

I have the honour to draw your attention to Standard 8.16 of Annex 9 — Facilitation, to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, which requires Contracting States to establish a national aviation plan in preparation for an outbreak of a communicable disease posing a public health risk or public health emergency of international concern.

A preparedness plan for aviation is required since air travel may increase the rate at which a disease spreads. Advance preparation should make it possible to delay such spread and provide more time for States to implement contingency measures to mitigate the effects of a pandemic. Background information on this matter is provided at Attachment A.

Attachment B consists of a questionnaire seeking information on the extent of implementation of Standard 8.16 of Annex 9 and other related provisions of Annexes 6 — Operation of Aircraft; 11 — Air Traffic Services and 14 — Aerodromes, Volume I — Aerodrome Design and Operations as well as the Procedures for Air Navigation Services — Air Traffic Management (PANS-ATM, Doc 4444) and any other current or planned action taken, if any, by your Government on preparedness planning.

It would be appreciated if the questionnaire is completed and returned, with any comments, before 1 October 2010.

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Raymond Benjamin
Secretary General

Enclosures:
A — Background information
B — Questionnaire
ATTACHMENT A to State letter EC 6/22-10/51

Background Information

1. The worldwide transmission of communicable diseases through air transport and the consequent threat to public health has increased in recent years in line with the growth of passenger numbers. In 2004, the 35th Session of the Assembly requested the Council, in Resolution A35-12, *Protection of the health of passengers and crews and prevention of the spread of communicable disease through international travel*, to *inter alia*: a) review existing Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) related to passenger and crew health and develop new SARPs, where appropriate; b) establish suitable institutional arrangements to coordinate efforts by Contracting States and other members of the international civil aviation community aimed at protecting the health of passengers and crews; and c) as a matter of priority, develop SARPs in the appropriate Annexes to the Convention in order to address contingency plans to prevent the spread of communicable diseases through air transport.

2. Subsequently, Annex 9 — *Facilitation* was amended (in 2007) to, *inter alia*, require States to establish a national aviation plan in preparation for an outbreak of a communicable disease posing a public health risk or public health emergency of international concern (Standard 8.16). In 2009 subsequent amendments were made to Annexes 6 — *Operation of Aircraft*; 11 — *Air Traffic Services* and 14 — *Aerodromes*, Volume I — *Aerodrome Design and Operations* as well as the Procedures for Air Navigation Services — *Air Traffic Management* (PANS-ATM, Doc 4444) related to health measures that should be taken by Contracting States to manage public health emergencies of international concern and to prevent the spread of communicable diseases through air travel.

3. Guidelines concerning implementation of the SARPs and PANS-ATM were developed in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and Airports Council International (ACI), and have been posted on the ICAO public website.

4. The ICAO Cooperative Arrangement for the Prevention of Spread of Communicable Disease through Air Travel (CAPSCA) project was set up to begin implementation of the SARPs, guidelines and relevant aspects of the WHO International Health Regulations (2005) through a series of workshops, seminars and airport evaluations held in cooperation with WHO. The CAPSCA project assists States in developing the preparedness of their aviation sectors by means of a collaborative effort that is shared by all stakeholders in order to minimise the spread of any serious communicable disease through air travel and to help reduce the detrimental health and financial impacts of public health emergencies. The CAPSCA project currently operates in three regions: Asia Pacific, Africa and the Americas, and is planned to commence in the Middle East in 2010.

5. ICAO experience thus far in evaluating public health preparedness plans at international airports in many States has highlighted the need for further action to improve preparedness planning in the aviation sector. The Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), avian influenza and, in 2009, the Influenza A (H1N1) pandemics highlighted the need for coordinated action by the global community to help prevent and manage the risk of spread, through air travel, of any communicable disease of serious public health concern. In this regard, strengthened communications and coordination between public health and aviation sectors is crucial, in order to develop and test plans for managing a future public health emergency.
QUESTIONNAIRE

The aim of this questionnaire is to determine to what extent Contracting States have implemented the relevant Annex requirements, and how the aviation sector is preparing for public health emergencies, as required by the International Health Regulations (2005) of the World Health Organization (WHO). This, in turn, will enable ICAO, inter alia, to better tailor preparedness planning workshops to address any gaps through its CAPSCA project, and to work with WHO and public health authorities to facilitate a collaborative approach to such planning. In completing the questionnaire, you may wish to include input from the health agency/department in your State, in addition to that from your Civil Aviation Authority.

NAME OF STATE: ________________________________________________

Please circle the appropriate response.

1. My State has implemented Annex 9, Standard 8.16 that requires Contracting States to establish a national aviation plan in preparation for an international outbreak of a communicable disease:

……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………Yes/No/In part

If the answer is “No”, please skip to Q.1.3.

1.1 If the answer to Q.1 is “Yes” or “In part”, please respond to the following questions:

1.1.1 Is the national preparedness plan for aviation integrated with the general national preparedness plan? …………………………………………………………………………………...Yes/No

1.1.2 Have airport operators been involved in the development of the national preparedness plan for aviation? …………………………………………………………………………………...Yes/No

1.1.3 Have aircraft operators been involved in the development of the national preparedness plan for aviation? …………………………………………………………………………………...Yes/No

1.1.4 Has the public health authority collaborated with the regulatory aviation authority in the development of the national preparedness plan for aviation?………………………………………………...Yes/No

1.2 If the answer to Q.1 is “In part”, please provide additional details below, or on a separate sheet:

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1.3 If the answer to Q.1 is “No”, please indicate the reason(s), if any, below, or on a separate sheet:

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1.4 If the answer to Q.1 is “No”, and if any technical or other assistance is required by your State to establish a national aviation plan in preparation for an international outbreak of a communicable disease, please provide details below, or on a separate sheet of paper:

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2. Aircraft operators carrying passengers to/from my State are utilising the updated (2007) Aircraft General Declaration (Annex 9, Appendix 1 refers), which contains a revised Declaration of Health.

…………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

Yes/No/Don’t know

3. Aircraft operators and/or the Public Health Authority in my State are utilising the Passenger Locator Card (Annex 9, Appendix 13 refers) for contact tracing of passengers who may have been in proximity to someone who may be suffering from a communicable disease………Yes/No/Don’t know

4. Aircraft operators carrying passengers to/from my State have been advised to implement the new (November 2009) procedure * for notifying air traffic control of a public health event on board an aircraft (such as a suspected case of communicable disease)…………………………………Yes/No/Don’t know

5. Air traffic service providers in my State have been advised to implement the new (November 2009) procedure * for informing the destination aerodrome of a public health event on board an aircraft (such as a suspected case of communicable disease) that has been advised to an air traffic controller by a pilot-in-command ……………………………………………………………………Yes/No/Don’t know

* See Procedures for Air Navigation Services — Air Traffic Management (PANS-ATM, Doc 4444), Chapter 16, paragraph 16.6.
6. Air traffic service contingency plans have been developed that include public health emergencies (Annex 11 – Air Traffic Services, Attachment C, paragraph 4 refers) …….. Yes/No/Don’t know

7. Aerodrome emergency plans that include public health emergencies have been developed and tested (See Annex 14 — Aerodromes, Volume 1 — Aerodrome Design and Operations, Chapter 9, section 9.1 refers) ……………………………………………………………………… Yes/No/Don’t know

8. Aircraft operators include a Universal Precaution Kit for managing public health events on board aircraft, as part of their on board medical supplies (Annex 6, paragraph 6.2 refers) ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………… Yes/No/Don’t know

9. My State has joined or plans to join the Cooperative Arrangement for the Prevention of Spread of Communicable Disease through Air Travel (CAPSCA) project (where available **) ………….. Yes/No

10. Details and signature of the person completing this form:

    Name: ……………………………………………………………………………………

    Official Title/Position: ………………………………………………………………

    Mailing address: ……………………………………………………………………

    ………………………………………………………………………………………………..

    ………………………………………………………………………………………………..

    Telephone number: ………………………………………………………………..

    E-mail address: ………………………………………………………………………

    Signature: ……………………………………………………………………………

Please return completed form to: Fax: +1 514-954-6077 or E-mail: icaohq@icao.int

— END —

** The CAPSCA project is currently available in the Africa, Americas and Asia Pacific regions.