INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT FOR THE PREVENTION OF SPREAD OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE THROUGH AIR TRAVEL (CAPSCA)

First CAPSCA Middle East Meeting
(CAPSCA-MID/1)
(Cairo, Egypt, 11-14 December 2011)

DRAFT CONCLUSIONS

1. States are encouraged to prepare and update aviation public health emergency preparedness plans in collaboration with the civil aviation and public health authorities, and perform exercises to test such plans, in compliance with related ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and WHO IHR (2005).

2. Participants unanimously supported the establishment of CAPSCA in the Middle East Region. As a follow up, States are encouraged to confirm participation in CAPSCA - Middle East (CAPSCA-MID) by the civil aviation authority and/or public health authority to ICAO and/or WHO, respectively, by letter.

3. States which join CAPSCA-MID are invited to designate CAPSCA focal point(s) from civil aviation and/or public health authorities and volunteer technical advisors to be trained by ICAO and participate in assistance visits, by sending a letter to the ICAO Regional Office.

4. States which join CAPSCA-MID are invited to request a CAPSCA Assistance Visit by sending a letter to the ICAO Regional Office.

5. ICAO will send a letter to States Civil Aviation Authorities (CAA) and to WHO for forwarding to States Public Health Authorities (PHA), inviting States to join CAPSCA - MID. A State’s Civil Aviation Authority and/or Public Health Authority can join CAPSCA.

6. States’ civil aviation and public health authorities, airport operators, aircraft operators and air navigation service providers are encouraged to provide their Public Health Emergency Preparedness Plans for aviation to ICAO for posting on the CAPSCA website.

7. States and the aviation sector should undertake table-top, partial or full scale Public Health Emergency (PHE) exercises, as required by ICAO Annex 14 – Aerodromes. When a full-scale Public Health Emergency exercise cannot be conducted in the short-term, States should consider incorporating PHE elements into a full-scale exercise for other types of emergency, when possible.
8. States are encouraged to invite other States and Organizations, including ICAO and WHO, to observe aviation public health emergency exercises, in order to share experiences and lessons learned.

9. National IHR focal points, in collaboration with national CAPSCA focal points, are encouraged to complete the online assessment tool for the purpose of monitoring the progress in the implementation of core capacities at the point of entry (Designated airports).

10. WHO will request States public health authorities to invite civil aviation authorities to participate in WHO assessment visits, and inform ICAO which will follow-up with the State CAA to confirm participation.

11. States are encouraged to adapt the template of an aviation public health emergency plan to ensure compliance with ICAO SARP and relevant articles of WHO IHR (2005)

12. ICAO is to consult with WHO regarding a possible additional future survey on the effectiveness and benefits of passenger screening in general and thermal scanning in particular be undertaken which includes adequate representation of States from all regions to ensure the range of experiences are considered.

13. Terms of Reference for the CAPSCA-MID project were agreed as presented in the Appendix.

14. Transit passengers identified as suffering a communicable disease should be managed in the same way as an arriving or departing passenger.

15. Dr Hussein Mohamed Sultan, Director of Medical Affairs, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Egypt, was elected unanimously as Chairman of the CAPSCA-MID project.

16. Dr Osama Abdullah A. Bahannan, Director, Aviation Medicine, General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA), Saudi Arabia, was nominated as Technical Advisers Team Leader.

17. Jordan and Qatar, tentatively expressed their willingness to host the next CAPSCA-MID meeting (3-5 Sept 2012).