

**57th CONFERENCE OF
DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
ASIA AND PACIFIC REGIONS**

*Incheon, Republic of Korea
4 – 8 July 2022*

**AGENDA ITEM 8: TECHNICAL & REGIONAL
COOPERATION**

**ICAO – SINGAPORE DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL
AVIATION PROGRAMME ON AVIATION RESILIENCE**

Presented by Singapore

SUMMARY

The ICAO-Singapore Directors General of Civil Aviation Programme on Aviation Resilience has been a useful platform for Directors-General to discuss, to share experiences and to work together to develop an international aviation system that is more resilient and sustainable. ICAO plays a leading role in collaborating with other entities, to develop guidelines, policies and approaches to support the safe and efficient recovery of aviation. Greater collaboration between regulators and industry will help to optimise the use of limited resources and develop lasting solutions to build resilience and sustainability for international civil aviation.

ICAO – SINGAPORE DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION PROGRAMME ON AVIATION RESILIENCE

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 COVID-19 posed an unprecedented global crisis and had a major impact on the global civil aviation sector. International air travel and connectivity were adversely affected. Given the importance of the aviation sector to the global economy, the ICAO High-Level Conference on COVID-19 held in October 2021 emphasized the need to facilitate aviation recovery through adopting a harmonized and inclusive approach, as well as supporting actions to ensure future resilience and sustainability.

1.2 In support of the aviation recovery efforts, the ICAO and Singapore jointly developed a Directors-Generals of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Programme on Aviation Resilience to facilitate sharing of experiences and discuss how they can work together to develop an international aviation system that is more resilient and sustainable. The inaugural run of the programme was conducted in Singapore from 18 to 19 May 2022 and was attended by more than 40 Directors-General (DGs) from various regions. Three more runs are planned to be held in different regions across the world.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Some key points discussed at the inaugural DGCA Programme on Aviation Resilience were: (a) the importance of ICAO's role and leadership in international civil aviation; (b) inter-agency collaboration to facilitate the recovery of aviation; (c) the importance of co-operation between regulators and industry.

2.2 ICAO's Role and Leadership in International Civil Aviation

2.2.1 Civil aviation is closely integrated with economic development. It is a key enabler for the movement of people, business, tourism and trade flows. While the COVID-19 pandemic was a health crisis, the measures taken by the public health authorities had a significant impact on civil aviation. When international civil aviation was severely affected, supply chains were disrupted, tourism was decimated, and people-to-people relations were curtailed.

2.2.2 The ICAO played a key role and provided leadership in ensuring the sustained viability of the aviation sector. Firstly, the ICAO actively educated non-aviation decision makers on the inter-dependencies between civil aviation with other sectors and strived to ensure that aviation's existing and future needs were taken into consideration and safeguarded. Secondly, the ICAO coordinated and sought to harmonise requirements among Member States, thereby reducing uncertainties and facilitating air travel. During the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ICAO's Council Aviation Recovery Taskforce (CART) was instrumental in reducing uncertainty and providing guidance to Member States on what to do. States recognised and respected the authority of ICAO, and very often, cited adherence to an ICAO requirement helped to resolve problems faced with other stakeholders.

2.3 Inter-agency Collaboration to Facilitate the Recovery of Aviation

2.3.1 Over the past few months, international air travel has gradually resumed and demand for air travel has picked up significantly. This was made possible within and across States and the ICAO through inter-agency collaboration. For instance, the ICAO worked with agencies like the World Health Organization, as well as industry bodies such as the International Air Transport Association (IATA), Airports Council International (ACI), to develop public health measures which aviation stakeholders adopted to enable airports and airlines to revive their operations. States also worked with other entities such as their respective national public health, immigration and customs authorities, and other players in the aviation ecosystem, to restore international civil aviation activities.

2.3.2 Many States also worked with relevant partners within and from outside the aviation industry to increase the pool of qualified aviation professionals, to bring back air travel to pre-COVID-19 levels and beyond. These include providing adequate training, improving or adjusting processes, and promoting the use of technology, among others, to facilitate the growing number of air travellers and aircraft movements safely and efficiently, while being mindful of the necessary public health protocols.

2.4 Building Resilience

2.4.1 Over the last two years, ICAO Member States had tried various approaches to build resilience in the aviation sector. The COVID-19 pandemic raised the importance of building resilience within the aviation sector, and that all entities had the responsibility to contribute to this effort. For instance, many players in the aviation sector suffered major financial stress and pressures with the reduction in international air travel, and corresponding increase in operating costs, such as in implementing COVID-19 public health measures. These led aviation stakeholders to review the way they conducted their business, ways to reduce cost, and ways to optimise the use of limited resources in order to restore and keep up civil aviation operations in the post-pandemic period.

2.4.2 Some key initiatives shared included adopting new ways to reduce the consumption of energy, use of eco-friendly materials and processes, and implementing innovative approaches to handle larger volumes of passenger facilitation needs, such as airport check-in, immigration and baggage handling, using more automation and less human resources.

3. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

3.1 The Conference is invited to:

- a) note the benefits of the ICAO – Singapore DGCA Programme on Aviation Resilience and the platform it provides for DGs of Civil Aviation to share experiences and to work together to develop an international aviation system that is more resilient and sustainable;
- b) support the ICAO in its leading role in the international civil aviation sector, and its collaboration with other international organisations, industry and non-civil aviation entities, to develop guidelines, policies and approaches for States and industry to recover international civil aviation operations safely and efficiently, including adhering to the necessary public health, safety and security requirements; and
- c) encourage greater collaboration between regulators and industry, to optimise the use of limited resources, promote innovative methods, and develop lasting solutions to build resilience and sustainability for international civil aviation.

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