

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

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

**AGENDA ITEM 5: AVIATION SECURITY AND
FACILITATION**

**ENSURING A SMOOTH OPERATIONAL RECOVERY FROM
THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Presented by the Airports Council International (ACI) Asia-Pacific

SUMMARY

This paper proposes policies and measures to stimulate air travel demand and to ensure operational readiness to help the air transport industry recover as soon as possible from the interruptions in international travels caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Amongst proposed measures are lifting or shortening of quarantine, joint campaigns with the travel industry and appropriate slot management process.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In 2022 the airport industry in Asia-Pacific is expected to lose 1.8 billion passengers and 23 billion USD in revenues than in the scenario where the COVID-19 pandemic had never occurred.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Air transport is vital to the social and economic developments of many States, especially to small and open economies and PSIDS (Pacific Small Island Developing States).

2.2 Accordingly Action Item DGCA/56/22 urges States to acknowledge socioeconomic benefits of air transport.

2.3 The COVID-19 pandemic, although somewhat easing in Q2 2022, is still discouraging States from reopening borders and lifting or relaxing restrictions on international travels and has exacerbated the introduction of different health protocols that vary country by country, discouraging passengers from travelling.

2.4 A recent WHO [bulletin](#)¹ quoted a study that suggests travel restrictions have been largely ineffective in preventing infections but only serves to delay imported cases.

2.5 It would be sensible now for Asia-Pacific States to consider progressively reopen borders, and lift or ease travel restrictions subject to their circumstances such as vaccination rates, demographics and capacities of health care systems.

2.6 This paper recommends the following set of policies and measures to **stimulate travel demands**:

- Harmonization of health check protocols at airports and mutual recognition between States of COVID-19 certificates and testing results to facilitate document checks, preferably based on the technical specifications on Visible Digital Seal for non-constrained environments that ICAO published in June 2021;
- Elimination of the need for COVID testing before flight departure and upon arrival for vaccinated passengers;
- Lifting of quarantine period upon arrival for vaccinated passengers;
- Encourage vaccination amongst high-risk age categories amongst local populations;
- Relaxation of entry visa requirements, at least on a provisional basis;
- Joint campaigns with the tourism and travel industry to encourage travels; and
- Thorough implementation of CART² recommendations with ACI's [Airport Health Accreditation](#) program.

2.7 The paper also recommends the following measures and practices to ensure **readiness of airports** in welcoming back the expected influx of passengers:

- Ensure an appropriate slot management process is in place, consistent with the Worldwide

¹ Bulletin of the World Health Organization, 100 (3), 178 - 178A. World Health Organization

² Council's Aviation Recovery Task Force

Airport Slot Board (WASB) recommendations, and in full coordination with all stakeholders such as the airport, airlines, ATC, security service providers, customs and immigration authorities, to avoid preventable congestions in the passenger terminal;

- Consider using ACI's document "Airport Operations and COVID-19: Business Recovery" as guidance in the operational recovery process; and
- In the longer term, consider introducing innovative programs to attract NGAP (Next Generation Aviation Professionals) as per Action Item DGCA/56/32.

3. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

3.1 The Conference is invited to:

- a) Urge States and Administrations to consider adopting policies and measures recommended in paragraphs 2.6 and 2.7.

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