



**Address by
the Secretary General of the
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO),
Dr. Fang Liu,
to the 7th UNWTO Global Tourism Crisis Committee**

(Virtual Format, 9 December 2020)

Good morning everyone.

1. Aviation's contributions are essential to global tourism and to the profitability and prosperity of hospitality markets everywhere, but they are also critical to countries' realization of 15 of the 17 SDGs being pursued during this important 'Decade of Action'.
2. I wish to take today's opportunity to summarize the latest actions ICAO has taken to help restore passenger confidence, and to boost recovery of the international air connectivity which is so fundamental to our transport and tourism sectors and the societies they serve.
3. Following on its original key principles and recommendations on aviation safety, aviation public health, security and facilitation, and economic and financial measures, which were issued in June, this November, the ICAO CART Task Force issued its new 'Phase II' Take-off Guidelines.
4. The Phase II adjustments and additions derive primarily from the latest technological and medical advancements being seen in the fight against COVID-19.
5. As with the original CART recommendations, they have benefitted from the collaboration of Member States, the WHO and UNWTO, regional bodies, and industry groups, who form this task force.
6. The new Phase II recommendations deal mainly with general hygiene, masks and face coverings, health screening and declarations, air passengers with reduced mobility, and the mental health and well-being of aviation workers and passengers.

7. They also importantly address the evaluation and use of passenger testing by ICAO Member States, to help alleviate the quarantining of travellers where medical conditions and respective national response measures permit.
8. To support the Phase II testing evaluation recommendation, ICAO has rapidly developed a new manual on *Testing and Cross-border Risk Management Measures*.
9. It's accelerated development through our CAPSCA group, which includes the WHO, U.S. and European Centers for Disease Control, and others, also benefitted on this occasion from the newest government and industry advice and lessons learned.
10. Risk tolerance on testing varies between States, and depends on many factors. A systematic and programmatic risk management approach to mitigate the adverse impact of pandemic on international air travel is therefore critical.
11. To support States in developing a risk assessment framework that is adapted to sovereign considerations and integrates with existing national frameworks, CAPSCA has also developed a generic decision-making and risk management tool covering the transport of potentially infectious passengers.
12. The Phase II guidance on face coverings and medical masks has been updated to provide for certain types of passengers who can't reasonably tolerate a face covering or medical mask, such as young children or individuals with disabilities or respiratory conditions.
13. It also includes a new section on general hygiene to be applied at airports and on-board aircraft.
14. When considering the guidance contained in the updated Take-off Guideline document, and the ICAO Manual on Testing and Cross Border Risk Management Measures, States are strongly encouraged to collaborate with each other regarding the Public Health Corridor (PHC) implementation.
15. A public health corridor is formed when two or more States agree to recognize the public health mitigation measures each has implemented on one or more routes between their States.

16. To enable this mutual recognition, States are strongly encouraged to actively share information and to consider either bilateral or multilateral agreements.
17. ICAO has issued earlier advisories and resources supporting health corridor establishment, in addition to a new PHC Implementation Package in mid-November.
18. As I mentioned earlier, we've been encouraged thus far by the progress being made on establishing international travel and health corridors between specific destinations.
19. These are now realizing some important and prudent first steps toward increased traveller confidence and sectoral recovery.
20. ICAO's monitoring is also revealing that areas of the world characterized by higher levels of intra-regional air travel are proving more resilient and sustainable in the face of the pandemic impacts.
21. The Phase II guidelines also contain wide-ranging recommendations in more specific aviation safety, security, and other areas, especially regarding temporary alleviations now in effect and the increasing risks to air crew, travellers, and national authorities as these become prolonged.
22. In conclusion I wish to stress that the new Phase II task force guidance reaffirms the critical importance of global and regional coordination on setting out mutually accepted measures, and that they continue to strongly uphold each State's prerogative to implement additional or alternative mitigation measures in accordance with their specific needs and circumstances.
23. I also must continue to emphasize that a combination of measures, coordinated between governments and industry, will be essential to the re-establishment of public confidence in air travel.
24. For all in attendance today, I wish to reaffirm our commitment to this re-establishment, and to getting the world travelling again.
25. As medical conditions permit, ICAO will work to accelerate the sector's recovery in every world region, and work to bring prosperity and sustainability back to the Small Island, Landlocked, and many other countries who so deeply rely on the socio-economic dynamics of transport and tourism.

26. In the meantime we are proud to be keeping air cargo operations and critical resources and supplies moving, including in preparation for the transport of the new COVID-19 vaccines that are the great hope of so many in the world at this moment.

Thank you.