ICAO

Briefing of AFI-DGCA/8 Meeting:
High Level Conference on COVID-19 (HLCC 2021)

16 July 2021

Mandate

Provide recommendations and guidance to States to support their endeavors when restarting and recovering the aviation industry and to help them cope with the significant fallouts caused by the prolonged duration of the crisis.

It is also important to note the positive developments brought by the growing medical and scientific evidence on vaccination and by technological advancements.
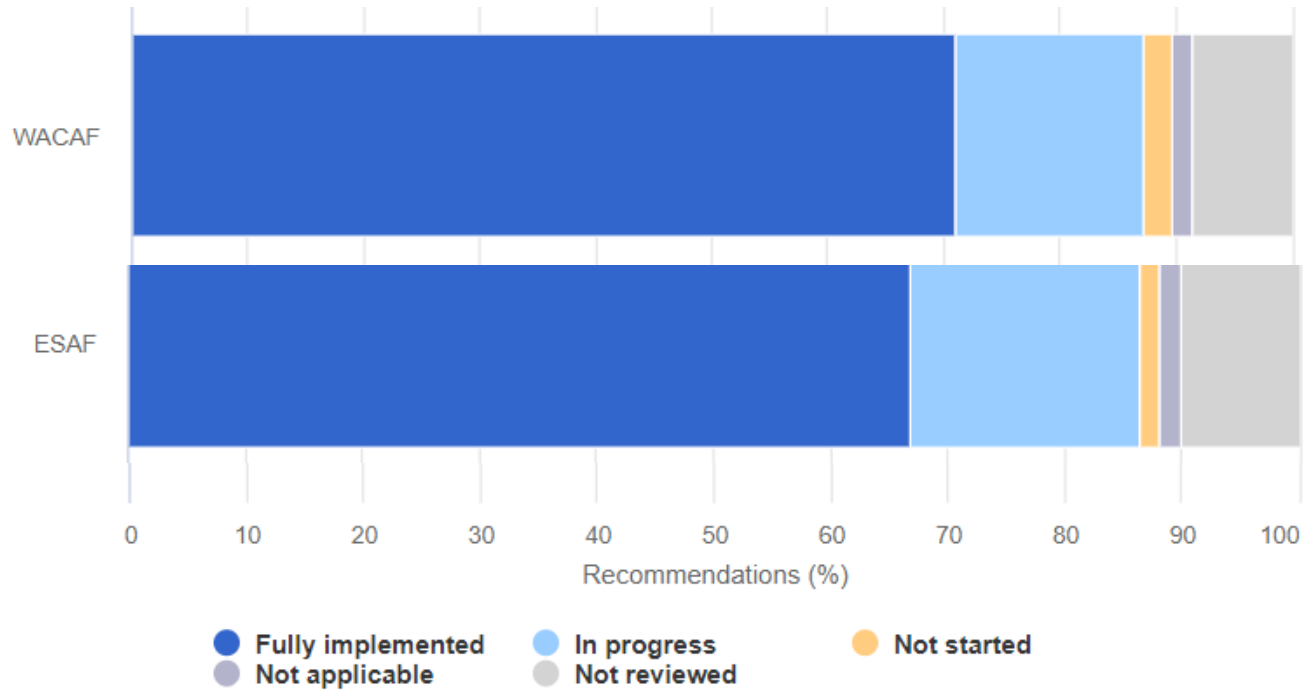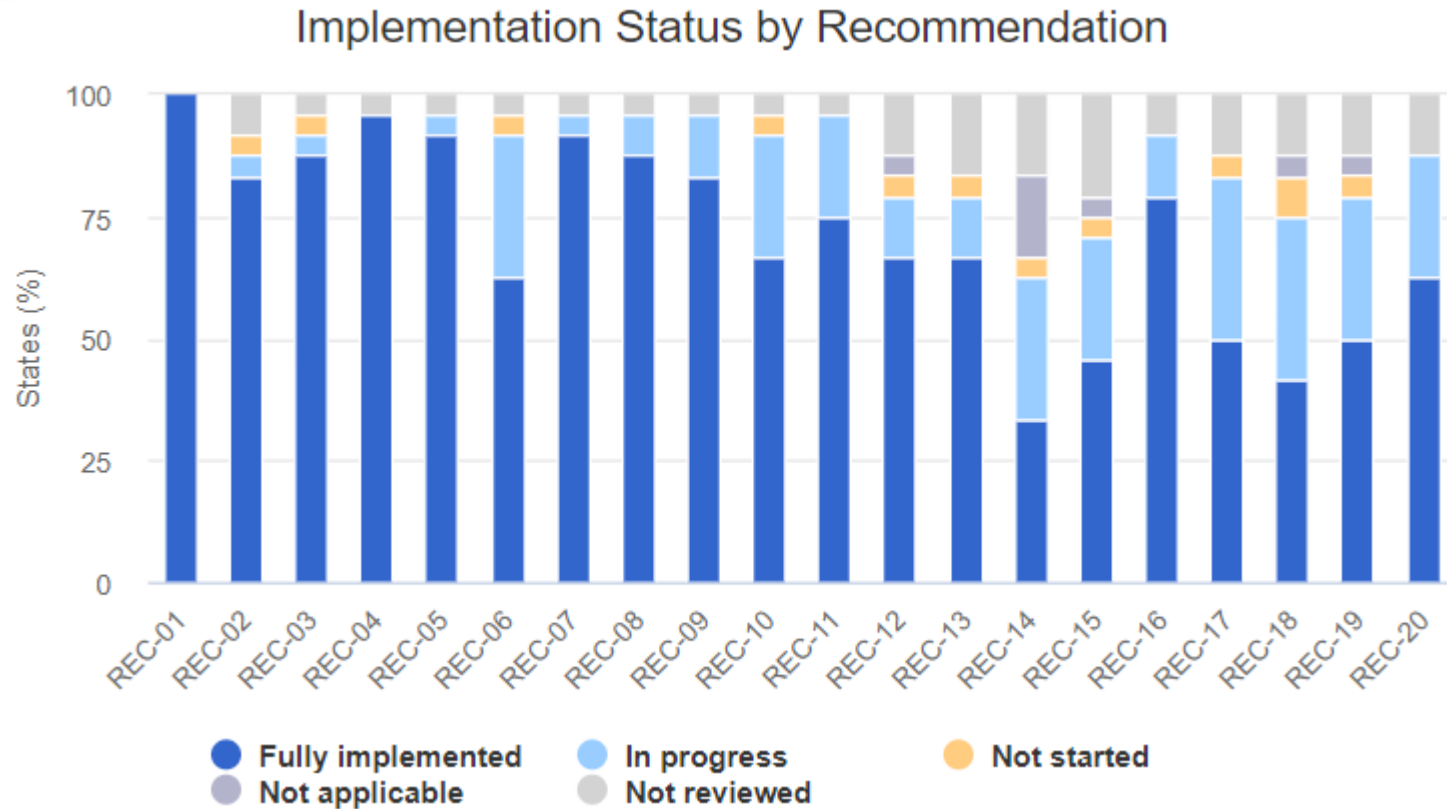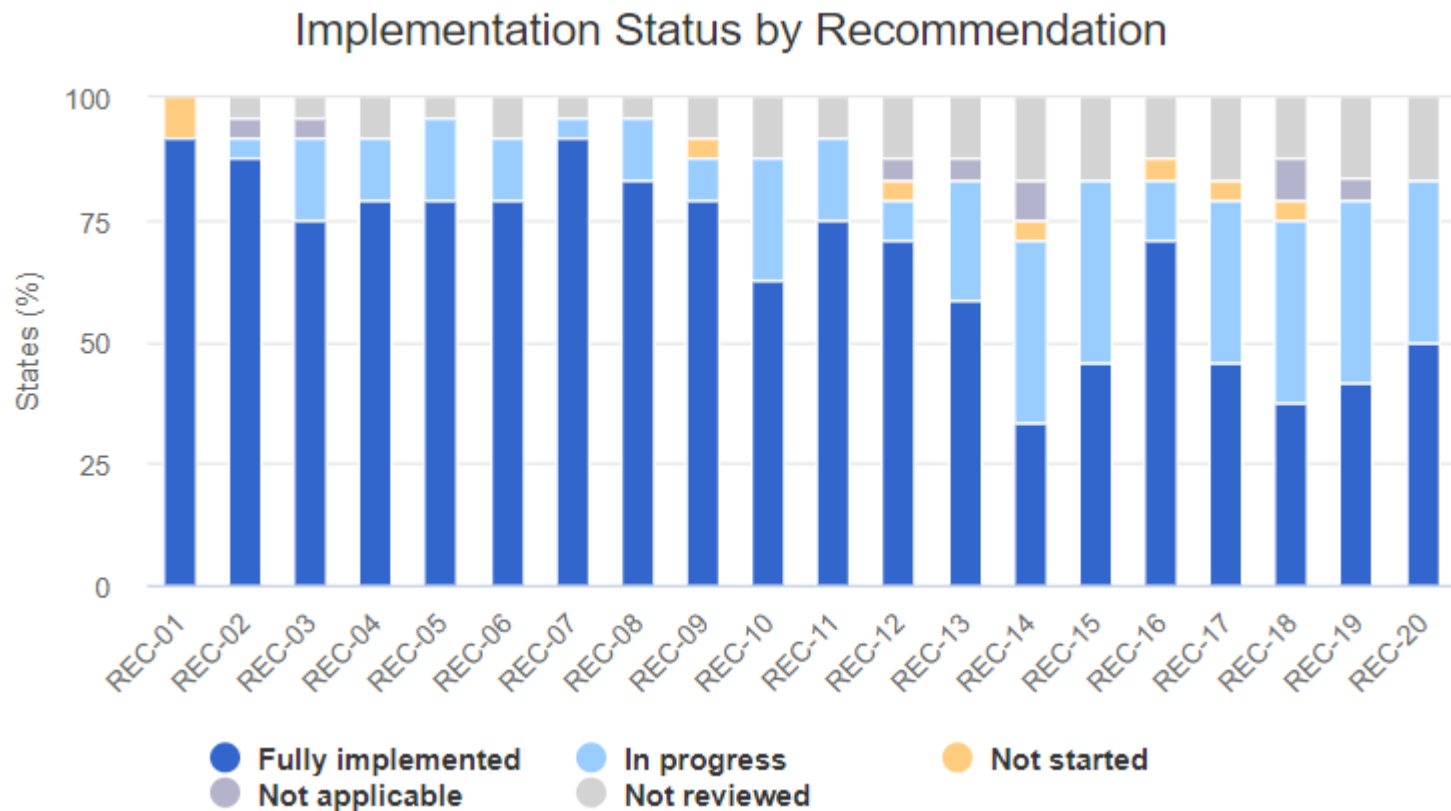
PHASE III HIGH-LEVEL COVER DOCUMENT

3rd Edition

Doc 10152 2nd Edition

ICAO UNITING AVIATION

Implementation Status by Recommendation

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High Level Conference on COVID-19

- On 18 and 20 November 2020, the Council approved the convening of a single High-level Conference relating to the COVID-19 pandemic response and the aviation sector economic recovery, including an emphasis on safety and facilitation, and requested the Secretariat to consult Member States on the agenda (**C-DEC 221/10 and C-DEC 221/11**)

- On 15 December 2020, **State letter 20/31** was issued to seek comments on the provisional agenda (28 responses received)

- On 12 March 2021, the Council agreed to convene a High-level Conference on COVID-19 (HLCC 2021) from 12 to 22 October 2021 in a virtual or hybrid setting and established a Small Ad Hoc Group to review and adjust the agenda et al (**C-WP/15171 and C-DEC 222/10**)

- On 26 April 2021, the Council approved the agenda for the Conference (**Report of the Small Ad Hoc Group and C-DEC 223/1**)

- On 20 May 2021, **State letter 21/40** was issued to invite to attend the Conference

Theme: "One Vision for Aviation Recovery, Resilience and Sustainability beyond the Global Pandemic"

Consider a broad range of issues with particular focus on safety and facilitation objectives, taking into account the economic impact of COVID-19 on the aviation sector to:

- Reach a global consensus on a multilateral approach, supported by political will and commitments of States, to enable the safe and efficient recovery of aviation from the COVID-19 crisis
- Build a foundation to strengthen resilience in aviation and make it more sustainable in the future
- Promote and strengthen collective efforts to harmonize measures, and a risk management strategy through the implementation of the CART recommendations

- Opening on 12 October

- Ministerial Plenary I (Leading aviation recovery) on 12 October

  – Chair's Summary

- Ministerial Plenary II (Building resilience and sustainability) on 13 October

  – Chair's Summary

- Safety and Facilitation Streams from 14 to 21 October

  – Draft reports containing conclusions and recommendations

- Closing and Ministerial Plenary III on 22 October

  – Reports containing conclusions and recommendations by Safety and Facilitation Streams

  – Declaration

- Ministerial Plenary I: Leading aviation recovery
  - Explore approaches for States to enabling the safe and efficient recovery of civil aviation, focusing on economic and financial aspect and risk management

- Ministerial Plenary II: Building resilience and sustainability
  - Explore policy responses and strategic directions towards building a more resilient international civil aviation system than before

- Ministerial Plenary (Closing): Shaping political responses to covid-19 challenges
  - Set up firm commitments to confronting COVID-19 through effective multilateral actions

- Format
  - Brief keynote addresses to be delivered by one Minister from each of the six ICAO regions
  - Interactive roundtable style discussion chaired by President of the Council
  - Two types of intervention – reserved and spontaneous

- Agenda Item 1: Safety and operational measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic

- Agenda Item 2: Strategy and policy

    – 2.1: Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP), and implementation of regional and national aviation safety plans

    – 2.2: Evolving regulatory capacity in aviation

- Agenda Item 3: Standardization

    – 3.1: Oversight and new approaches

    – 3.2: Risk management

    – 3.3: Ground handling

- Agenda Item 4: Implementation and support

- Agenda Item 5: Other issues to be considered by the Safety stream

- Agenda Item 6: Facilitation operational measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond
  - 6.1: Review of the appropriateness of the facilitation-related guidance addressing the impact on air travel of pandemic situations
  - 6.2: New and revised health-related Annex 9 Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs)

- Agenda Item 7: Enhancing National Coordination and International Cooperation
  - 7.1: National aviation plan in preparation for an outbreak of a communicable disease posing a public health risk or public health emergency of international concern
  - 7.2: National Air Transportation Facilitation Programmes and National Air Transport Facilitation Committees (NATFCs)
  - 7.3: Cross-sectorial Collaboration

- Agenda Item 8: Enhancing digital data sharing to facilitate seamless and contactless processes during and beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic
  - 8.1: Collection and sharing of passenger contact and health data through electronic travel systems
  - 8.2: Sharing passengers' identity information across borders to facilitate contactless travel

- Agenda Item 9: Future approaches to the management of sustainable health-related Facilitation measures for the passenger experience and advancing the implementation monitoring
  - 9.1 Accessibility for all passengers globally, including the most vulnerable, such as those with disabilities
  - 9.2: Monitoring the implementation of health-related Annex 9 SARPs
  - 9.3 Fostering resilience of air transport facilitation systems and processes

- Agenda Item 10: Other issues to be considered by the Facilitation stream

Preparation Timeline

High-level Conference on COVID-19

Agenda

Videos of Proceedings

Programme and Event Directory

Daily Bulletin

List of Delegates

Order of Business

Conference Timetable

Presentations

Documentation

Guidelines regarding the preparation of Working papers/Information papers

Conference Papers

Reference Documents

High-level Conference on COVID-19

Date: 12 - 22 October, 2021
Location: TBD (Hybrid or Virtual/Online)
Venue: TBD (Hybrid or Virtual/Online)

The High-level Conference on COVID-19 (HLCC 2021) will be held from 12 to 22 October 2021. Under the proposed theme of "One Vision for Aviation Recovery, Resilience and Sustainability beyond the Global Pandemic", the objective of the Conference is to reach a global consensus on a multilateral approach, supported by political will and commitments of States, to enable the safe and efficient recovery of aviation from the COVID-19 crisis and building a foundation to strengthen resilience in aviation and make it more sustainable in the future. The Conference will consider a broad range of issues with particular focus on its safety and facilitation objectives, taking into account the economic impact of COVID-19 on the sector. The Conference will also be an opportunity to promote and strengthen collective efforts to harmonize measures and risk management strategy through the implementation of the recommendations by the ICAO Council Aviation Recovery Taskforce (CART).

- **20 May** – Issuance of State letter 21/40 and launch of the website

- **Late July** – Open for registration (upon decision of the meeting format)

- **1 October** – Deadline for registration and credential letters

- Separately, Delegations whose Ministers and/or Deputy Ministers wish to attend the Ministerial Plenary sessions are requested to separately inform the Secretariat (hlcc@icao.int) of their participation by **1 October 2021**

More information will be posted on the Conference website, including registration, reference documents, access to virtual platform, submission of pre-recorded video statements by Ministers/Deputy-Ministers, etc.

- **End June** – Secretariat papers for Safety Stream

- **End July** – Secretariat papers for Facilitation Stream

- **30 August** – Deadline for working papers by States and international organizations and written Statements for the Ministerial Plenary

- **30 September** – Deadline for information papers by States and international organizations

- All submitted working and information papers will be published progressively and at least one week before the Conference

States and international organizations are strongly requested to submit working and information papers well in advance the deadlines

- **3 September** – First draft to be circulated to the Council members for review

- **15 September** – Deadline for comments by the Council members

- **20 September** – Second draft to be circulated to States and international organizations that have registered to attend the Conference for comments

- **4 October** – Deadline for comments by States and international organizations

- **6 October** – Third draft to be circulated to the Council members

- **12 October** – Fourth draft to be circulated to the Conference participants

After the Conference starts, the President of the Council, as a Chairperson to the Ministerial Plenary, will have an authority to finalize the Declaration

Logistical Arrangements

Meeting format: cautious approach

Planning has been based on the Alert Level in Montreal

- **Consultation with the Government of Canada and Quebec Province** – respecting the local government authorities recommendations when holding an in-person meeting at ICAO HQ.

- **Onsite in-person attendance** – Assembly Hall seating capacity is up to 110 participants under COVID-19 health restrictions.

- **Virtual meeting platform** – Zoom is the preferred platform. Connection issues of certain States would be solved shortly, pending Zoom's confirmation that the technical steps have been finalized at their end

UN organizations' practices

- UN General Assembly has restricted in-person participation to New York-based delegates while pre-recorded video statements of Ministers were used

- ITU's physical meetings are scheduled in two blocks of a maximum of 3 hours each over up to an 8-hour period

- ILO held a hybrid meeting of its governing body in March with only chairpersons and secretariat allowed in premises

- UNESCO hosts "light" hybrid meetings with limited resident delegates only

- WHO's World Health Assembly was held virtually in May; due to security concerns the Interprefy platform was used

- UNIDO is convening restricted hybrid meetings with only the presiding officers and some Secretariat physically present

The Council (C-DEC 223/11) ….. agreed that the HLCC 2021 should be held as a **totally virtual event** on the understanding that all participants would be connected remotely, while at the same agreeing that the **option of in-person participation in the Ministerial Plenary Sessions** at a ministerial level could be accommodated subject to the following criteria being addressed and met:

1. compliance with existing travel restrictions into Canada at the time of the event;

2. appropriate numbers of commitments being made for in-person participation in the Ministerial Plenary Sessions at a ministerial level and from a sufficiently broad range of Member States and regions, such that this would ensure that in-person participation was not restricted to only a limited number of countries; and

3. the meeting schedule would not need to be revised as a result of in-person ministerial participation in a way that would be to the detriment of any one particular region.

- Council decided in C-DECs 222/10 and 223/1:

  – the meeting schedule should be structured in such a way as to ensure that the burden of working after hours would be shared by participants around the world, it being understood that the <u>meeting times would be staggered</u>

  – the meeting schedule of the Conference, including the timing of the daily sessions, <u>should be staggered</u> in such a way so as to ensure that the inconvenience of participating in the nighttime hours would be <u>rotated as feasible as possible</u> among participants in different time zones around the world

- Tentative schedule consists of two 3-hour meetings each day:

  – Full virtual setting – five staggered starting times (0200, 0500, 0800, 1100 or 1400 at EDT)

  – Hybrid setting – three staggered starting times (0600, 1000 or 1400 at EDT)

THANK YOU