

CAPSCA EUR-MID/10

Joint ICAO Europe and North Atlantic and Middle East
Regional Offices Tenth Meeting of the Collaborative
Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of
Public Health Events in Civil Aviation

Bahrain, 14 - 15 February 2023

ICAO Aviation Medicine Workshop

Bahrain, 16 February 2023



MINISTRY OF
TRANSPORTATION
AND
TELECOMMUNICATIONS.



**TENTH MEETING OF THE JOINT
CAPSCA EUR/NAT & MID REGIONAL OFFICES**

(CAPSCA EUR-MID/10)

(Bahrain, 14- 15 February 2023)

AVIATION MEDICINE WORKSHOP

(Bahrain, 16 February 2023)



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

**COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENT FOR THE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
EVENTS IN CIVIL AVIATION
(CAPSCA)**

SUMMARY REPORT

**TENTH MEETING OF THE JOINT CAPSCA EUR/NAT
AND MID REGIONAL OFFICES (CAPSCA EUR-MID/10)**

(Bahrain, 14- 15 February 2023)

AVIATION MEDICINE WORKSHOP

(Bahrain, 16 February 2023)

The views expressed in this report should be taken as those of the Collaborative Arrangement for The Prevention and Management of Public Health Events In Civil Aviation (CAPSCA) Programme and not of the Organization. This Report will, however, be submitted to the ICAO management and any formal action taken will be published in due course as a Supplement to the Report.

Approved by the Meeting
and published by authority of the Regional Director

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of ICAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontier or boundaries.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
1. Place and Duration	1
2. Opening	1
3. Attendance.....	1
4. Officers and Secretariat	1
5. Agenda/Programme and Documentation	1-2
6. Summary of Discussions	2-4
7. Recommendations	4-5
7. Future Work Programme.....	5
8. Closing of the Meeting	6

Attachment A

List of Participants

1. PLACE AND DURATION

1.1 The Tenth meeting of the Joint Europe and North Atlantic and Middle East Regional Office of the Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA EUR/MID/10) was held in Bahrain on 14-15 February 2023 back-to-back with the Aviation Medicine Workshop held on 16 February 2023.

1.2 Both events were graciously hosted by Bahrain Airport Company and coordinated of the Kingdom of Bahrain Civil Aviation Authority.

1.3 The CAPSCA 10 meeting was actively supported by WHO EURO, WHO EMRO, FAA and EASA.

2. OPENING

2.1 Dr. Wafa Alsharbati, Director of Health Promotion and Mr. Mohamed Yousif AlBinfalalah, Bahrain Airport Company Chief Executive Officer opened the meeting.

2.2 Mr. Mohamed Abubaker Farea, ICAO MID Regional Director and Mr. Nicolas Rallo, ICAO EUR/NAT Regional Director welcomed the participants on behalf of ICAO and clarified the overall objectives of the meeting and the workshop.

3. ATTENDANCE

3.1 The meeting was physically attended by a total of eighty-one (81) participants from twenty-nine (29) States and five (5) International Organizations. The list of participants is at **Attachment A**.

4. OFFICERS AND SECRETARIAT

4.1 The meeting was chaired by Dr. Khalil M. Khalil, the CAPSCA-MID Chairman and the Head of Aviation Medicine of the Jordanian Civil Aviation Regulatory Commission (CARC), and Mr. Johan SKJAL, the Chief Adviser of the Finnish Transport and Communications Agency (Traficom).

4.2 Both, the meeting and the workshop were mainly supported by Dr. Johanna Jordaan, the Chief of the Aviation Medicine Section at ICAO HQ and the CAPSCA Program Manager.

4.3 Mr. Mohamed Iheb Hamdi, the Regional Officer for Aerodromes and Ground Aids and the CAPSCA MID Regional Coordinator ICAO MID Office along with Mr. Sarantis Poulimenakos, the Regional Officer for Air Navigation Services/Implementation and the CAPSCA EUR Regional Coordinator, acted as the Secretaries of the meeting.

5. AGENDA/PROGRAM AND DOCUMENTATION

5.1 The Agenda/Program of the Meeting, included mainly:

- Agenda Item 1: Review of Conclusions of CAPSCA EUR-MID/9
- Agenda Item 2: WHO/ICAO Memorandum of Understanding
- Agenda Item 3: WHO and ICAO Public Health Emergency (PHE) requirements
- Agenda Item 4: Updates of activities and achievements from WHO and ICAO on Public Health Management

-
- Agenda Item 5: Updates of activities and achievements from CAPSCA Key Partners
 - Agenda Item 6: States Feedback on their Aviation Preparedness Plans (focus on the cooperation amongst Civil Aviation and government agencies to improve their contingency and emergency response Plans)
 - Agenda Item 7: iPack on Public Health Corridor (PHC): Implementation Updates
 - Agenda Item 8: Other business

5.2 The meeting's documentation and presentations are available on both the ICAO MID and ICAO EUR/NAT websites:

- <https://www.icao.int/MID/Pages/capsca-mid.aspx>
- <https://www.icao.int/EURNAT/Pages/Other-Meetings.aspx>

5.3 The Agenda/Program of the Workshop, successfully conducted back to back with meeting, included mainly:

Agenda Item 1 - Updates on ICAO provisions in Aviation Medicine

Agenda Item 2 - Global Developments: WHO, CAPSCA Partners and ICAO tools and processes

Agenda Item 3 - Presentations by States/Administrations on their mechanisms set to proactively manage public health Events

Agenda Item 4 - Case Studies

Agenda Item 5 - Other Business

6. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

6.1 The meeting reviewed the CAPSCA/9 Meeting recommendations and reiterated that States should coordinate with all agencies locally involved in the implementation of the Council Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART) III Recommendations.

6.2 The meeting encouraged States to continuously update their status of implementation of the CART recommendations and guidance on the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Implementation Centre (CRRIC).

Global Developments

6.3 The meeting was appraised of the High-level Conference on COVID-19. The meeting noted that the HLCC Declaration demonstrates the solidarity and determination in confronting COVID-19 challenges and conveys a strong political "message" to international communities and world economies.

6.4 The meeting noted that the HLCC identified the following Items, including but not limited to:

- Develop proposals to implement relevant recommendations,
- Develop proposals to improve the level of implementation of Annex 9 notably the Standard 8.17
- Liaise with ICAO Panels and Bureaus, design appropriate auditing framework and capacity-building assistance mechanism for implementation of Annex 9 health-related SARPs.

6.5 The meeting noted with appreciation the CAPSCA Programme recommendations related to the:

- Formalization of agreements, at all levels: WHO, regional centers of disease control
- Maintaining efficiency considering the inclusiveness, flexibility and collaboration between all stakeholders,
- Use of a scientific repository of guidance and tool to improve risk management planning and States capabilities,
- Provision of comprehensive package including standards setting, resource mobilization and implementation activities, and
- Maintaining a balance by formulating recommendations, developing tools and measures to support effective implementation.

6.6 The meeting noted the way forward of the CAPSCA Programme as illustrated on the following graph:



6.7 The meeting was apprised of the new ICAO provisions as well as the A41 Outcomes related to facilitation. The meeting noted new and updated guidance Material concerning the following points:

- ICAO TRIP Revised Implementation roadmap for Member States
- Guide on Evidence of Identity
- Doc 9303 Machine Readable Travel Documents (updated 7th Edition)
- Guide for Circulating Specimen Travel Documents
- Guidance on Migrating CSCAs
- Guide for Best Practice Guidelines for Optical Machine Authentication
- The Implementation Steps of Advance Passenger (API) System
- Passenger Name Record (PNR) information

6.8 WHO EURO/EMRO reiterated that they will continue to support Member States to enhance their hazard emergency preparedness capacities. In addition, WHO updated the meeting about the international travel policies, including but not limited to:

- Publication of the Operational framework for international travel- related public health measures in the context of COVID-19 based on regional consultations.
- Online Calibration tool to support decision making on PHSM during COVID-19
- Three (03) public health checklists for controlling the spread of COVID-19 in aviation, ground crossings and at sea ports and inland ports.

6.9 The meeting noted with appreciation the overview provided by WHO about the Points of Entries (PoEs) Core Capacities. The meeting was updated about the WHO tools used to assess the PoEs Capacities as well as the Training Package that can be provided to support PoEs.

6.10 The meeting noted the presence of the following challenges, including but not limited to:

- Capacities varying in infrastructure, resources, and passenger volumes, from established facilities with various sectors present, to porous borders where travelers may cross quotidianly and sporadically,
- Limited compliance to IHR & inconsistent travel measures Insufficient coordination among sectors,
- Availability of PHECP, plans & SoPs not coordinated, not exercised with relevant sectors, and
- Limited trained and qualified HR and the availability of resources/tools

6.11 The meeting agreed on the necessity to enhance the cross-border collaboration at all levels and encourage States to use electronic systems and generate real time data for passengers or ill travelers.

6.12 The meeting noted the EASA effort to support States on Public Health management and emphasized on the importance of cultivating cross-domain and international harmonization of measures through the establishment of ICAO public health corridors.

6.13 The meeting noted with appreciation the ICAO-WHO and EASA-ECDC agreements for exchange of information and mutual recognition of measures.

6.14 The meeting noted the FAA paths forward to face the new reality forward which is emphasizing on exercising the established/communicated plan based on multi-layered risk assessment with clear and scientific approach rooted in multi-lateral and apolitical collaboration.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 The meeting provided a great forum for the States to share their experiences about their Preparedness/Emergency Plans. The meeting noted with appreciation all the inputs provided by Armenia, Bahrain, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and UK.

7.2 The meeting agreed that, as COVID-19 created a new aviation reality, the CAPSCA Programme needs to continuously adapt to the change and States should support the establishment and operation of the CAPSCA Working Groups at global level.

7.3 With reference to Bahrain proposal, the meeting agreed about the necessity to enhance the CAPSCA structure at global and regional level. The meeting recalled that the CAPSCA networks are instrumental for the implementation of the CAPSCA program. The meeting encouraged States to:

- to nominate active focal persons from both Public Health Authorities and Civil Aviation,
- update regularly, at regional level, the coordination of the State focal persons,
- request ICAO for capacity building activities to ensure that all State focal persons, including the recently nominated, are aware of the CAPSCA program activities.

7.4 The meeting reiterated that the coordination between all aviation stakeholders and Public Health Authorities is the most profound lesson learned from the recent pandemic. The meeting noted that CAPSCA should continue focusing to bridge and raise awareness for these two sectors through capacity building activities about performing crisis management exercises.

7.5 The meeting highlighted that CAPSCA experts should continue to support the review of the Facilitation Standards and Recommended Practices concerning Public Health Events and liaise with their Facilitation counterparts to enhance HR competency. In addition, the meeting encouraged States to advocate the implementation of the Facilitation measures relevant to public health events through the CAPSCA programme.

7.6 The meeting encouraged the States to request Technical Assistance Visits to receive support with recommendations pertaining to the implementation of their public health preparedness and response plans to build resilience in the civil aviation sector. The meeting encouraged States, to organize tabletop and full-scale exercises for their plans and to share their experience (report, identified gaps, corrective action plans, lessons learned, etc.) with other States and CAPSCA meetings.

7.7 The meeting noted with appreciation that ICAO, WHO, FAA and EASA are willing to provide support to States seeking for capacity building activities. The meeting encouraged States to the CAPSCA regional networks to development/update/upgrade their current tools (e.g., checklists, templates).

7.8 The meeting notified ICAO and WHO to consider the development of virtual assessments/Technical Assistance Visits, as deemed necessary.

7.9 Following the recent signature of the WHO/ICAO MoU the meeting is encouraging the development and inclusion of CAPSCA related activities into the general working programme.

7.10 The meeting invited ICAO and WHO to coordinate all relevant capacity building activities to avoid duplication and to optimize the use of available resources for the implementation of both ICAO SARPS and WHO IHR at the Regional and State levels.

7.11 Finally, the meeting encouraged States to effectively/continually communicate with ICAO and support the CAPSCA program. The meeting noted that the efficient communication will strengthen the preparedness plans of States and facilitate to ICAO to mobilize the appropriate resources for the CAPSCA programme.

8. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

Encouraging Inter-Regional Exchange

8.1 The joint CAPSCA EUR/MID meeting is providing an interactive platform to commonly discuss issues and the best way to address them of practice. Future meetings should explore this regional exchange as well as the possibility of organizing cross- Regional activities and assessments, in order to optimize the limited resources available.

8.2 The meeting agreed on the organization of the Workshop on Aviation Medicine back-to-back with the upcoming CAPSCA EUR-MID/11 meeting.

8.3 The meeting highlighted that the next Inter Regional CAPSCA meeting (CAPSCA EUR /MID 11) will be tentatively held in Paris during February 2024 along with an Aviation Medical Workshop.

9. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

9.1 Mr. Nicolas Rallo ICAO EUR/NAT Region expressed ICAO's gratitude to the Kingdom of Bahrain for graciously hosting the meeting and thanked all participants from States, Regional and International Organizations and Industries for their valuable assistance, as well for sharing their experiences and best practices. Mr. Rallo announced that the EUR/NAT RO will host the next joint CAPSCA EUR/MID 11 meeting, during February 2024, at Paris.
