



A36-WP/360  
P/58  
26/9/07

## **ASSEMBLY — 36TH SESSION**

### **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON AGENDA ITEM 18**

(Presented by the Chairman of the Executive Committee)

The attached report on Agenda Item 18 has been approved by the Executive Committee. Resolution 18/1 is recommended for adoption by the Plenary.

*Note.— After removal of this covering sheet, this paper should be inserted in the appropriate place in the report folder.*

(4 pages)

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**Agenda Item 18: Passenger and crew health and the prevention of spread of communicable disease**

18.1 At its fifth meeting, the Committee considered the subject of passenger and crew health and the prevention of spread of communicable disease on the basis of a progress report by the Council (A36-WP/22) on action taken by ICAO with respect to Assembly Resolutions A35-12 and A35-13 and papers presented by China (A36-WP/196), Singapore (A36-WP/186) the United States and Canada (A36-WP/199), the International Transport Workers' Federation (A36-WP/247) and the World Tourism Organization (A36-WP/197). In addition, three papers provided by the Interstate Aviation Committee (A36-WP/57, A36-WP/59 and A36-WP/61), and one by the United States (A36-WP/302) were provided for information only.

18.2 The Committee was informed that over the past three years ICAO had developed pandemic preparedness guidelines for States, as well as for aircraft and airport operators, and these had been posted on the ICAO public website and on the websites of the Airports Council International (ACI) and International Air Transport Association (IATA). To develop the guidelines, good working relationships had been established with a number of national and international organizations including the World Health Organization (WHO); United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); ACI, and IATA. A joint project involving the Air Navigation Bureau and the Technical Cooperation Bureau had been commenced in Asia to facilitate the implementation of the ICAO guidelines, and in July a substantial grant was received from the United Nations Central Fund for Influenza Action that would enable this project to develop in Asia and extend into Africa.

18.3 With regard to non-chemical disinsection of aircraft, the WHO had formed a Transportation Strategic Advisory Group with the objective that this should provide advice concerning travel and health issues. ICAO was represented on this group and at its first meeting last year, it was indicated that aircraft disinsection was a topic worthy of consideration. ICAO had recently received information from WHO that it was willing to undertake a consultation on aircraft disinsection methods.

18.4 The Committee was informed that WHO had confirmed its willingness to intensify its cooperation and collaboration with ICAO on health-related matters of mutual interest. A meeting had been held with the four major aircraft manufacturers, the WHO and other stakeholders, to commence the development of harmonized aircraft disinfection procedures.

18.5 WP/196, presented by China, described the actions taken by China in preventing the spread of communicable disease through air travel in the aspects of regulation, organizational structure, oversight and implementation. It invited the Assembly to note the measures taken by the Chinese Government to prevent the spread of communicable disease through air travel. China also wished the Assembly to support the implementation of ICAO measures on preventing the spread of communicable disease through air travel. The Committee noted the working paper.

18.6 WP/186, presented by Singapore, expressed concern about the possibility of a communicable disease with pandemic potential affecting the global aviation industry, and indicated Singapore's ongoing support to the Cooperative Arrangement for Prevention of Spread of Communicable Disease through Air Travel (CAPSCA) project. The working paper invited the Assembly to endorse the

CAPSCA objective of a harmonised pandemic preparedness plan for the aviation sector and urged States, especially within the Asia Pacific and African regions, to join CAPSCA. The Committee noted these proposals and agreed to bring them to the attention of the Assembly.

18.7 WP/199, presented by the United States and Canada, expressed concern that aircraft disinsection using pesticides can result in discomfort and possible adverse health effects. The working paper stated that research by the United States Government had demonstrated non-chemical aircraft disinsection to be a promising alternative to the use of pesticides. A draft resolution for adoption by the Assembly was appended to the paper, requesting that the Council urge the WHO to hold a consultation on disinsection of the cabin and flight deck.

18.8 WP/247, presented by the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), also concerned disinsection of the aircraft cabin and flight deck. It was the view of ITF that non-chemical methods of disinsection had recently been developed, offering Contracting States a means to enforce their relevant regulations without exposing aircraft passengers and crew to insecticide sprays. It believed that such sprays had been associated with adverse health effects to passengers and crew and asked the Committee to endorse a request to the WHO to convene an international scientific symposium on the topic, in consultation with ICAO. The ITF also wished for ICAO to consider issuing Standards for Contracting States that would require airlines to notify passengers of aircraft insecticide spraying practices, prior to ticket purchase. The Committee noted this working paper.

18.9 WP/197, presented by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), described some of its efforts to build resilience to the impact of a pandemic in the tourism sector through various actions, including strengthening communications and increasing awareness, using multi-stakeholder scenarios based on simulation exercises. The UNWTO urged closer cooperation between itself and ICAO on matters pertaining to avian and human influenza in particular and to risk and crisis management in general. The Committee noted the working paper.

18.10 The Committee agreed to recommend that the Assembly adopt the following resolution, which was presented in WP/199:

**Resolution 18/1: Non-chemical disinsection of the aircraft cabin and flight deck for international flights**

*Whereas* ICAO Assemblies have demonstrated a concern for the quality of life and the environment in which human beings work and live, including matters related to engine emissions, the ozone layer, aircraft noise, smoking and invasive alien species;

*Whereas* the 35th session of the Assembly declared that “the protection of the health of passengers and crews on international flights is an integral element of safe air travel and that conditions should be in place to ensure its preservation in a timely and cost-effective manner”;

*Whereas* the 2005 revisions to the International Health Regulations, which strengthen public health security in travel and transportation and minimize public health risk, expanded the definition of disinsection to include the control as well as the killing of insect vectors;

*Whereas* there is concern that the current practice by some States of requiring the use of insecticides to disinsect aircraft can result in discomfort and possible adverse health effects to aircraft crews and passengers; and

*Whereas* some recently conducted research has shown non-chemical methods of disinsection to be efficacious in preventing mosquitoes and other flying insects from entering an aircraft;

*The Assembly:*

1. *Requests* that the Council urge the World Health Organization to hold a consultation on the disinsection of the cabin and flight deck in which:

- a) information on advances of non-chemical disinsection is reviewed;
- b) the efficacy and safety of non-chemical disinsection are compared with the efficacy and safety of pesticide based disinsection; and
- c) recommendations are made on acceptable disinsection practices;

2. *Requests* the Council to encourage the exploration of non-chemical approaches to aircraft disinsection of the cabin and flight deck; and

3. *Requests* the Council to report on the implementation of this Resolution at the next ordinary Session of the Assembly.

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