



1st Steering Committee Meeting of CAPSCA-Africa Abuja, Nigeria, 12 February 2009

CONCLUSIONS

The 1st Steering Committee Meeting (SCM) of the Cooperative Arrangement for Preventing the Spread of Communicable Diseases Through Air Travel (CAPSCA) Africa was held in Abuja, Nigeria, on 12 February 2009, graciously hosted by the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority, who also assumed the Chairmanship of CAPSCA-Africa till the next SCM.

The SCM was attended by 19 representatives of 10 States/Administrations of the Africa Region as well as representatives of the World Health Organization (WHO), the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UN World Food Program plus observers from the public health departments, airports and airlines.

The SCM was provided with presentations by the Nigerian CAA, OCHA, WHO, and ICAO, for which it presented its gratitude. Unanimously elected, the SCM was chaired by the Director General Civil Aviation, Nigeria, which also accepted the Chairmanship of CAPSCA-Africa until the 2nd SCM.

The 1st SCM of CAPSCA-Africa reached the following Conclusions:

Conclusion No. 1

The SCM was provided with presentations on the activities carried out by the CAPSCA-Asia Pacific and -Africa Programmes so far and noted with appreciation its accomplishments to date. It also noted the challenges that are likely to be faced by CAPSCA-Africa as outlined by Dr. Teresa Bassey, the Program Coordinator for CAPSCA-Africa (West & Central Regions).

Conclusion No. 2

The SCM endorsed the CAPSCA objective of a harmonized Pandemic Preparedness Plan for civil aviation, ensuring a cohesive approach between all Government departments concerned, and endorsed the need for the guidelines to be kept up to date.

Conclusion No. 3

The SCM noted the paper on CAPSCA proposed contributions and the budget available to date. It urged all States/Administrations in Africa that have not yet joined CAPSCA to do so at the earliest opportunity in order for the Programme to reach its full potential. It also requested all participating States/Administrations to consider providing contributions as outlined in the budget paper to support the Programme. Interest in the project was expressed by the States represented in the 1st SCM. Reference is made to the Recommendation No. 6/27 of the Special African and Indian Ocean Regional Air Navigation Meeting (Special AFI-RAN, November 2008) which recommended that all African States join the CAPSCA Project.

Conclusion No. 4

The SCM was advised of the grant contributions to CAPSCA from the Central Fund for Influenza Action (CFIA), a fund administered by the United Nations Development

Programme (UNDP), to be applied to States/Administrations in Asia/Pacific, Africa and the Americas. It agreed that, to effect a harmonized approach and achieve maximum efficiency, experience gained in the initial activities of CAPSCA-Asia Pacific, should be applied as far as possible to the CAPSCA Programme for Africa. The SCM expressed its appreciation to CFIA/UNDP which will help sustain the CAPSCA Africa activities through 2009/2010.

Conclusion No. 5

The SCM noted the draft work plan and way forward for CAPSCA-Africa for the coming year which, utilizing the grant funds provided for Africa, includes:

- carrying out of additional evaluations at major international airports of CAPSCA member States/Administrations in Africa;
- updating of the ICAO State, Airport (available on the Airports Council International website) and Airline (International Air Transport Association website) guidelines for harmonized pandemic preparedness planning; and,
- training.

Conclusion No. 6

In order to better carry forward the technical work of CAPSCA and to provide additional assistance on the subject to States/Administrations in the Africa Region, the SCM endorsed the establishment of a Regional Aviation Medicine Team (RAMT) for Africa, under the CAPSCA Steering Committee, which is to meet at least once between the SCMs and for its report to be reviewed at the next SCM. Draft Terms of Reference for the RAMT were reviewed and endorsed, for further refinement at the 1st Meeting of the RAMT. The RAMT is to consist of representatives of participant States/Administrations of CAPSCA, other partner States, international airports, airlines in the Region as well as regional/international organizations and other parties having a stake in pandemic preparedness planning for civil aviation. The SCM encouraged for the 1st meeting of

RAMT to be held as soon as possible and dates were tentatively set for October 2009. The SCM expressed its gratitude to South Africa for offering to host the 1st RAMT.

Conclusion No. 7

The SCM requested CAPSCA to continue its efforts at apprising States in the Region of CAPSCA's objectives, at all possible venues, with a view to having all States in the Region join and make this programme as effective as possible. The SCM lauded the initiative of Nigeria for being the first African State to have its airports evaluated and also its support for the CAPSCA project in general.

Conclusion No. 8

The SCM acknowledged the offer made by the representative from the Democratic Republic of Congo to offer to be the regional coordinator for the French speaking African States.

Conclusion No. 9

The SCM endorsed the rotation of the Chairmanship as well as the venue of the SCM of CAPSCA in alphabetical order. The SCM also decided that the SCMs should be held at least annually and that the next SCM should be arranged for February 2010.

Conclusion No. 10

The SCM agreed that the proceedings of the 1st SCM of CAPSCA Africa will be put on the ICAO public web site.

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