

Strategic Resolutions of AACO 53rd Annual General Meeting on the Impact of COVID-19 on Air Transport Industry
3 November 2020

Recognizing that the spread of COVID-19 has triggered the worst economic recession since the “Great Depression” where global GDP is estimated to shrink by 4.4% in 2020 over 2019 and the global economy is estimated to lose USD 11 trillion in output in 2020 and 2021; and

Witnessing the stringent measures, such as closing borders and restricting travel, that were implemented by states around the world to curb the spread of the virus, and

Recognizing that air travel, combined with tourism, is the most hit industry by the crisis where total year RPKs and ASKs in 2020 are estimated to decline by 66% and 54.2% respectively when compared to 2019, and where at some point in April 2020 global RPKs and ASKs declined by 94.3% and 87.0% respectively when air travel almost came to a complete stop due to border restrictions; and

Taking into consideration that air travel supports millions of jobs around the world and that 57.1% of global job losses were in the travel and tourism sector, and

Recognizing that the recovery of air travel could take up to 7 years to return to 2019 levels and that the duration of the recovery depends on several elements as listed below:

1. The time of the availability of a vaccine
2. The speed of the recovery of the economies
3. Governments’ embrace the value of air travel through adopting harmonized and proportional travel health measures that are based on the risk of the spread of the virus
4. Passenger confidence in the mitigation of COVID-19 exposure in air travel
5. The extent of the use of technology in the travel journey

and,

Acknowledging that according to global scientific surveys:

1. The overwhelming majority of new COVID 19 cases are locally contracted
2. Only 2.9% of COVID cases were inbound travelers
3. Only 0.0000004% of transmission of the virus happened onboard aircraft
4. 88% of consumers won’t travel if there’s a risk of being quarantined

and,

Recognizing that AACO member airlines, airlines around the world and a large number of airports are using technology to achieve safe, seamless & touchless travel, where possible, and

Since AACO member airlines are global airlines reaching most areas of the globe and hence were severely affected by the crisis, and reiterating that the confidence of

consumers in air travel lies at the core of the recovery of air transport and hence at the core of the recovery of economies around the world since air transport, by its nature, supports and advances all sectors of the economy,

A. AACO 53rd AGM urges governments around the world to embrace the value of air travel through easing border restrictions based on the air services agreements in place and based on global health guidelines in a harmonized and transparent manner through the following:

- 1) To follow the global restart guidelines developed and adopted by ICAO's Council Aviation recovery Taskforce (CART), and their updates, that gathers the World Health Organization, the International Air Transport Association, the Arab Civil Aviation Organization, a number of states and other organizations, and with the support of the Arab Air Carriers' Organization.
- 2) To adopt a risk-based global health approach for the restart of air transport that is based on the level of the risk of transmission of the virus in different countries, and apply the EU criteria on "test positivity rate" and "testing rate", whereby any travel health measures would be based on the level of spread of the virus in the country of origin.
- 3) With the current availability of COVID-19 tests before and after travel, to remove quarantine measures upon arrival and replace with testing.
- 4) To adopt COVID-19 Rapid Test, that is being developed, which could be done prior to travel, whereby only who test negative would be given permission to travel.
- 5) To adopt advanced biometric technologies on security, customs, and passport control points to complement the touchless technology already implemented by most airlines and airports around the world.

B. AACO 53rd AGM also mandates AACO Secretariat General to continue its support and collaboration with global and regional aviation and health authorities and stakeholders around the world to implement the above-mentioned pillars for the recovery of air transport.
