24 - 26 October 2022 | Abu Dhabi, UAE

Resolution on Lessons learned from COVID-19 Pandemic

Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the worst crisis that commercial air transport has suffered since its beginning, and;

Looking back at the unilateral reactions by most governments that closed air borders instead of taking risk-based and balanced steps in response to the pandemic, and;

Given the scientific facts that closing air borders did not mitigate the spread of the pandemic, and;

Seeing the unprecedented implications of closing air borders on the global economy and people's lives, and;

Seeing the eagerness of people to travel when air borders started to open, and

Recognizing that although air travel is currently soaring compared to 2021 and 2020, it is still below 2019 levels by 17.6% when measured by Revenue Passengers Kilometers.

AACO 55th Annual General Meeting stresses the importance of deducting lessons from the COVID19 pandemic for the governments and the industry to be ready for future pandemics, as follows:

With regards to the governments' approach to dealing with air transport during health pandemics, AACO 55th AGM encourages governments to:

1- Revive the international health certificate in digital manner under the umbrella of the World Health Organization, to be ready for governments to use when the need arises.

2- Work under the umbrella of the World Health Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization to deploy the recommendations and manual that were developed by ICAO's Aviation Recovery Task Force that also included the WHO, and to transform them into living standards that include guiding actions to be taken when a health crisis occurs.

3- Adopt these standards in their national policies.

4- Work under ICAO to develop guiding material specific for safeguarding the integrity of air services agreements in times of crises based on a set of principles that ensure dialogue between parties of the agreements, consultations, transparency, and clarity and a clear pathway to go back to normalcy.

Indeed, ICAO latest Assembly has adopted a resolution that is in line with the above requirements. AACO 55th AGM strongly support this resolution and calls upon its implementation in a speedy manner.