ICAO and WHO raise global coronavirus risk to constitute a Public health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) and issued a set of Temporary Recommendations

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) raise global coronavirus risk to constitute a Public health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). On 6th March 2019, ICAO and WHO published a joint statement providing updated advice regarding COVID-19 and civil aviation. Signed by the Director General of the WHO, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, and by ICAO Secretary General Dr. Fang Liu, the statement also reaffirms their commitment as UN specialized agencies to foster greater international cooperation to contain the virus and to protect the health of travelers. The statement noted the importance of States adhering to ICAO and WHO standards relating to the prevention of the spread of communicable diseases, and to follow the International Health Regulations (2005). Common signs of infection include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death. Standard recommendations to prevent infection spread include regular hand washing, covering mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing, thoroughly cooking meat and eggs. Avoid close contact with anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness such as coughing and sneezing. Read more for daily updates @ Rolling updates on coronavirus disease. Also, the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) is circulating daily updates of ICAO/WHO to its Member States.

IATA, 26 February 2020 - The International Air Transport Association has forecasted total global revenue loss of $29.3 billion to the aviation Industry. According to its statement, its initial assessment of the impact of the Coronavirus 2019 outbreak shows a potential 13% full-year loss of passenger demand for carriers in the Asia-Pacific region. Read more @ IATA forecasts $29.3bn revenue loss for airlines amidst COVID-19 outbreak


The Chairperson of the African Union Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat opened an emergency ministerial meeting of African Health ministers on 22nd February 2020 as part of continental initiatives to enhance capacity to rapidly detect, and respond to COVID-19 on the Continent. Convened by Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), the AU’s technical agency on public health, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, the ministers discussed how to strengthen preparedness and response to the outbreak by Member States. Africa CDC also established the Africa Task Force for Novel Coronavirus (AFCOR) to coordinate preparedness and response across the continent.
Heads of state and government officials from across Africa have gathered in Ethiopia's capital for talks primarily focused on ways to end to regional violence, including the conflicts in South Sudan and Libya. The 33rd African Union (AU) summit which opened in Addis Ababa on 9 February 2020, was held under the theme "Silencing the Guns: Creating conducive conditions for Africa's development".

On the sideline of the 36th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council and the 33rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union, the Secretary General of the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), Mr. Tefera Mekonnen Tefera paid a courtesy visit on February 11 to H.E. Gedu Andargachew, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia. The Secretary General congratulated the Government of Ethiopia for achievements made on international audit on Aviation Safety and emphasized on the enhancement of regulatory measures to keep the momentum. Mr. Tefera also briefed H.E. Gedu on the status of the Single African Air Transport Market and other continental and national issues on aviation.
African Drone Forum, 5-7 February 2020—Kigali, Rwanda

The secretary General of AFCAC made a presentation in Kigali, Rwanda during the 1st African Drone Forum on the following topic: “Africa Updates: News from around the continent on drone programs and country plans”. The Africa Drone Forum (ADF) is envisioned to be a multi-year and multi-stakeholder engagement program on UAS technologies and services that meet the needs of emerging African market opportunities over 2021. The event brought together policy makers, business, and civil society from across the continent for technology demonstrations and discussions of how to create an enabling regulatory and policy ecosystem to unleash the social and economic benefits of drone technology while maintaining public safety. Key themes of the events included the following: experiences of African nations in adopting drone technologies and applications, regulatory approaches to enabling drone applications, ensuring safe use of drones and drone traffic management tools, requirements for drone ports and related infrastructure.

UAS Integration Workshop, 17-20 February 2020—Kigali, Rwanda

AFCAC participated in the FAA Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Integration workshop in Kigali from 17 to 20 February 2020. The event was hosted by the Rwanda CAA. The workshop highlighted policy and regulatory integration of drones for African States. The program was structured to provide participants with knowledge of UAS integration considerations. The workshop was opened to civil aviation and airport authorities, airport operators and air navigation service providers’ operational personnel. It was designed to provide a forum for open discussions among participants and subject matter experts on regulatory framework, data approach, security and public engagement for UAS integration. Highlights of the workshop agenda included inter alia: Overview of FAA’s approach to UAS integration, Regulations and waivers, Registration and markings, Integration Pilot Program, UAS security and airport guidance, Airspace Access and UAS Traffic Management (UTM), Type Certification, and a site visit to Zipline’s Rwandan distribution center.
The Federal Government of Nigeria Appoints a New Director General for NCAA

The Federal Government has appointed Captain Musa Nuhu as the new Director General and Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA). On Tuesday 18th February 2020, the Senate confirmed the appointment of Musa Shuaibu Nuhu as Director-General of the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority. Until his new appointment, Captain Musa Nuhu was the Nigeria Representative at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Council. He takes over from Captain Muhtar Usman whose tenure has ended.

DG of ANAC Mauritania paid a courtesy visit to the Secretary General of AFCAC

The Director General of ANAC Mauritania Mr Abdoulaye Abass Ngaide paid a courtesy visit to the Secretary General of AFCAC on February 26th 2020, Dakar. Mr. Ngaide highlighted the ongoing works in Mauritania to implement the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) after the ICAO USOAP Audits and expressed the need to benefit from the AFI-CIS. The discussions included the assistance programmes conducted by AFCAC and the operationalization of the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM). The SG of AFCAC thanked the DG of ANAC Mauritania for his courtesy visit and committed to pay a courtesy visit to Mauritania and pursue the advocacy for the realization of the SAATM with the highest Authorities of the State.

Representative of Senegal to ICAO paid a courtesy visit to the SG of AFCAC

The Representative of Senegal to ICAO, General Alain Preira paid a courtesy visit to the Secretary General of AFCAC on February 28th 2020, at the AFCAC Headquarters. They discussed important issues concerning African aviation and cooperation with the African Representatives (AFI Group) to ICAO.
Africa World Airlines launches new route between Accra and Abidjan (18-02-2020) Ghanaian carrier, Africa World Airlines (AWA), launches its maiden flight from Accra, Ghana to Abidjan, Cote Ivoire. The new route which is their 10th destination will substantially strengthen the airline, the proud winner of the "Best Airline in West Africa" presence in the sub-region.

Air Peace to commence direct flight operation to India (18-02-2020) Almost a year after the Indian High Commissioner to Nigeria, Mr. Abhay Thakur, disclosed that Air Peace would begin direct flights to India from Lagos, the Chief Executive Officer, Air Peace Limited, Mr Allen Onyema, has said the airline has been designated to commence direct flights from Nigeria to India.

Nigeria’s Green Africa Airways to receive its first Airbus A220 by August (18-02-2020) Further to the announcement made last week declaring the purchase of 50 aircraft, Green Africa Airways has said today that it will also lease three A220-300 from GTLK Europe. All three of the leased aircraft will be delivered by August 2020. The leased planes will allow Green Africa to launch commercial operations this year.

EgyptAir receives 9th Airbus aircraft A220-300, 3rd A320neo family aircraft (21-02-2020) EgyptAir received on Friday the ninth Airbus A220-300 and the third A320neo family aircraft.

Air Senegal to launch London Stansted to Dakar direct flights (26-02-2020) Air Senegal, that has chosen London Stansted for its first ever UK service, will operate three flights a week starting on 26th June to the city made famous by the historic long-distance rally. The airline will use an Airbus A321 on the route offering economy seats and fully reclining flat beds in business class.

LAM to resume flights to Lisbon in June (26-02-2020) Mozambique Airlines (LAM) will resume flights between Maputo and Lisbon as from June, the company’s general manager, Po Jorge, announced at a Maputo press conference on Tuesday. There will be three flights a week, he said – from Maputo to Lisbon on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and from Lisbon to Maputo on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.