

Sustainable funding for national civil aviation authorities ICAO emphasises call for governments

It was reported from Montréal on 22 October that ICAO Secretary General Dr Fang Liu reiterated the UN agency's call for national governments to assure the sustainable funding of their civil aviation authorities (CAAs).

Her appeal was made during her opening remarks to the latest virtual coordination meeting of ICAO European and North Atlantic (EUR/NAT) Region Directors General of Civil Aviation (DGCAs).

Dr Liu highlighted: *'State aviation authorities have been facing drastic reductions to their funding and this has led to significant gaps between performance and oversight expectations and available resources. To overcome these challenges, a cooperative and collaborative approach with industry, and regional and international organizations, is key.'*

ICAO's Secretary General welcomed the ICAO EUR/NAT Office's recent workshop to start addressing the CAA funding shortfall challenges being faced in ensuring their safety, security, and economic oversight functions in the pandemic context, and appreciated that their meeting today would be endorsing urgently needed next steps.

She added: *'ICAO has been advocating tirelessly on the topics of economic impact and alleviation measures during the COVID-19 crisis, and we will undertake everything we can to help you during these dire and unprecedented circumstances.'*

Dr Liu welcomed the mandate to the ICAO EUR/NAT to develop a survey, tools, financial framework assessments, model proposals, and newly identified best practices for CAA consideration and deployment.

She continued: *'ICAO will continue to work hard to ensure that future sustainable financial models include, and take into consideration, the financial needs of States Civil Aviation Authorities,' she stated. "This will be the case respective of both core CAA oversight responsibilities, and the safe and harmonized post COVID-19 recovery we are now working toward together for global air transport.'*

Dr Liu went on to call on national governments for the financial support which is so urgently needed today to sustain the aviation sector, noting in addition that the ICAO CART Task Force* was presently considering the inclusion of a risk

management framework for the evaluation of COVID-19 testing solutions, as part of its Phase II Take-off Guidelines.

In conclusion she commented: *‘Testing holds out the potential to alleviate the need for quarantines for international air travellers and tourists, or to shorten quarantine periods where those may be retained, and these new guidelines could therefore assist countries in assessing those types of decisions and solutions.’*

To learn more about: ICAO’s COVID-19 Portal readers are invited to see here: <https://www.icao.int/covid/Pages/default.aspx>

Regarding the ICAO European and North Atlantic Office see here: https://www.icao.int/EURNAT/Pages/welcome.aspx?utm_source=International+Civil+Aviation+Organization&utm_campaign=929a2882fb-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_10_22_01_36&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bf5ba6bf53-929a2882fb-343243521&mc_cid=929a2882fb&mc_eid=07d4d2fe31

** ICAO Council’s Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART) is aimed at providing practical, aligned guidance to governments and industry operators in order to restart the international air transport sector and recover from the impacts of COVID-19 on a coordinated global basis.*

About ICAO

A specialized agency of the United Nations, ICAO was created by governments in 1944 to support their diplomacy on international air transport matters.

Since that time, countries have adopted over 12,000 standards and practices through ICAO which help to align their national regulations relevant to aviation safety, security, efficiency, capacity and environmental protection, enabling a truly global network to be realized.

ICAO forums also provide opportunities for advice and advocacy to be shared with government decision-makers by industry groups, civil society NGOs, and other officially-recognized air transport stakeholders.

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