

## **RESOLUTION**

### **ACI World Governing Board Resolution urging relief for airports from impact of COVID-19 and calling for coordinated programme of recovery**

*Whereas*, aviation has been a major catalyst in supporting growth in other industries such as tourism and is essential to the social and economic welfare across the planet

*Whereas*, aviation's direct employment effect is in the order of 10 million jobs worldwide, of which 6.1 million jobs are at airports, the global total of jobs in the tourism and travel sector is in the order of 66 million

*Whereas*, the global economic growth outlook for 2020 is negative and the decline in economic activity is likely to exceed the losses experienced during the Global Financial Crisis of 2008

*Whereas*, the measures introduced by governments to limit the spread of COVID-19 have resulted in significant loss of employment across the industry with many airports announcing lay-offs

*Recognising*, that current estimates show passenger traffic at airports is expected to decline by almost 40% and revenue to contract by \$77 billion (in US Dollars) in 2020, and that this will have a further direct impact on airport services and jobs

*Considering*, that the measures introduced by governments and their direct impact on the operations, and hence revenues, of airports were an effect which is impossible to foresee or resist, leading to a need for relief in the terms of governmental concession contracts for airport management, in order to re-establish economic equilibrium and enable continuation of service provision; and may trigger other implications under relevant contracts or applicable law, or even constitute an event of *force majeure*;

*Recalling*, that many airports remain open to serve remaining scheduled services, humanitarian and repatriation flights, and cargo service and that they incur continuing fixed and unavoidable costs

*Recalling*, that the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) adopted a Declaration on 9 March 2020 which *reaffirmed that ICAO would continue to support the aviation sector by working with Member States, and cooperating with the WHO and other relevant agencies of the United Nations system, and industry partners such as the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and Airports Council International (ACI)*

*Noting*, the importance of industry working together with ICAO, States and regulators to ensure that the critical infrastructure and services are maintained and can return to full operation as the crisis recedes

*Noting*, that airports have also been working closely with governments and public health agencies to facilitate health-related screening of passengers and the introduction of other measures to ensure the welfare of passengers at airports

*Recognising*, nonetheless, that the COVID-19 crisis will largely reshape the air transport industry in a way comparable to – but in all likelihood more complicated than - the introduction of security measures which followed the 9/11 attacks in 2001, most of which are still in place today

The ACI World Governing Board, *Resolves* to engage authorities to recognise the COVID-19 outbreak and their actions as an effect which is impossible to foresee or resist, leading to a need for relief in the terms of governmental concession contracts for airport management, in order to re-establish economic equilibrium and enable continuation of service provision; and may trigger other implications under relevant contracts or applicable law, or even constitute an event of *force majeure*;

*Resolves* to support and advocate for policy relief measures to ensure the survival of the airport industry; and, through engagement and active participation with States, regulatory authorities, and all aviation stakeholders, promote an internationally recognised, coherent, framework so that the path to recovery is sound, seamless and sustainable.

*Resolves* to promote policy relief measures:

1. Protection of airport charges and revenues to ensure the continuity of basic services
2. Tax relief to support immediate cash flow for airports to ensure continuity of operations and safeguard airport jobs
3. Concession fees and airport rents that airport operators are liable to pay to governments should be waived or postponed
4. Airport slot usage requirements should be suspended, at global level, until 30 June 2020, with a reassessment based on data-driven evidence to follow
5. Air cargo services should continue to be charged to support and maintain essential airside and cargo facilities

6. Governments should consider comprehensive financial relief including wage subsidy schemes, grants and subsidies, secured financing, loans at preferential rates, and bank guarantees. Financial relief should be non-discriminatory and not benefit one actor at the expense of others in the aviation ecosystem.

*Resolves* to support recovery:

1. Working with international, national, and regional health authorities to develop consistent and effective protocols for prospective travellers, ensuring that measures are simple, practical and based on medical evidence
2. Encouraging States to recognise equivalency of measures and take a risk-based approach to travel restrictions and new process requirements
3. Coordinating and collaborating on the development and implementation of best practices to incorporate short and long-term requirements for health and hygiene, and amended passenger processes to facilitate the return to normal operation
4. Ensuring that staff at airports are also part of the solution, that they are adequately protected, and that they are able to support a return to normal business
5. Communicating changes and requirements clearly with all stakeholders and travellers through all channels to manage the expectations of passengers, build consumer confidence, minimise the impact on customer experience and ensure efficient operation
6. Encouraging States to take an incremental, flexible approach to requirements, regularly reviewing and amending initial measures in response to changing circumstances
7. Ensuring that measures implemented at airports build consumer confidence based on changing passenger profiles and expectations with regular monitoring and benchmarking
8. Recognising the continued relevance of climate action to support sustainable airport development for the longer term, and to develop a comprehensive sustainable development strategy
9. Ensuring that ICAO recognises its pivotal role to coordinate the recovery/re-start protocols among States.

*Resolves* that in delivering these objectives ACI World will work closely with members and Regions to ensure that there is a clear and common approach to resolution of the COVID-19 crisis.