



June 11, 2020

## **Open Letter to Governments across Latin America & the Caribbean to quickly implement the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO's) global guidelines for restoring air connectivity**

The aviation industry is currently facing the biggest challenge in its history. International aviation is effectively shut down in the effort to fight COVID-19 – with disastrous consequences for airlines, airports, travel and tourism organizations, and all businesses and citizens whose livelihoods depend on air transport. As lockdown measures are being eased around the globe, we must jointly tackle the challenging task of restarting air connectivity.

Regaining passenger confidence and creating public awareness that aviation is doing everything possible to ensure that the industry does not become a vector for spreading COVID-19 are key. This requires a harmonized process on a global scale and the provision of the best possible health safety guarantees. IATA, ACI-LAC, ALTA, CANSO and WTTTC support ICAO Council's Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART) aimed at providing practical guidance to governments and industry operators to restart the international air transport sector and recover from COVID-19 in a coordinated way. CART's work on its [Recovery Report](#) and the accompanying '[Take-Off guidance for international aviation](#)', identifies health, safety, and security of the traveling public as being of paramount concern. It provides the basis for safely restoring air connectivity at a time when many countries are looking at reopening borders and restarting economies.

The document provides a comprehensive framework of risk-based temporary measures for air transport operations during the COVID-19 crisis, proposing a phased approach to restarting aviation founded on recommendations and guidance from public health authorities to mitigate the risk of transmission of the COVID-19 virus during the travel process. This layering of measures should provide travelers and crew the confidence they need to fly again.

Therefore, we jointly call on all Latin American and Caribbean States to work together to quickly implement the "Take-Off" guidance recommendations and take the actions necessary to identify every opportunity where travel restrictions could be lifted - as soon as the epidemiological situations allow. The aviation and larger travel and tourism community is ready for and fully committed to a safe restart; the world wants to travel again, and aviation will play a key role in the economic recovery. It is imperative that aviation can resume through global harmonization and mutual recognition of efforts, which will earn the confidence of travelers, air transport workers and the public at large.

As the key regional organizations and stakeholders representing airlines, airports, air navigation services providers, travel and tourism suppliers, and related sectors across Latin America and the Caribbean, we look forward to working with you for a well-coordinated systematic implementation of the "Take-Off" guidance that will enable flights to resume, borders to re-open, quarantine measures to be lifted and allow aviation to reconnect people around the world and contribute to the socio-economic development of your country.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rafael Echevarne  
Director General  
**ACI-LAC**  
[www.aci-lac.aero](http://www.aci-lac.aero)

José Ricardo Botelho  
Executive Director & CEO  
**ALTA**  
[www.alta.aero](http://www.alta.aero)

Simon Hocquard  
Director General  
**CANSO**  
[www.canso.org](http://www.canso.org)

Peter Cerdá  
Regional Vice President,  
The Americas- **IATA**  
[www.iata.org](http://www.iata.org)

Gloria Guevara  
President & CEO  
**WTTTC**  
[www.wttc.org](http://www.wttc.org)