



International Civil Aviation Organization

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PROPOSAL FOR THE CREATION OF A STANDING WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT WITHIN THE INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR EMERGENCIES

Presented by the International Civil Aviation Organization

To the

Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the Inter-Agency Committee on
Radiological and Nuclear Emergencies

(IACRNE/22, 8 to 9 December 2011, Paris, France)

1. Background

On the 11th of March 2011, an earthquake of 9.0 magnitude struck Japan's east coast, triggering a tsunami that devastated northern parts of the country. The tsunami also caused a nuclear accident at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant resulting in the activation of the IAEA's Joint Radiation Emergency Management Plan of the International Organizations.

In the course of the emergency response, it became apparent very quickly that air and marine transport faced very particular concerns. Some of the many complexities facing the transport sector include the safety of the travelling public, need for humanitarian flights and medical evacuations of victims of radiation, as well as the global economic impact of the crisis on the aviation sector. Recognising the importance of addressing these concerns, ICAO initiated and coordinated the work of an ad-hoc Transport Task Force. The Task Force brought together a number of UN agencies: IAEA; International Maritime Organization; World Health Organization; World Meteorological Organization; World Tourism Organization; International Labour Organization; and ICAO. The private sector trade associations, such as: the International Air Transport Association representing international aircraft operators, and Airports Council International representing international airport operators, also participated. The trade association representatives brought a number of practical issues to the attention of the ad-hoc Task Force, such as the relative lack of health-related information for transport workers travelling to Japan and for those who might be involved in radiation screening.

The collective efforts of the ad-hoc Task Force, and the coordinated input from different organisations ensured that the transport system remained functional, the confidence of the concerned

travelling public was maintained, and the humanitarian relief efforts were facilitated. Of particular importance were joint news releases regularly issued by the concerned United Nations organizations party to the ad-hoc Task Force. Providing an official source of information during the time of crisis, reassured all involved in the transport chain that the movement of people and cargo was safe, thus averting significant disruptions.

2. Proposal

While the Joint Radiation Emergency Management Plan of the IAEA was proven to be very effective, the addition of an ad-hoc Transport Task Force highlighted the potential advantage of further improvement to the Joint Plan concerning the transport sector. Therefore, having consulted with IAEA, ICAO would like to propose to the Inter-Agency Committee on Radiological and Nuclear Emergencies (IACRNE) the creation of a **Standing Working Group on Transport**.

3. Purpose

The purpose of the Working Group is to strengthen the involvement of the international transport modal authorities, such as the International Maritime Organization and ICAO, within the IACRNE, and further improve the emergency response capabilities of those parts of the air and maritime transport sectors which are engaged in international transport..

4. Mandate

The Standing Working Group on Transport would consider means by which to increase the emergency management preparedness and response of the transport sector. Improving the sector's ability to respond to emergencies would further facilitate the work of agencies providing humanitarian aid, and of governments struggling with the economic impact of reduced travel and trade. It would address the direct and immediate effect on the transport sector itself resulting from reduced demand for services during emergency situations. Finally, it would provide an official source of transport-related information during crises with the aim of reassuring the travelling public and averting disruptions.

5. Membership

ICAO
IMO
WHO
IAEA
WTO
ILO
WMO
ACI
IATA

6. Reporting

The Standing Working Group reports directly to the IACRNE Secretary. The agenda, decision record, recommendations, and information to be disseminated to the transport sector will be forwarded to the IACRNE Secretary as soon as possible following each Standing Working Group meeting.

An agreed position should be achieved by the Standing Working Group members; however, dissenting views will be recorded in the decision record. All communication to the IACRNE Secretary will be coordinated through the Standing Working Group Chair. The Standing Working Group Chair will be appointed by the membership.

7. Timing

The Standing Working Group would meet conjoint with the regular IACRNE meetings or as necessary. The Standing Working Group would work through correspondence and/or teleconference during the intersession period.

8. Budget

Costs incurred by the members are to be borne by those organizations.

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