



# AIRPORTS COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

03 June 2021

President Joseph Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Airports Council International (ACI) represents nearly 2,000 airports around the world including the hub and regional airports in the G7 countries. They have all been severely affected by the economic impacts of the pandemic as well as having their fair share of the personal and social harm which has afflicted us all. However, all have worked closely with ACI and with their national authorities to maintain essential services in these difficult times.

In turn, ACI has represented their interests in the international community at a global and regional level to support measures which can deliver a safe and sustained restart and recovery of the aviation industry. For example, ACI has provided practical and policy support to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) as it has developed global recommendations addressed to all States; a very practical Take-Off Guidance Document; and supported the medical advice developed specifically for the aviation industry through the Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA). CAPSCA is a voluntary cross-sectorial, multi-organizational collaboration programme managed by ICAO with support from the World Health Organization (WHO) and other international health bodies.

ACI has also worked with the rest of the aviation industry and with private sector organisations to develop principles and standards for digital health passes. These passes must meet certain fundamental requirements including privacy, user-control, and inclusivity – in a word they must be interoperable. For this reason, we have followed closely the work of the European Union on the EU Digital COVID Certificate and played an active role in the Good Health Pass Collaborative along with 120 other companies across the health, travel and technology sector which is defining a Blueprint, and which will be published at the time of the Summit.

The interoperability and use of these passes will be a major contributor to the reopening of aviation which supports the travel and tourism industry around the world, and contributes both to the GDP of States, and also to the well-being and societal health of their citizens. But, these health passes are only now coming into widespread use and it will be essential that States also recognise the documentation which is already in circulation to demonstrate the health status of individuals. These documents notably include over a

billion vaccine certificates, many millions of proofs of recovery, of course the much shorter-lived, evidence of test results.

For airports, and for the benefit of States, it will be essential that as traffic returns it is not choked off by queues and crowds as prospective and arriving passengers go through the necessary checks of their health status. Indeed, these sorts of crowds have the possibility to instill concern amongst travellers as they will be prevented from applying the social distancing that they have become so accustomed to over the past year.

ACI therefore proposes that the G7 Summit explicitly recognises these concerns in its communique – along the lines of:

***We recognise that as the aviation industry recovers and as our citizens start to travel they will need to be assured of their health and safety throughout their journey. We therefore commit to support the development and introduction of digital health passes such as those being introduced by the European Union and the Blueprint developed by the Good Health Pass Collaborative and to take all possible steps to ensure their interoperability. We further commit to ensure that there is equity of access and treatment of those who do not hold a digital certificate and to ensure that all qualified travellers are able to satisfy the necessary border requirements with the minimum of restrictions or controls.***

The need to take urgent steps to restore international civil aviation is unquestionable: for the benefit of States, economies, and the well-being of their citizens. ACI and its member airports are ready to introduce all such measures as are necessary to provide for a safe and sustainable restart and recovery of the travel and tourism industry, but we cannot do it alone. It will be essential that governments also provide the necessary support.

Yours sincerely,



Luis Felipe de Oliveira  
Director General  
ACI World



Kevin Burke  
President and CEO  
ACI North America