

Africa Against COVID-19: *"Saving lives, economies, and livelihoods"* Campaign

African Ministers responsible for Health, ICT, and Transport on the rollout of Africa Against COVID-19: "saving lives, economies, and livelihoods" campaign, have made a call to African States to work towards harmonizing pre-entry and exit requirements for cross border travel, and to increase mutual recognition and cross-border information exchange for enhanced surveillance.

Commitment by Members of the Multi-Sectorial Technical Taskforce on Trusted Travel and Re-Opening of Borders



The following organizations have committed their different strengths, mandates, and functional personalities, to support the AU Member States and the African continent at large in fulfilling a trusted travel and safe re-opening of borders:



ICAO



World Health Organization



THE AFROCHAMPIONS INITIATIVE

Recommendations for Action by African Governments

A. Pre-entry and exit requirements



Application of alternative measures to border closure and quarantine through a risk-based approach.



Harmonization of measures, mutual recognition and trust of information shared about travelers among the Member States.



Consider alternative testing protocol that utilizes the rapid diagnostic antigen test (RDT) when PCR testing is not readily available or result delivery takes a long time.



States should not impose COVID-19 vaccination as a mandatory travel criteria until when:

- There is satisfactory access to the vaccine;
- Reasonable vaccination coverage and sufficient evidence;
- Guidance on the use of the vaccine for travel is available.

B. Maintaining safe public health corridor before, during, and after travel



All States should ensure that the preventive measures are observed at all times.

C. Compliance to multi-national treaties and set of regulations



Compliance with article 40 of the International Health Regulations (2005): States should not charge travelers for interventions meant to protect public health.

The complete call for Action document can be accessed via the link:
<https://africacdc.org/download/c-all-to-action-safe-reopening-of-borders-to-save-lives-economies-and-livelihoods-in-africa/>