



## #3 Environment



**Environment continues to remain high on our agenda. In the context of restart and recovery of civil aviation post-COVID-19, it is important that our environmental objectives are fully addressed and that we seize this moment to build back better in terms of aviation sustainability.**

**Blandine Ferrier**  
**Environment, ICAO EUR/NAT Office**

Several events have been organized in the EUR/NAT Region addressing different topics on environment such as Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA), State Action Plan for CO2 emissions reductions from international aviation, the ICAO Global Aviation Dialogues on the feasibility of a long-term global aspirational goal for international aviation CO2 emissions reductions, as well as several Stocktaking events.



In the ICAO EUR/NAT Region, multiple activities have been organized, including tailored assistance provided to support ICAO Member States to implement ICAO environmental policies.

### States Action Plans on CO2 emissions reduction

In 2020, ICAO celebrated the 10th anniversary of the State Action Plan (SAP) Initiative; an initiative that was created to provide States with the capacity and tools to develop national strategies to contribute to the achievement of the ICAO global aspirational goals. In the framework of this initiative, the ICAO Regional Office provides continuous support to its Member States through technical support, organization of several training sessions on the guidance and the related tools such as, the ICAO EUR/ENV TF meeting in January where 39 States' representatives participated.

Furthermore, direct tailored support to States of the region is provided by the ICAO EUR/NAT Office as well as the organizations of joint events with regional Organizations such as ACAO and ECAC to further support its Member States and join synergies.



As of June 2021, there were 121 States of which 48 are from the EUR/NAT Region, representing over 97% global RTK, who have voluntarily submitted their State Action Plan to ICAO, with the submissions received of Belarus in 2020 and Algeria in 2021.

The Assembly Resolution A40-18 encourages States to prepare and update action plans by June 2021, and States are now in the process of developing or updating their State Action Plans. In view of the current rapid changes and innovations occurring within the aviation industry, the ICAO Secretariat encourages States to include more details on the latest innovations in the field of sustainable aviation into their State Action Plans.

The aim is to have a more pragmatic document that also identifies the clean energy and other needs from international aviation in the State. In February 2021, the ICAO Secretariat sent a questionnaire to State Action Plan Focal Points to facilitate better understanding on the latest developments and expected innovations, with the aim of assisting States in the development and update of their Plans.

ICAO and its Regional Offices continue to provide support, aiming for all States to have a fully developed and quantified State Action Plan, considering all relevant measures to reduce CO2 emissions including the latest innovations.

Map of State Action Plans Submitted to ICAO as of June 2021 - more information on the State Action Plan Initiative is available on the [ICAO website](#).



## CORSIA

Approved in 2016, the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) is the first global market-based scheme that applies to a sector and complements other aviation in-sector emissions reductions efforts such as technological innovations, operational improvements and sustainable fuels to meet ICAO aspirational goal of carbon-neutral growth. Since the 2016 CORSIA agreement, ICAO Council successfully developed and has been updating all essential components of CORSIA package to support CORSIA implementation.

Under CORSIA, all States that have aeroplane operators that perform international flights are required to monitor, report and verify (MRV) CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from these flights every year from 2019. In addition to annual CO<sub>2</sub> MRV which has been on track, more than 100 States have volunteered to participate in offsetting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions under CORSIA from its pilot phase. More participating States will bring ICAO States closer to meeting the global aspirational goal of carbon neutral growth for international aviation, goal agreed by the ICAO Assembly. In the EUR/NAT Region, 46 States have announced their intention to join the voluntary phase of CORSIA. States that are interested to join the first phases of CORSIA are invited to contact the ICAO Secretariat.

A number of States needed targeted assistance in order to prepare for the implementation of the CORSIA monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) system as from 1 January 2019. Launched in 2018 by ICAO, the CORSIA Buddy Partnerships are a cornerstone of ICAO's plan to support States to prepare for CORSIA implementation. Under the partnerships, technical experts provided by supporting States work together with the CORSIA focal points of the requesting States to provide support, training and to closely follow-up on the preparation and implementation of the CORSIA requirements.



Currently, 134 States are engaged in partnerships under the ICAO Assistance, Capacity Building and Training on CORSIA programme (ACT-CORSIA), providing tailored support for implementation of MRV requirements and CO<sub>2</sub> data reporting to CORSIA Central Registry (CCR).

For the EUR/NAT Region, 4 States namely; France, Germany, Italy and Spain support 13 States from the EUR/NAT Region as well as 40 States in other regions with the support and participation of the ICAO Regional Offices. The ICAO Assembly highlighted this programme, while emphasizing the importance of a coordinated approach under the umbrella of ICAO.

In light of ICAO's commitment to supporting States in CORSIA implementation, ICAO is organizing the [CORSIA Forum](#) from 6 to 7 October 2021 to provide an overview of the "state of play" in CORSIA implementation, as well as provide information on the process and progress in ICAO for the 2022 CORSIA periodic review and the analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on CORSIA and recovery scenarios, ensuring a solid information base for the discussions at the 41st Session of the ICAO Assembly in 2022.

### Upcoming deadlines for CORSIA

Timeline	Responsibility	Action
1 June 2021 to 31 August 2021	State	Conduct order of magnitude check of verified Emissions Report
1 August 2021	State	Obtain and use the ICAO document entitled "CORSIA States for Chapter 3 State Pairs" applicable for the 2022 compliance year
31 August 2021	State	Submit aggregate 2020 CO <sub>2</sub> emissions data to ICAO through the CCR
30 September 2021	State	Calculate and inform aeroplane operators attributed to them of their average total CO <sub>2</sub> emissions during 2019 and 2020
30 November 2021	State	Submit to ICAO through the CCR: - List of operators attributed to the State - List of verification bodies accredited in the State
30 November 2021	ICAO	Publish 2019/2020 CO <sub>2</sub> emissions data per State pair
31 December 2021	ICAO	Publish list of aeroplane operators and list of verification bodies

## The 2021 ICAO Global Aviation Dialogues on the feasibility of a long-term global aspirational goal for international aviation CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reductions (LTAG-GLADs)

The ICAO Assembly, at its 40th Session, requested the Council to continue to explore the feasibility of a long-term global aspirational goal for international aviation CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reductions (LTAG), and for the progress of the work to be presented to the 41st Session of the ICAO Assembly.

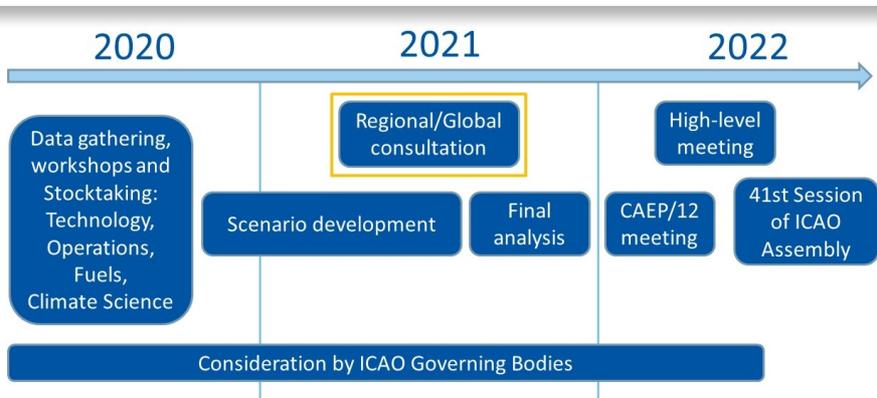
As part of the consultative process, ICAO organized the ICAO Global Aviation Dialogues (GLADs) in May 2021 in all the ICAO Regions with the objectives of raising awareness on the ICAO work on the feasibility of an LTAG as well as an opportunity for the ICAO Member States to discuss the considerations in ICAO's further work on an LTAG. The virtual meeting was attended by 33 States from the EUR/NAT Region as well as representatives from International and Regional Organizations. To ensure that most of the States received the information on the process, the EUR/NAT Office organized individual sessions with the State Focal Points who could not participate at the event.

All the material developed for these events is available on the [ICAO website](#) where the recording of the meeting should be available soon.



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## High-level LTAG timeline



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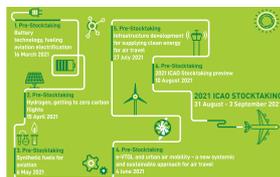
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## Stocktaking events

In September 2020, ICAO organized the Virtual Stocktaking Seminar (<https://www.icao.int/Meetings/Stocktaking2020/Pages/default.aspx>) that displayed dozens of innovative solutions to unlock current and future CO<sub>2</sub> aviation emissions reduction potentials. Over 100 stakeholders from around the world shared their plans for decarbonizing international aviation in three areas for in-sector reductions: technologies, operations and Sustainable Aviation Fuels.

To go further, a series of ICAO Pre-Stocktaking talks monthly webinars have been organized to pave the way to the 2021 ICAO Stocktaking Seminar. These webinars represent opportunities to learn more on important challenges and tools of action associated with a decarbonised future for aviation and new approaches for mobility.



They also cover a wide range of innovative solutions and are all available on the ICAO TV on replay.

[Battery technology, fueling Aviation Electrification](#)  
[Hydrogen, getting to zero carbon flights](#)  
[Synthetic Fuels for Aviation](#)

[e-VTOL and urban air mobility](#) - A new systemic and sustainable approach for air travel

The last webinar will be organized on Tuesday, 27 July 2021 / 9:00-12:00 Montreal time and will be presenting clean energies solutions that are key for

the decarbonisation of aviation: "[Infrastructure development for supplying clean energy for air travel](#)".

The [2021 Virtual ICAO Stocktaking Seminar](#) on aviation in-sector CO2 emissions reductions from international civil aviation will be held from 31 August to 3 September 2021 and will continue to provide a forum for the exchange of information between all aviation stakeholders, and beyond. New technologies, initiatives will be displayed. Focus on what is now needed to act, at the technical, political and economical levels will also be discussed. [Click here to register](#)



## ACAO's role in environmental protection

**Abdennebi Manar**

*Director General, Arab Civil Aviation Organization (ACAO)*



Since its inception, the Arab Civil Aviation Organization (ACAO) has sought to contribute to protecting the environment in the field of civil aviation whilst coordinating positions between Arab countries and defending the interests of the Arab region in international forums.

ACAO's environmental priorities include the following:

### **1. Strengthening environmental legislation and institutions for Arab countries**

Today, protecting the environment represents a new challenge for Arab countries. Some, such as the Gulf countries, are quite advanced in environmental protection, while others are experiencing difficulties in regulating this activity.

A diagnosis of these countries reveals common difficulties relating to the lack of a legal framework for environmental protection, the need to strengthen the entities in charge of environment within the civil aviation authorities, and the lack of managers and subject matter experts.

Within this framework, ACAO provides assistance to these countries by calling upon the committee and the group of environmental experts at ACAO, through the exchange of experiences, the establishment of guidelines on regulations, and executives' capacity building initiatives.

Also, the ACAO continues to encourage the Directors General of civil aviation authorities to set up structures responsible for the environment to meet current and future challenges.

### **2. Increasing the number of Arab countries participating in phase 1 of CORSIA**

Today, among the 88 States participating in the Carbon Off Setting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) from 1 January 2021, a few Arab States volunteered to participate in CORSIA from its outset (3% of the total States participating in the CORSIA). This is a commendable initiative, destined to become pervasive among all Arab Member States.

In comparison to other Organizations (such as the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC), the Latin American Civil Aviation Commission (LACAC)), the participation of Arab countries in the pilot phase and the first phase is still in its early stages. This participation is bound to increase to reflect the importance of Arab air traffic.

These facts are challenging Arab countries and driving us to consider working hand in hand with AFCAC, since we have ten common member countries. This cooperation will allow us to identify common programs and priorities, enhance capacity, avoid duplication and consolidate the efforts in the region.

In this context, in the coming two years ACAO plans to increase Arab countries' participation in CORSIA to reach 60%. To achieve this goal, ACAO is committed to providing an opportunity for Arab States to share their existing readiness to implement CORSIA and to assess assistance needs. We will also consider negotiating bilaterally with Arab countries that have the potential to participate in the first phase.

### **3. Encouragement of countries to submit their carbon reduction action plans to ICAO**

According to ICAO statistics, 120 States representing 97.39% of global RTK (Revenue Tonnes-Kilometres) have voluntarily submitted their State Action Plan (SAP) to ICAO, And Among those 120 states, 9 Arab states have submitted their SAP. The last one is Algeria, and it is the fruit of regional cooperation.

For this reason, the way forward and next step for ACAO on 2021 is to improve

the national capacity of the States to establish, update and implement a SAP on CO2 emission reduction from international aviation in accordance with ICAO Standards, and to pursue its works with the ICAO EUR/NAT Regional Office in order to assist Maghreb countries (Morocco, Tunis) to establish their SAP.

#### **4. Enhance activities of Capacity Building and Strengthening the regional cooperation**

In the interest of ICAO's "No Country Left Behind" initiative, ACAO in close cooperation with ICAO and other bodies, has carried out a number of capacity-building and assistance activities. These assistance activities are often related to the SAP and CORSIA.

ACAO signed an arrangement with ICAO EUR/NAT Regional Office on 19 Mars 2019 with the Objective of increasing synergies and identifying common programs and priorities, enhancing capacity, avoiding duplication and consolidating efforts in the region.

For this reason, ACAO will continue to work with international regional Organization as ICAO EUR/NAT Regional Office, ICAO MID Regional Office, AFCAC, ECAC and Arab Air Carriers Organization (AACO) to organise activities in favor of Arab members. The objective is to establish an environmental group of Experts.

In 2021, we will organise the first Arab Forum on Environment, it will be an opportunity to share progress in terms of Environmental protection in Arab region.



### **Capacity Building for Sustainable Aviation: ICAO EUR/NAT OFFICE and ECAC Cooperation**

**Cesar Velarde**

**ECAC Climate Change and Capacity-Building Specialist**

Both ICAO and ECAC have a longstanding history of capacity building for their Member States. The ECAC Environmental Work Programme has for more than a decade supported its 44 Member States' efforts to implement European policies, regulations and recommendations as well as ICAO aviation and environmental protection Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs). It has also facilitated the sharing of knowledge in assessing and addressing the environmental impacts of aviation. This has contributed to ECAC Member States' efforts to develop their environmental programmes at their own level of ambition.

#### **A shared vision on capacity-building**

The 2016 *Bratislava Declaration* of ECAC Member States prioritised capacity building in the environmental field through the commitment to address needs that would arise from States requiring technical assistance in the implementation of the ICAO *Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation* (CORSIA). Some capacity building work was already being done through, for instance, information sharing via the ECAC Environmental Forum, and ECAC Directors General agreed to give further impetus to environmental capacity-building through the recruitment in December 2020 of an ECAC Climate Change and Capacity Building Specialist to take forward a three-year capacity-building programme. This programme will help give real effect to ECAC Member States' commitment to the effective implementation of CORSIA.

ECAC Directors General also decided that the programme would seek not only to support Member States in delivering their environmental obligations (such as CORSIA implementation or State Action Plans submission to ICAO), but also to further strengthen the competencies and knowledge of their staff dealing with environment matters. As well as bringing benefits to these States themselves, it should enable those who wish to do so to develop more ambitious national strategies and to become more engaged in ICAO environmental discussions.

#### **Cooperation between ECAC and ICAO EUR/NAT Office in the environmental field**

The new impulse given to the ECAC work programme in this field offers an excellent opportunity for cooperation with the ICAO EUR/NAT office, so as to optimise available resources with a view to assist our common States in the most effective manner, while of course acknowledging the different mandates of both organisations.

ECAC's programme of course serves the needs of our own members, their commitment in the Bratislava Declaration and their often-ambitious national programmes, while the ICAO EUR/NAT Office pursues the regional implementation of ICAO's globally defined objectives: but both sets of aims

converge in progress towards common goals, and our cooperation enables mutual understanding for the better implementation of our respective programmes in a cooperative manner.

The joint ICAO and ECAC meeting on State Action Plans (SAP) organised in June 2021, along with support to States in their SAP updates and the contribution of experts from both organisations to each other's work in this field, are all examples of fruitful collaboration whose ultimate beneficiaries are ECAC Member States.

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## Useful links

Please contact the ICAO EUR/NAT Office Environment for any question related to this newsletter [icaoemat@icao.int](mailto:icaoemat@icao.int)

More information on the ICAO EUR/NAT activities for 2021 is available on <https://www.icao.int/EURNAT/Pages/welcome.aspx>

More information on the work of ICAO on Environment is available on <https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/Pages/default.aspx>

To register to the upcoming webinar on Infrastructure development for supplying clean energy for air travel - <https://www.icao.int/Meetings/Stocktaking2021/Pages/prest5.aspx>

## Upcoming EUR/NAT event

METG/31 20-24 September 2021 - virtual

ICAO EUR/NAT Joint ICAO EUR/NAT DGCA-EASA Conference on Crisis Coordination and Response - 29 September 2021 - virtual

Please contact the ICAO EUR/NAT Office for more details at [icaoemat@icao.int](mailto:icaoemat@icao.int)

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This edition was developed by Technical Officers of the ICAO EUR/NAT Office.

## The next EUR/NAT Newsletter will be issued in September 2021

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