

ICAO HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON THE FEASIBILITY OF A LONG-TERM ASPIRATIONAL GOAL FOR INTERNATIONAL AVIATION CO₂ EMISSION REDUCTIONS(HLM-LTAG)

19 – 22 July 2022

STATEMENT BY THE NETHERLANDS

(Presented by Mr. Mark Harbers, Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management)

Mr President, Mr Secretary-General, and distinguished delegates,

Unfortunately I cannot be with you in person today.

However, let me assure you that I am fully committed to working with you to foster a strong, sustainable future for aviation.

The Netherlands has enjoyed peace and prosperity for many decades, benefitting greatly from the presence of a sizable aerospace and aviation industry.

We fully understand the importance of this sector for the achievement of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

Right now, aviation is climbing out of a very dark period. Step by step we are regaining the global connectivity we lost.

At the same time we should not see this as a reason for returning to business as usual.

The urgency of tackling the global climate crisis is clear. The public sentiment has changed. We all have to take our responsibility. ICAO has to take its responsibility.

Sustainability is now an essential part of our license to operate and the industry itself sees that clearly.

To me there is no doubt where we need to land: net-zero CO₂ emissions from international aviation by 2050, with as much in-sector emissions reduction as possible.

To actually get there we need effective means of implementation and better monitoring through State Action Plans. In particular, we need ICAO to help developing states tap into multiple sources of private finance.

This meeting with many of the 193 contracting states, is a vital step towards reaching a mutual understanding in the build-up to the ICAO Assembly and to ensure that no country is left behind.

I hope to meet you in that very same Assembly Hall in Montreal in September and I wish you a productive meeting!