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ASSEMBLY — 40TH SESSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 15: Environmental Protection – General provisions, Aircraft Noise and Local Air Quality– Policy and Standardization

NATIONAL GREEN AVIATION POLICY

(Presented by India)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Indian air transport sector has shown very strong growth in recent years and expected to grow faster in coming years. The magnitude of the estimated potential growth of aviation industry in India will have consequential impact on the environment. In order to mitigate the environmental impacts and ensure sustainable development of the aviation sector in India, the Ministry of Civil Aviation envisaged the need to develop a comprehensive policy to address the current and anticipated environmental issues of the future. This paper portrays the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India's commitment towards an inclusive and sustainable growth of aviation sector in India, its intent and endeavour to develop the National Green Aviation Policy, the vision, mission, strategic objectives and the key policy areas.

<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	This working paper relates to Strategic Objectives Environmental Protection.
<i>Financial implications:</i>	Nil
<i>References:</i>	Nil

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Indian air transport sector has shown very strong growth in recent years and expected to grow faster in coming years. India is currently among the top seven aviation markets in the world and is expected to become the third largest market by 2022. The passenger traffic is expected to rise nearly six-fold from 187 million in FY 2018 to around 1124 million in FY 2040 with CAGR of 8.5%¹. The

¹ <https://www.globalaviationsummit.in/documents/VISION-2040-FOR-THE-CIVIL-AVIATION-INDUSTRY-IN-INDIA.pdf>

magnitude of the future potential growth in the Indian domestic market is evident from the fact that, the number of domestic journeys undertaken in 2017 represents just 7.3% of India's total population².

1.2 Though the aviation industry contributes immensely towards economic and social development of a nation, it also largely impacts the environment and thus contributes to the dire issues like global warming and climate change. It also impacts the local environment as the aircraft and airport operations contribute to air, water, soil and noise pollution. Though, technological progress and operational improvements are continuously being undertaken, but the rate of traffic growth will result in a net increase in aviation noise, emissions and overall environmental footprint, without taking additional measures. Recognizing the fact that Indian aviation sector will undergo exponential growth in coming days, addressing the environment and sustainability concerns are very crucial at this point. In order to ensure an inclusive and sustainable growth of the aviation industry without compromising on the environment, all stakeholders were required to work together for a holistic environment friendly ecosystem. And to make it happen, the Ministry of Civil Aviation had envisaged the need to develop a National Green Aviation Policy.

1.3 Subsequently, the Ministry of Civil Aviation formulated a task force and different working groups comprising of related Ministries, Institutes and stakeholders to develop the National Green Aviation Policy. The policy was planned to be very comprehensive and inclusive, encompassing every aspect of the environment including greenhouse gas emissions, noise, local air quality, water, waste, renewable energy, green infrastructure, etc. It is first such comprehensive effort by any government in the aviation sector.

1.4 Initially a vision document was released during the Global Aviation summit, 2019 held in Mumbai, India which was followed by the release of a whitepaper on National Green Aviation Policy on the website of the Ministry which invited comments from interested parties. The Task force has deliberated on the comments received from the stakeholders and the final draft of the Policy is under process and expected to be released shortly.

2. VISION, MISSION AND OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

2.1 The National Green Aviation Policy emphasizes on the Government's approach and sets out a strategic framework to address the major environmental challenges of the aviation sector.

2.2 Vision Statement

"To enable, promote and strengthen all inclusive, green and sustainable growth of air transportation in India."

2.3 Mission Statement

"Provide safe and sustainable air travel to various parts of India and the world by minimizing the adverse environmental impacts of civil aviation activities."

2.4 Strategic Objectives

² <https://www.iata.org/publications/economics/Reports/India-aviation-summit-Aug18.pdf>

- 2.4.1 To support sustainable and inclusive growth of the Indian civil aviation sector and align it with ICAO's Vision and strategic goals.
- 2.4.2 To make Indian aviation one of the most resource efficient sectors.
- 2.4.3 To enable and promote development and maximum usage of solar and other renewable energy in the civil aviation ecosystem of India.
- 2.4.4 To ensure implementation of Environmental Management System (EMS) approach across aviation units
- 2.4.5 Enhance the aviation systems from conventional to advanced environment friendly, resource efficient infrastructure/system with reliable and sustainable alternatives such as green building concept, etc.
- 2.4.6 To reduce GHGs and other gaseous emissions conforming to national and global targets and plans.
- 2.4.7 Enhance capacity building on environmental sustainability for all aviation professionals.
- 2.4.8 Create a favorable regulatory regime for clearances of aviation projects to meet the anticipated growth of Indian Civil Aviation, with due care to environment sustainability.
- 2.5 The National Green Aviation Policy is aligned with the relevant National and International frameworks, such as:
- 2.5.1 ICAO's Vision- Achieve the sustainable growth of the global civil aviation system.
- 2.5.2 ICAO's three major environmental goals adopted in 2004-
- a) limit or reduce the number of people affected by significant aircraft noise;
 - b) limit or reduce the impact of aviation emissions on local air quality;
 - c) limit or reduce the impact of aviation greenhouse gas emissions on the global climate
- 2.5.3 ICAO's aspirational goal for CO2 emission reduction, adopted in 2010-
- a) 2% annual fuel efficiency improvement through 2050;
 - b) Carbon neutral growth from 2020 onwards;
- 2.5.4 United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030.
- 2.5.5 India's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) under UNFCCC- Paris Agreement.
- 2.5.6 Ministry of Civil Aviation's objective to achieve Sustainable Aviation as outlined in National Civil Aviation Policy 2016.

2.5.7 India's State Action Plan on Reducing Carbon Emissions from Civil Aviation.

2.5.8 Relevant Acts and Rules issued by Government of India.

3. POLICY AREAS

3.1 The policy is aimed to monitor and mitigate the impact of aviation on environment and address all major aspects of environment in the aviation sector. The identified key policy areas include:

Environment Management System	Airport Master Planning
Green and Resilient Infrastructure	Noise Management
Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change	Local Air Quality
Energy & Resource Conservation	Solar and other Renewable Energy
Waste Management	Water Management
Land, Soil, Habitat and Biodiversity	Spills, Releases and other Incidents
Capacity Building	Simplified Regulatory Regime
Sustainable Procurement Practices	Public Awareness

4. WAY FORWARD

4.1 The National Green Aviation Policy has been developed as a guiding document for all aviation stakeholders to accomplish Ministry of Civil Aviation's vision to enable, promote and strengthen all inclusive, green and sustainable growth of air transportation in India. It is a roadmap to achieve the environmental goals in line with national and international frameworks and ensure minimal impact on the environment from operations of aviation sector.

4.2 The policy is expected to act as the foundation for developing the necessary regulatory framework in the country to achieve the vision set out in the Policy. In translating the policy framework into specific and achievable targets, effective strategies for implementation needs to be developed at organizational level.

4.3 In order to ensure effective implementation of the Policy, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Directorate General of Civil Aviation is required to formulate a comprehensive assessment plan and conduct periodic audits to review the status of implementation of the policy guidelines. An annual/biennial report may be prepared on the policy implementation status that will aid in understanding the inadequacies and review of the policy and assessment plans may be done accordingly.

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