



CONFERENCE ON AVIATION AND ALTERNATIVE FUELS (CAAF)

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 16 to 18 November 2009

STATEMENT BY UNITED STATES

The United States welcomes ICAO's interest in alternative aviation fuels and the organization of this Conference on Aviation and Alternative Fuels.

Successful development, certification and deployment of sustainable alternative aviation fuels are a crucial step in insuring the environmental sustainability and economic strength of international aviation over the long term. Rising concern over the contribution of aviation to climate change and air quality impacts has motivated the United States, along with industry to strive for solutions to these challenges.

Aviation has exhibited an admirable record of efficiency improvement and emissions reductions in recent decades via technology and operational improvements. We expect those achievements to continue and are making investments to ensure that they do. However, given the projected growth in global aviation activity we don't expect that efficiency and operational improvements alone will be sufficient to meet our goals of reducing aviation's environmental impacts. Sustainable alternative aviation fuels are thus an essential tool in the toolbox of solutions to address this environmental challenge.

The United States government and private sector have invested significant resources to advance our understanding and address the key unknowns in development, qualification, environmental impact assessment and commercialization of alternative jet fuels. And there is much good news to report at this conference. This past year saw exciting new developments including flight tests by a number of manufacturers using a range of sustainable alternative jet fuels; creation of a tool for measuring alternative fuel technological and commercial readiness; development of frameworks for understanding environmental life cycle impacts; and, the passage of the first new Jet fuel approval (ASTM D7566) in nearly 20 years. And we expect that there will be additional good news to come very soon.

The ICAO High-level Meeting on International Aviation and Climate Change declared in October that, "ICAO and its Contracting States will strongly encourage wider discussions on the development of alternative fuel technologies and the promotion of the use of sustainable alternative fuels, including biofuels." The ICAO Conference on Aviation and Alternative Fuels is an opportunity to collectively share our efforts and strategies to promote sustainable alternative fuels and a first step in carrying out this commitment to a sustainable future for international aviation. The United States also encourages the ICAO Secretariat, Contracting States and International Organizations to work through existing organizations that have ongoing efforts on alternative fuels, including aviation, to ensure that aviation fuels are developed within the global framework of renewable energy.

The United States welcomes the opportunity to participate in the Conference and looks forward to working with the assembled Contracting States and International Organizations.

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