

# ICAO ACT-SAF Programme: Supporting States to realise their SAF potential

By ICAO Secretariat

## Introduction

The importance of Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) to the sustainable future of aviation is critical. Over the past decade, the aviation sector has experienced an exponential increase in SAF production facilities, advancements in production pathways, as well as airports regularly supplying SAF. The SAF market developments, such as airline-producer offtake agreements, buyers' alliances, novel book and claim accounting frameworks, have also facilitated increased access to SAF. In addition, many International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Member States are now looking towards policy support, in various forms - such as mandates and subsidies - to stimulate greater SAF demand.

During the ICAO Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection (CAEP) twelfth meeting (ICAO CAEP/12), held in February 2022, ICAO CAEP Members unanimously adopted the technical report on the feasibility of a long-term global aspirational goal for international aviation (LTAG). The LTAG report is now available to the public on the ICAO website<sup>1</sup>. The report foresees the largest CO<sub>2</sub> reductions by 2050 coming from fuels and cleaner energy sources, vis-à-vis aircraft technologies and operational improvements.

Recognising the importance of SAF in the decarbonisation of the aviation sector, ICAO launched the Assistance, Capacity-building and Training for SAF (ICAO ACT-SAF) on 1 June 2022. This article explains ACT-SAF in further detail, and its next steps moving forward.



FIGURE 1: ICAO ACT-SAF

## What is ICAO ACT-SAF

ACT-SAF is an initiative aimed at facilitating States' development and deployment of sustainable fuels. As there will not be a 'one size fits all' approach, ACT-SAF will incorporate tailored support for ICAO Member States, which may comprise feasibility studies, policy and regulatory developments, and specific SAF implementation projects. ACT-SAF will also provide a targeted platform to encourage knowledge sharing and recognition of all SAF initiatives

Under the umbrella of ICAO coordination, ACT-SAF will facilitate partnerships and cooperation on multiple SAF initiatives, which may include bilateral/multilateral agreements between ICAO Member States and various stakeholders (industry, international organisations, financial institutions).

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/LTAG/Pages/LTAGreport.aspx>

## Why the need for ACT-SAF?

ACT-SAF builds on the existing ICAO ACT-CORSIA experience, further providing opportunities for partnership and cooperation. With the LTAG Report foreseeing the largest CO<sub>2</sub> reductions coming from fuels and cleaner energy sources, there is a need for immediate concerted action to fully realise these SAF potentials, especially in ICAO Member States or regions that have little to no experience or knowledge in SAF.

ICAO ACT-SAF will therefore provide opportunities for ICAO Member States to develop their full potential in SAF development and deployment. This is aligned with the ICAO's *No Country Left Behind* initiative, the 2050 ICAO Vision for SAF, and the three main pillars of sustainable development recognised by the United Nations.

As more ICAO Member States and partners get involved in the Programme, ACT-SAF is expected to create positive ripple effects globally and help unlock feedstock potentials for SAF markets over the coming decades. ICAO Member States and partners may also work together in addressing the challenges associated with SAF adoption, such as sustainability of the fuel, affordability and pricing issues, as well as diversification of feedstock, stakeholders and access to cleaner energy supporting sustainable aviation.

The 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the ICAO Assembly, which will be held 27 September – 7 October 2022, provides an opportunity for a decision on a long-term global aspirational goal for international aviation (LTAG). The increased ambition on sustainable aviation would allow ICAO to explore extending the existing model used in ACT-SAF, galvanise support and implement similar programmes for additional aspects contributing to aviation CO<sub>2</sub> reductions (aircraft technologies and operational improvements).

## Current progress of ACT-SAF, and next steps

As of June 2022, ICAO has since invited all ICAO Member States to join ACT-SAF and is in the process of engaging other stakeholders (financial institutions, educational/research institutions, industry) on their participation, recognising the critical role they will play in scaling up ICAO Member States' SAF capabilities.

Following which, under ICAO's coordination, it will identify, match, and set up specific SAF implementation projects, tailored to the States' needs. Further details on ACT-SAF will be regularly updated on the ICAO ACT-SAF website<sup>2</sup>.

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2 <https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/Pages/act-saf.aspx>