



16 September 2016

THE 39TH INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION ASSEMBLY
SECURING A MARKET-BASED MEASURE TO ACHIEVE CARBON NEUTRAL
GROWTH FROM 2020

***Letter supported by the European Union, the Republic of the Marshall Islands
and Mexico as participants in the High Ambition Coalition***

Dear High Ambition Coalition Climate Ministers and Transport Ministers,

Our work together last year was crucial to secure an ambitious Paris Agreement, setting the world on an unstoppable trajectory of ambitious climate action. But in order for us to now achieve “our Paris vision”, we need to ensure we all fully play our part, including every country and every sector. We are now at a critical moment, and, for the first time we can secure a global sectorial deal for aviation.

Emissions from international aviation are growing at an unsustainable rate. While they only represent 2% of global CO₂ emissions today, they are forecast to quadruple by 2050, reaching almost 1,800 million tonnes per year. In order to meet the temperature limits we agreed in Paris and our long-term goal to achieve net zero emissions in the second half of the century, we must take urgent action to curb emissions from the aviation sector. Our work must begin by reaching the goal set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and endorsed by the aviation industry, of achieving carbon neutral growth from 2020.

Let us make history together.

ICAO’s 39th Assembly will meet in Montreal from 27 September to 7 October and, after years of work, is set to adopt the key building blocks of the first Global Market-Based Measure (GMBM) to limit emissions from international aviation. It is crucial that we once again work together as a High Ambition Coalition to secure an ambitious and robust GMBM,

with broad participation and the widest possible emission coverage, to make the objective of stabilising CO2 emissions from international aviation from 2020 a reality.

In order to ensure the highest possible coverage of international aviation emissions, all major aviation countries should participate in the scheme from the beginning. We must, like under the Paris Agreement, build in a robust review mechanism to be able to adapt the GMBM's ambition and effectiveness over time, to be in line with our wider climate objectives and the long term temperatures goal of the Paris Agreement.

We are convinced that an effective and fair agreement should include aviation routes responsible for the greatest share of global emissions, and treat all carriers on these routes in a non-discriminatory manner. It should exempt routes to and from countries that represent a very small share of global emissions, and in particular to and from Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Land Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs).

The GMBM should be designed to spur demand for offsets with environmental integrity for which supply could come from developing countries, including from LDCs and SIDS. The more emissions covered by the scheme, the more the demand for offsets, and the greater the incentives to invest in sustainable development.

Finally, like with Paris Agreement, it would be desirable for the Assembly to endorse the aviation industry's long term objective of reducing the sector's CO₂ emissions by 50% from 2005 levels by 2050.

The final stages of the negotiations are converging on a proposal for a phased participation, starting with a first phase in which countries will be encouraged to opt in. The level of participation will be crucial to ensure the broadest possible emission coverage and ensure that the scheme will live up to its objective.

As participants in the High Ambition Coalition, the European Union, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Mexico are inviting you to encourage as many ICAO states as possible, in particular all major aviation states, to join from the beginning of the scheme, and to declare their intention to opt in as soon as possible, and no later than at the Assembly. Together, we must ensure, through our own action and encouraging the action of others, that the Assembly achieves the highest possible participation in the first phase.

In Montreal numbers will matter! Achieving this outcome at the ICAO Assembly will require all members of the High Ambition Coalition, through their relevant ministries, to declare their intent to participate in the GMBM from the start and to participate actively in the ICAO Assembly. See Annex I for a list of countries that have already declared their intention to participate in the GMBM from the start.

We strongly urge you to send a representative to the forthcoming ICAO Assembly to ensure our voices are heard and that we can all cast our votes in favour of an ambitious outcome that keeps 1.5°C within reach. Let's prove that we can deliver on a vital scheme for a sustainable future.



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European Commissioner for Transport



MIGUEL ARIAS CAÑETE
European Commissioner for Climate Action & Energy



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With the support of the Government of Mexico.

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ANNEX: List of countries that have signaled their intention to join from the beginning of the Global Market-Based Measure scheme.

1. Albania
2. Armenia
3. Austria
4. Azerbaijan
5. Belgium
6. Bosnia and Herzegovina
7. Bulgaria
8. Canada
9. Croatia
10. Cyprus
11. Czech Republic
12. Denmark
13. Estonia
14. Finland
15. France
16. Georgia
17. Germany
18. Greece
19. Hungary
20. Iceland
21. Indonesia
22. Ireland
23. Italy
24. Latvia
25. Lithuania
26. Luxemburg
27. Malta
28. Marshall Islands
29. Mexico
30. Republic of Moldova
31. Monaco
32. Montenegro
33. Netherlands
34. Norway
35. Poland
36. Portugal
37. Romania
38. San Marino
39. Serbia
40. Slovakia
41. Slovenia
42. Spain
43. Sweden
44. Switzerland
45. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
46. Turkey
47. Ukraine
48. United Kingdom
49. United States of America