



International Civil Aviation Organization

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ICAO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAFER, SHORTER AND GREENER FLIGHTS WITH NEW AIR NAVIGATION CONCEPT

MONTREAL, 1 April 2009 – Major stakeholders of the world aviation community today signed a Declaration calling for the rapid implementation of Performance-based Navigation (PBN), a new air navigation concept that will contribute to further improving the safety, efficiency and sustainability of the global air transport system.

Speaking on behalf of the group, the President of the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization, Mr. Roberto Kobeh González, emphasized that PBN “will help reduce airport and airspace congestion, conserve fuel and protect the environment, reduce the impact of aircraft noise near airports, and ensure reliable, all-weather operations. It will also provide operators with greater flexibility, while increasing safety and efficiency.”

“Our collective mission has always been to provide the citizens of the world with the safest and most efficient air transport system possible. Performance-based Navigation is vital to helping us fulfill our mission today and in the future,” he stressed.

PBN sets clear performance requirements for any given flight operation. It involves a major shift from conventional ground-based navigation aids and procedures to satellite-based navigation aids and area navigation procedures, which are more accurate and allow for shorter, more direct routes between two given points, as well as more efficient take-offs and landings. This reduces fuel burn, airport and airspace congestion, and aircraft emissions.

For example, Qantas and AirServices Australia agreed to develop PBN arrival procedures for Australian airports. Phase 1 included approaches for Brisbane to be flown by Qantas’ Boeing 737’s. In the first year, Qantas flew 1612 PBN approaches to Brisbane in low visibility conditions, which reduced normal distance flown by 17,300 nautical miles and reduced CO₂ emissions by 650,000 kg. Overall, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) estimates that shorter PBN routes could cut CO₂ emissions by 13 million tonnes per year if globally implemented.

PBN also improves customer service, by reducing diversions caused by low visibility weather conditions and providing better access to “weather-challenged” destinations, while helping to improve overall on-time performance by airlines.

In his statement, Mr. Kobeh emphasized that “the sooner we implement Performance-based Navigation, the sooner we will reap its enormous benefits. This was recognized by the 36th Session of the ICAO Assembly in 2007 when it urged all Member States of the Organization to have PBN implementation plans ready by 2009.”

The Declaration calls upon all leaders of the civil aviation community to actively implement PBN in accordance with ICAO provisions. It also reaffirms that global cooperation is essential to the success of the undertaking.

A coordinated action plan to assist States in the implementation of PBN, according to ICAO criteria, has been drawn up and all ICAO Regional Offices have established PBN task forces. A Global PBN Task Force, made up of States and industry partners, is assisting with the implementation of PBN.

In support of worldwide seamless and harmonized implementation of air navigation systems around the world, the United States' Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) and the European SESAR future air navigation systems are based upon the application of PBN and the ICAO Global Air Navigation Plan.

The signing ceremony for the PBN Declaration was held in Geneva, in conjunction with the 4th annual Aviation & Environment Summit organized by the Air Transport Action Group.

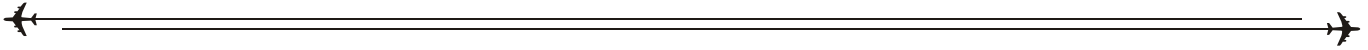
Note to Editors: Please find attached full text of the Declaration and signatories.

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A specialized agency of the United Nations, ICAO was created in 1944 to promote the safe and orderly development of international civil aviation throughout the world. It sets standards and regulations necessary for aviation safety, security, efficiency and regularity, as well as for aviation environmental protection. The Organization serves as the forum for cooperation in all fields of civil aviation among its 190 Contracting States.



Industry Declaration in support of Performance-based Navigation (PBN)



We, as representatives of the air transportation community,

Affirming our joint responsibility to seek continual improvements to the safety, access, capacity, efficiency and environmental sustainability of the air transportation system,

Recognizing that Performance-based Navigation (PBN) provides a catalyst for these improvements to air traffic operations, while enabling a seamless and cost effective solution throughout the entire flight,

Recognizing the work of ICAO in formulating and publishing globally harmonized Area Navigation (RNAV) and Required Navigation Performance (RNP) provisions, now known as Performance-based Navigation (PBN),

Recalling that Resolution A36-23 of the 36th ICAO General Assembly whereby States are urged to implement PBN procedures in accordance with the established timetable,

We resolve:

To support the timetable set out by ICAO for the global implementation of PBN,

To collectively work to facilitate the implementation of PBN, and

To assist States, regions and other stakeholders in their development and execution of a complete PBN implementation plan.

We call upon:

All leaders of the civil aviation community, to fully support implementation of PBN into the air navigation system according to the ICAO provisions and established timetable.



Roberto Kobeh González, Council President



Giovanni Bisignani, Director General and CEO



Alexander ter Kuile, Secretary General



Marc Baumgartner, President & CEO



Capt. Carlos Limon, President



Donald D. Spruston, Director General



François Gayet, Chairman



Angela Gittens, Director General



Matthew S. Zuccaro, President



William R. Voss, President & CEO