



International Civil Aviation Organization

**WORKING PAPER**

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**(Information paper)**

## **ASSEMBLY — 39TH SESSION**

### **PLENARY**

#### **Agenda Item 8: Statements by delegations of Member States**

#### **JOINT STATEMENT FROM THE PACIFIC ISLAND STATES ON INTERNATIONAL AVIATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

(Presented by Pacific Island States<sup>1</sup>)

1. *We support* the continuation of the leadership of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) on environmental issues relating to international civil aviation, including greenhouse gases relating to climate change; as it is the most appropriate body with the expertise and knowledge of the cross-border nature of the international aviation regime to effectively address international aviation emissions and ensure the sustainable growth of the sector.
2. *We recognise* the work of ICAO in this aspect is consistent with the outcomes of the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) in Paris under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which reached a historic landmark agreement, the Paris Agreement to which we are all signatories to. The Paris Agreement intends to keep global average temperature increase to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to intensify action and investments needed for a sustainable low carbon future.
3. *We recall* the ICAO Assembly Resolution A36-22 detailing a basket-of-measures for States to collectively address international aviation emissions through the voluntary submission of State Action Plans, adopting ICAO's basket-of-measures including the use of technology and operational improvements, market-based measures as well as sustainable alternative fuels to achieve ICAO's global aspirational goals.
4. *We acknowledge* the ICAO Assembly Resolution A38-18 to develop a global Market-based Measure (MBM) scheme for international aviation as part of the basket-of-measures, and requested the Council, with the support of Member States, to finalise all preparatory work to recommend the implementation of such a scheme from 2020.
5. In this context, *we support* the outcome of the ICAO High Level Meeting in May 2016 with the general acceptance for the use of RTK as the main criterion for the determination of the phasing-in of States in the global MBM scheme, and the agreement to remove the use of GNI per capita and any per capita metrics as a criteria due to its distortionary effects on small States and States with small populations.

6. *We recognise* that the overall total emissions from Pacific Island States including from the aviation sector are negligible. And given the severe consequences of climate change, brought about by carbon emissions from the industrialised countries, Pacific Islands States have to channel their limited resources to climate adaptation measures because they are at the coalface of climate change.
7. *We emphasise* that the use of any per capita metric in ICAO will arbitrarily penalise States with small populations, and will undermine the ICAO framework for equality of opportunity to States with small populations and the ICAO “no country left behind” initiative.
8. *We urge* that any proposal on a global MBM scheme must take into account and accommodate the special needs and circumstances of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), in particular the Pacific Island States, where air transport represents the most viable means of international transportation to support tourism, trade and commerce for their economies. We therefore encourage ICAO to exempt all SIDS from the global MBM scheme.
9. *We reaffirm* our commitment to continue to undertake concerted actions within our respective capabilities to address carbon emissions from international aviation under our respective State Action Plans, aligned with the Paris Agreement approach for ‘nationally determined contributions’ for States’ collective commitments toward climate action.
10. *We urge* ICAO to provide technical and financial assistance and capacity building along with other ICAO Member States to enhance our collective actions.

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<sup>i</sup> Cook Islands, Fiji, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu