

Concept Note
ICAO Side Event on *UN Decade of Sustainable Transport:*
Accelerating Sustainable Aviation Through UN System Synergies
COP31, Antalya, Türkiye

Moderator and scene-setting:

1. Mr. Tetsuya Tanaka, Envoy of the ICAO Secretary General to the UNFCCC, and Deputy Director, Environment and Cleaner Energy, ICAO

Speakers:

1. Mr. Haldane Dodd, Executive Director, Air Transport Action Group (ATAG)
2. Mr. Jari Kaupilla, Head of Research Centre, International Transport Forum at the OECD (ITF)
3. Mr. Jean-François Gagné, Head of the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) Secretariat
4. Mr. Rob de Jong, Head of the Sustainable Mobility Unit, UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
5. *UN Tourism – TBC*

Administrative Information

- Date: 9 November 2026 (Monday)
- Time: 18:30-20:00
- Venue: Side Event Room 2 – DALYAN at the Blue Zone

Event Overview

2026 marks the start of the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport (2026–2035). Aviation, maritime, and land transport are all essential for connecting people and economies, yet each face distinct operational and environmental challenges requiring sectoral approaches.

As the UN specialized agency for international aviation, ICAO leads efforts to address aviation’s environmental impacts while contributing to 14 of the 17 SDGs.

This panel will explore how international aviation is advancing environmental protection, including progress toward ICAO’s goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

From accelerating aviation’s cleaner energy transition to marking a decade of the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA), this panel will showcase how the sector is implementing practical pathways to decarbonization, the challenges, and upcoming milestones.

The panel will also examine how aviation is tackling broader environmental challenges through partnerships with UN agencies, international organizations, and stakeholders. Discussions will cover circular economy approaches, including plastics and waste management, and biodiversity protection, while identifying opportunities to strengthen collaboration and scale up implementation.

Through multi-stakeholder dialogue and knowledge sharing, this panel will demonstrate aviation's role in advancing the UN Decade, supporting COP31 priorities, and catalyzing collective action toward a sustainable and resilient future.