

Concept Note
ICAO Side Event at the SDG Pavillion
From Waste to Wings: Advancing Circular Economy Solutions for Sustainable Aviation
COP31, Antalya, Türkiye

Administrative Information

- Date: 12 November 2026 (Thursday)
- Time: 11:30-12:30
- Venue: SDG Pavilion, Blue Zone

Tentative Speakers (to be confirmed)

- 1) Representative from ICAO
- 2) Representative from airline(s)
- 3) Representative from airport(s)
- 4) Representative from UN agency/international organization

Event Description

Plastic pollution and waste challenges are present everywhere and the aviation sector is no exception, both because of the impacts of its operations and the effects of pollution on aviation-related activities such as tourism.

In this context, the aviation sector is stepping up efforts to reduce waste and improve resource efficiency as global momentum for circular economy solutions continues to grow. These initiatives aim to mitigate environmental impacts while supporting more sustainable aviation operations.

This event will highlight practical examples of how circular economy approaches are being integrated across the aviation value chain. From aircraft end-of-life management and waste handling throughout aviation operations to initiatives that reduce plastic use and enhance resource efficiency, circularity is helping transform aviation into a more sustainable ecosystem. In addition, circular economy solutions contribute to environmental protection by easing pressure on natural resources and supporting biodiversity conservation and land restoration efforts.

Through exchanges among international organizations, aviation industry stakeholders, airport operators, and circular economy experts, participants will gain insights into actionable measures that can advance sustainable aviation operations. Discussions will also draw on ICAO initiatives, including the ICAO Green Airports Seminars, Eco-Airport Toolkit publications, and ongoing work to develop guidance on sustainable plastics management for the aviation sector.

Overall, the event will demonstrate how the aviation sector is translating circular economy principles into tangible actions and measurable results, while fostering partnerships and accelerating the transition toward more sustainable aviation operations.