



## **ASSEMBLY — 41ST SESSION**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

#### **Agenda Item 17: Environmental Protection – International Aviation and Climate Change**

#### **WFP OPERATIONAL MEASURES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN AVIATION ACTIVITIES**

(Presented by World Food Programme)

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The World Food Programme (WFP) Aviation Service is committed to embedding sustainability in its activities and reducing the environmental impact of its operations as part of a wider policy context ranging from United Nations (UN) high-level environmental principles and policies to sectoral organizations' initiatives in the aviation industry.

1.2 Since 2007, under the UN Climate Neutral Strategy, all UN agencies, funds and programmes (UN AFP) have committed to measuring, reducing and offsetting unavoidable greenhouse gas emissions. The Strategy has the three following goals:

- 1) estimate annual greenhouse gas emissions consistently according to accepted international standards;
- 2) undertake efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and
- 3) analyse cost implications and explore budgetary modalities of purchasing carbon offsets to attain climate neutrality.

In 2015, the UN General Assembly affirmed its commitment to sustainability by adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

#### **2. THE WFP AVIATION SERVICE'S ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMME**

2.1 The mission of the WFP Aviation Service is to provide quality, reputable and safe air services to humanitarian, development, and diplomatic communities, as well as all UN and International Finance Institutions (IFI) partners, and to support important humanitarian actors during emergencies and protracted crises.

2.2 The purpose of the WFP Aviation Service Environmental & Sustainability Programme is to operationalize WFP's commitment to continuous environmental improvement and reduction of the carbon footprint. The WFP Aviation Service places environmental impact control and environmental protection as a major component of its operations and activities.

- 2.3 The programme sets out the following specific objectives:
- measure, report and reduce carbon emissions;
  - promote alternative fuels;
  - increase operational efficiency;
  - optimize flight procedures (CO<sub>2</sub> & noise reduction); and
  - elaborate a carbon offsetting strategy in synergy with WFP corporate management.
- 2.4 The WFP Aviation Service Environmental & Sustainability Programme is linked to WFP's Environmental Policy and is structured according to the following WFP corporate environmental pillars:
- **“We measure”**: sets up processes and adopts appropriate methodologies to identify environmental risks and measures impacts associated with WFP Aviation Service's activities, in particular greenhouse gas emissions;
  - **“We reduce”**: defines, implements, and monitors measures aimed at reducing the overall environmental footprint of the WFP Aviation Service; and
  - **“We offset”**: defines the offsetting framework applicable to humanitarian operation to reach the carbon neutrality engaging all the operational and technical stakeholders.

### 3. **IMPLEMENTATION OF OPERATIONAL MEASURES TO REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT**

3.1 A collaborative case study was performed by WFP Aviation, analysing the technical measures defined by ICAO, *Operational Opportunities to Reduce Fuel Burn and Emissions* (Doc 10013), to help contracted air operators reduce their emissions. The study aimed to determine the feasibility of such operational measures, with the support of different operators, using different types of aircraft in seven African countries, proceeding as follows:

- 1) implementing the measures over a period of three months; and
- 2) collecting air operators' insights.

Based on the data analysis and final considerations, the measures were applied to the whole fleet.

3.2 Based on calculations, if the saving margins in terms of fuel burned are maintained for the rest of the fleet, a net saving of 1.5% of purchased fuel can be achieved, equal to 2260mt of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

### 4. **PARTNERSHIPS AND COOPERATION**

4.1 The WFP Aviation Service is striving to boost its commitment and expand its experience in environmental matters; signing agreements with technical aviation partners, participating in sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) advocating campaigns (in light of a possible future usage of SAF by the WFP Aviation Service), and stakeholders roundtable events (such as events related to CORSIA and the implementation of other regulations). For its missions, the WFP Aviation Service relies on collaboration with external stakeholders such as ICAO, IATA, ACI, also cooperating with the UN aviation coordination platform, other air operators, ground handling companies and fuel providers all over the world. It is crucial to understand and map the environmental requirements of local governments and civil aviation authorities, as well as the compliance of WFP contracted operators with these requirements.

4.2 The WFP Aviation Service, recognizing the environmental impact of humanitarian aviation, took on the challenge to lead the discussion on best practices and solutions by launching the first Humanitarian Aviation Environmental Summit (HAES), held in Cairo (Egypt) on March 14-15, 2022. The event was attended by over 70 high-level delegates from CAAs, international organizations, manufacturers and operators.

## 5. CHALLENGES

5.1 The WFP Aviation Service is confronted to limitations and difficulties operating in remote areas, such as flight in zones without ground infrastructure or in uncontrolled air space.

5.2 WFP is aware of the existence of new technological solutions to improve sustainability in aviation activities such as newly launched aircraft types, solar-powered/hydrogen ground power units (GPUs) and the possible use of SAF. To implement them in the humanitarian aviation sector, however, it is necessary to strike a balance between operational needs and financial constraints.

## 6. CONCLUSION

6.1 Our specific operational context and diverse fleet composition position WFP as an important stakeholder in future operational discussions.

6.2 Future participation and inclusion of the WFP Aviation Service in technical round tables, SAF advocacy campaigns and environment-focused trainings shall enhance our environmental knowledge and contribute to further reducing the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of our aviation activities.

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