



High-level Meeting on the feasibility of a Long-Term Aspirational Goal for international aviation CO₂ emissions reductions



Rwanda's statement

- ✓ The ICAO Secretary General,
- ✓ States representatives,
- ✓ Industry stakeholders,
- ✓ Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning and good afternoon,

Rwanda is honored to be part of this meeting on the feasibility of long-term aspirational goals for international aviation CO₂ emissions reductions. We commend continued commitment of ICAO, Member States and all industry stakeholders to the development of air transport globally while striking a balance to reduce its impact on the environment.

Globally, aviation has grown to be a fundamental pillar of social economic affairs. It facilitates tourism, trade, connectivity, generates economic growth, provides jobs, improves living standards, alleviates poverty and provides a lifeline for remote communities. However, growth in air travel is having an increasingly negative impact on the environment. It is paramount that aviation becomes environmentally sustainable, operating harmoniously within the constraints imposed by the need for clean air and water, limited noise impacts, and a livable climate. Transitioning to a harmonious sustainable aviation operation needs to start as early as possible considering that each step taken counts.

The Government of Rwanda is committed to taking urgent action to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. Though Rwanda is among the countries with lowest emission per capita worldwide, we are highly vulnerable to the negative effects of climate change. In 2011, Rwanda adopted the Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy (GGCRS) setting out the country's actions and priorities on climate change relating to both mitigation and adaptation measures that are mainstreamed within economic planning. Rwanda's firm commitment to climate action is particularly driven by transparency, clarity and the monitoring of the goals we have set for ourselves.

To affirm the commitment to climate action, in May 2020, amid COVID-19 pandemic, Rwanda submitted to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) the Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) with enhanced ambition to reduce up to 38% of its emissions by 2030.

Rwanda has decided from a strategic perspective that any new investment needs to account for environmental sustainability, and this is reflected in the construction of a green airport and acquiring equipment that are friendly to the environment. Among the aviation sustainability initiatives, Rwanda:

- Has established a national civil aviation environmental protection committee;
- Has developed a State Action Plan (SAP) to establish a strategy on climate change for the international aviation sector;
- Is implementing the SAP by replacing equipment that uses fossil fuels with electric and hybrid Ground Support Equipment (GSE) and using cleaner sustainable energy for airport operations;
- Is putting in place policies and a legal framework to facilitate production and use of sustainable aviation fuels; and
- Is voluntarily participating in the CORSIA program and has domesticated the provisions of Annex 16 volume (IV) into our National Regulations.

Additionally, Rwanda is keen on advancing technology to better suit the necessity for environmental sustainability in regards to international aviation. Rwanda's position on creating a green sustainable environment is evidenced in its fiscal incentives and administrative measures being established to encourage new technologies such as electric vehicles, use of unmanned aircraft systems. Adoption of technologies does not only reduce emissions but also positively impact social economic wellbeing of communities. As an example, Rwanda uses UAS technologies in different sectors, such as delivering medical products, using drones for aerial work in agriculture, mining and energy.

To achieve sustainable development in areas of critical importance to humanity and the planet, especially in matters related to economic and social development, it will require an environmental responsible and durable progress while ensuring that no one is left behind. This ought to include agreeing to equitable access to resources as well as fair baselines in order to measure true progress.

Rwanda like any other ICAO Member State, has a role to play in the aviation industry's CO₂ emissions reduction so that the aviation sector is able to contribute its fair share to ensure long term goals are attained. Due to the interlinked nature of these goals and targets, a global partnership is required in order to bring together governments, the private sector, civil society and other actors to mobilize all available resources in the pursuit of a better and more sustainable future of international aviation for all.



To support the efforts to mitigate international aviation's impact on climate change, there is a need to strengthen the skills and capacity of African experts in order to ensure the effective fulfilment of their responsibilities through experience-sharing platforms and dedicated trainings. Rwanda will continue committing resources to climate change relevant strategies, and through collaborations, we are ready to work with private sector and civil societies to contribute to these activities through research and developments on new technologies and public-private partnerships.

One of such partnerships that Rwanda has recently joined is the International Aviation Climate Ambition Coalition, in which all Member States are committed to working together to support the adoption of an ambitious global goal for international aviation CO₂ emissions by the ICAO and also supporting specific measures to reduce aviation emissions including sustainable aviation fuels, the CORSIA global offsetting scheme and new aircraft technologies.

Rwanda looks forward to participating and collaborating with ICAO Member States, international organizations, and all industry stakeholders in this High-level Meeting to discuss CO₂ emissions reduction scenarios and options for a long-term global aspirational goal for international aviation

I thank you for your kind attention

