

ICAO Seminar on Alternative Fuels
(Montreal, 9 February 2017)
Closing Remarks by D/ATB, Mr. Djibo

What we have seen since the beginning of this seminar is the start of a new era of sustainable alternative fuels for aviation. The inspiring opening remarks from the President of the Council of ICAO and Ms. KYTE, Chief Executive Officer of the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All), and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All set the tone for the series of excellent presentations that made us aware of the impressive progress achieved and the promising future for sustainable alternative fuels for aviation.

A basket of mitigation measures, consisting of technological advances, operational improvements, market based measures, and sustainable alternative fuels – all have a role to play in achieving ICAO’s aspirational goals, reaffirmed by the 39th Session of the ICAO Assembly in 2016. The development and deployment of sustainable alternative fuels represents today a real game-changer in the short and mid-term.

This Seminar guided us through key issues related to aviation biofuels.

The first session addressed existing alternative fuels certification processes, life-cycle analysis methodologies, and fuels sustainability. It highlighted the need for a globally harmonized view of sustainability criteria, building as much as possible upon existing sustainability standards and frameworks.

During Session two, fuel producers, airlines and alternative fuels coalitions shared their experience in deploying aviation alternative fuels and identified those factors that have been instrumental in achieving success, such as public-private partnerships to leverage expertise and resources across the entire alternative fuels production and supply chain. The importance of production incentives that reward low carbon intensity fuels was also highlighted, together with the need for a level playing field with other transport modes on the use of biofuels.

In Session three, panellists provided insights on short and long term plans for the development and deployment of alternative fuels and highlighted the importance of innovation in this process. It showcased the large number of processes under development that allow for processing of almost all kinds of feedstock into aviation fuel components. This session also highlighted the importance of Research and Development in order to advance technological innovation.

Session four showcased innovative approaches and successful joint-initiatives to catalyse the efforts from governments, researchers, and fuel producers including new business models for the sector. This session highlighted the importance of building partnerships in order to enable green funding and to de-risk private sector investments on aviation biofuels.

Representatives from various financing and assistance projects highlighted in Session five how investment can unlock the potential for aviation alternative fuels deployment.

During this session, we presented, among others, ICAO Assistance projects funded by the European Union and GEF/ UNDP, together with guidance on financing climate change mitigation in the aviation sector.

During Session six, States and International Organizations representatives identified the main components of their policy frameworks for aviation alternative fuels in light of new clean energy regulations. The session also addressed the role of alternative fuels in the recently adopted CORSIA: it highlighted the need for recognition of sustainable alternative fuels under the scheme through requirements for compliance and ways to incorporate existing regulatory and voluntary sustainability standards.

Also throughout the Seminar, as several speakers unveiled their vision on aviation alternative fuels and elaborated on what is needed to turn the vision into a reality. This process was fundamental for laying down important building blocks for a policy framework to be developed at the next ICAO Conference on Alternative Fuels, to be held this year in Mexico from 11 to 13 October.

I wish to thank all of you who contributed and participated in this Seminar for your invaluable input and cooperation. Please rest assured that ICAO will again seek your support to ensure the ICAO Conference on Alternative Fuels is another successful and landmark event. I look forward to seeing you in Mexico later this year.

I hope you all have a safe trip home.