



ICAO supports UN-wide effort to refocus global attention on Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals

For immediate release

Montréal, 25 September 2019 – Complementing the launch of [the second edition Aviation Benefits Report](#) containing pragmatic examples of how air transport is improving the lives and livelihoods of billions of people around the world today, ICAO has joined the rest of the UN system this week in refocusing global attention on the attainment by States of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted under the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Agenda 2030).

Currently in the midst of hosting over 2,500 delegates for its 40th Assembly, ICAO has been striving on several levels in recent years to draw high-level political and industry attention to the fact that international air connectivity provides significant impacts for States with respect to the attainment of 15 of the 17 SDGs.

These efforts have largely been carried out through its World Aviation Forum events, but also through the direct bilateral interactions of ICAO's Council President and Secretary General during their numerous foreign missions. Key to this advocacy has been ICAO's consistent message that by investing in the infrastructure and expertise to assure ICAO-compliant international air services, States will enjoy numerous socio-economic prosperity benefits for their local citizens and economies.

40th Assembly Working Paper A40-WP/45 draws attention to ICAO's activities in support of Agenda 2030, and demonstrates the consistent stance of the Organization in supporting its Member States with the advancement of the SDGs through a proprietary analytical framework, and through the concrete implementation of numerous capacity-building and assistance projects in developing states.

"For Landlocked and Small Island Developing States (LDS;SIDS) especially," underscored ICAO Secretary General Dr. Fang Liu, "international air connectivity is a veritable socio-economic lifeline, and an incredibly positive factor in attracting foreign spending and investment. More and more States today are appreciating this dynamic, and ICAO has been encouraged to appreciate their related commitments in assuring the safety, security, and efficiency of local air services, including towards national air transport emissions reduction."

Dr. Liu's statements were clearly supported by the data contained in A40-WP/45, a portion of which explores how aviation has increasingly been introduced into States overall development planning and objectives during the 2016-2018 period.

In the context of the United Nations (UN) High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, whereby States are invited on a yearly basis to voluntarily present their progress towards the SDGs in the voluntary national review (VNR) progress reports, A40-WP/45 provides a comprehensive analysis of 107 VNRs submitted by 98 UN Member States from 2016 to 2018.

The data reveals that the number of VNRs referencing aviation has more than tripled, from 25% to 77% of VNRs, and that 62 out of 98 States referenced aviation in their VNRs – up from just five States when ICAO began these initiatives.

More recently, ICAO has focused greater attention on the specific needs of Pacific SIDS (PSIDS), by conducting a detailed study and forming tailored recommendations to sustain the connectivity needs

of these States while adapting and responding to natural disasters. These efforts are aligned with the UN's broader Samoa Pathway for Action, and with ICAO's longstanding assistance and capacity-building efforts under its *No Country Left Behind* Campaign.

"Investment decisions aimed at supporting international aviation have a demonstrated catalytic impact on social welfare and economic development," Dr. Liu continued, "and ICAO has developed comprehensive guidance to ensure that such financing can contribute to the sustainable development of States."



Resources for Editors

About ICAO

A specialized agency of the United Nations, ICAO was created in 1944 to promote the safe and orderly development of international civil aviation throughout the world. It sets standards and regulations necessary for aviation safety, security, efficiency, capacity and environmental protection, amongst many other priorities. The Organization serves as the forum for cooperation in all fields of civil aviation among its 193 Member States.

[2019 Aviation Benefits Report](#)

[Aviation Development and the UN SDGs](#)

[ICAO's 40th Assembly](#)

[ICAO's Global Market-Based Measure](#)

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