



ICAO advocates for decarbonization of aviation at COP 27

For immediate release

Montréal and Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 10 November 2022 –Participating in a round table of Heads of State, Prime Ministers and Chiefs of International Organizations during COP 27, ICAO Council President Salvatore Sciacchitano advocated for the realization of the ICAO Assembly’s decision to reach net zero emissions from air transport by 2050.

“Achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 will require substantial and sustained investment and financing over the coming decades. We must furthermore assure reliable and affordable support and capacity-building for the many developing countries and States with particular needs, who will be depending on it to help play their part,” Mr. Sciacchitano said. “An important part of my message to you here today is that the work to begin addressing these objectives for our sector has already started.”

This goal is to be achieved collectively, without attribution of specific obligations or commitments in the form of emission reduction goals to individual States. One of the key features of the agreement is the recognition that each State’s special circumstances and respective capabilities will inform each State’s ability to contribute, and within its own national timeframe.

“ICAO is fully cognizant of its global responsibilities towards the sustainable future of the international aviation sector, and of the planet. We also remain deeply cognizant of the critical importance of international air connectivity to the civil societies and economies of Small Island Developing States, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Least Developed Countries,” remarked the Council President. “As aviation continues to explore and adopt the incredible new technological innovations arising today in aeronautics and renewable energy propulsion, ICAO also recognizes how imperative it is to start putting in place the right policies, legal frameworks and modernized infrastructure to enable this evolution to emissions-free flight.”

For example, ICAO launched its Assistance, Capacity-building and Training for Sustainable Aviation Fuels (ACT-SAF) programme in June. It will provide tailored support to States on sustainable fuel development and deployment, and facilitate related partnerships and cooperation around the world. An increasing number of States and international organizations are becoming actively involved in this programme, which recognizes the key role to be played in this endeavour by sustainable fuels, and we expect many more States and organizations to join in the coming months.

To reduce the impacts of aviation on the global climate, States, the industry, and all other relevant stakeholders have in fact been pursuing a basket of CO₂ reduction measures through ICAO for many years now. This contributed to modern aircraft being 70% quieter and 80% more fuel-efficient than their early predecessors.

The introduction of radical, disruptive, and in many cases revolutionary innovations in technologies and operations is now required to deliver the overall decarbonization needed to keep global temperatures in check.

“This transition, fuelled by frontier technologies and featuring many new entrants to the aviation ecosystem, holds tremendous economic potential for developing States. We are greatly encouraged at ICAO that it can also help establish a more level playing field toward an inclusive and effective global green transition in aviation in the coming decades,” Mr Sciacchitano said. “We

will be proud to leverage our 78 year history of driving international consensus and progress in air transport to assure that this is realized.”

In the immediate term, ICAO Member States and industry will continue pursuing additional sustainability objectives, notably through the aforementioned expanded use of sustainable aviation fuels and the ongoing implementation of the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSA).



On 7 November 2022, ICAO Council President Salvatore Sciacchitano presented ICAO’s work to support the decarbonization of air transport at the COP 27 High-level Round table on “Just Transition”.

Resources for Editors

[ICAO at COP 27](#)
[ICAO and Environmental Protection](#)

About ICAO

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is a United Nations agency which helps 193 countries to cooperate together and share their skies to their mutual benefit.

Since it was established in 1944, ICAO’s support and coordination has helped countries to diplomatically and technically realize a uniquely rapid and dependable network of global air mobility, connecting families, cultures, and businesses all over the world, and promoting sustainable growth and socio-economic prosperity wherever aircraft fly.

As it enters a new era of digitization, and of incredible new flight and propulsion innovations, air transport is relying more than ever on ICAO’s expert support and technical and diplomatic guidance to help chart a new and exciting future for international flight. ICAO is innovating itself to answer this call, and expanding its partnerships among UN and technical stakeholders to deliver a strategic global vision and effective, sustainable solutions.

General Contact

communications@icao.int
Twitter: [@ICAO](#)

Media Contact

William Raillant-Clark
Communications Officer
wraillantclark@icao.int
+1 514-954-6705
+1 514-409-0705 (mobile)

Twitter: [@wraillantclark](#)

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/railantclark/](#)