

Message from the Director of the Air Transport Bureau of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

Addressing Aviation Environmental Challenges

The International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) Air Transport Bureau (ATB) supports the implementation of the Strategic Objectives of ICAO, and in particular, security and facilitation, the economic development of air transport, and environmental protection. ICAO's environmental protection goal is to minimize the adverse environmental effects of global civil aviation activities. This objective fosters ICAO's leadership in all aviation-related environmental activities and is consistent with the ICAO and United Nations (UN) system environmental protection policies and practices.

ICAO Member States have already agreed on two global aspirational goals for international aviation: 2% annual fuel efficiency improvement through to 2050, and carbon neutral growth from 2020 onwards. To achieve these global aspirational goals and promote the sustainable growth of international aviation, ICAO is pursuing a basket of measures including aircraft technology, operational improvements, sustainable aviation fuels, and market-based measures (CORSIA) and ensuring that all the necessary legal and operation framework and all necessary information for



its implementation is up to date and available to our 193 Member States,

In addition, the Environmental Programme also assists States directly in the implementation of measures through robust assistance programmes, and cooperates directly with UN and international bodies in the field.

The COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly affected the operations of air carriers, airports and air navigation service providers (ANSPs). After the outbreak of COVID-19 in early 2020, it has become a key priority for ICAO

to provide the necessary support to Member States in the restart, recovery and long-term resilience of the civil aviation sector. While improving air transportation remains the organization's top priority, the crisis has opened up new opportunities to meet the organization's objective of building an even more sustainable aviation sector. Aviation today is at a turning point, with all stakeholders acting now to set the path to ensure a green recovery. ICAO is leading and facilitating the actions to implement systemic changes through innovative and novel solutions.

Since the 40th Session of the Assembly in 2019, ICAO has been working on the feasibility of a Long Term Aspirational Goal (LTAG). The ICAO Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection (CAEP) has carried out a comprehensive technical analysis through a cooperative, inclusive and transparent process. This work identified a set of LTAG scenarios by evaluating existing, foreseen, and innovative in-sector measures in technology, fuels and operations, and their enablers, including information on probable cost.

Despite the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, CORSIA implementation is on pace, thanks to the assistance provided to States through the ICAO Assistance, Capacity-building, and Training for CORSIA (ACT-CORSIA) initiative. It is still the sole global market-based measure for international aviation CO₂ emissions, implying that CO₂ emissions from aviation are only accounted once. CORSIA is critical to reaching the sector's ambitious goals in addressing its impact on the global climate.

ICAO is working steadily to address the environmental aspects associated with international civil aviation by incorporating innovation effectively and practically into the exploration of pathways to decarbonize the aviation sector and address climate change. ICAO recognizes its leadership position in environmental protection, particularly at this unique time of green transition, and change to a new normal, through collaboration with 193 Member States and other aviation stakeholders willing to embrace a sustainable aviation future. We remain ready for the challenge.

Mohammed Khalifa Rahma

Director, Air Transport Bureau, ICAO