

# Update of Dominican Republic State Action Plan Progress on Emissions Mitigation

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## Introduction

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Document 9988 - “Guidance on the Development of States Action Plan- CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions Reduction Activities, was a particularly important tool guide for updating the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of the State Action Plan for the Dominican Republic (PARE-CO<sub>2</sub>).

This update process represented a great challenge as many members of the working group were new. Thus, to develop capacities, virtual meetings and workshops were held.

## Update of the Dominican Republican State Action Plan – 2021–2023

As a result of the border closures at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, and the paralysis of tourist activity during the period of January–November 2020, the country only received 2.1 million non-residents, which represented a drop of 64.7% compared to the same period in the previous year. The effects on air operations for 2020 were also significant, representing a reduction of approximately 43% flight traffic compared to 2019. However, the work teams of the Dominican Republic (DRWG) maintained the implementation of the mitigation measures and are reflected in the plan of action.

For PARE-CO<sub>2</sub> 2021–2023, a working group was added, titled “DRWG 7 Market-based Economic Measures” This group is currently comprising government institutions such as the Dominican Accreditation Organization (ODAC). IDAC signed a collaboration agreement in July of 2021



FIGURE 1: Cover of the 4th edition of the action plan



FIGURE 2: Photo of the signing of the IDAC-ODAC Agreement, represented by Román Caamaño director of IDAC and Ángel Taveras director of ODAC

with the aim of complying with the provisions of the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA).

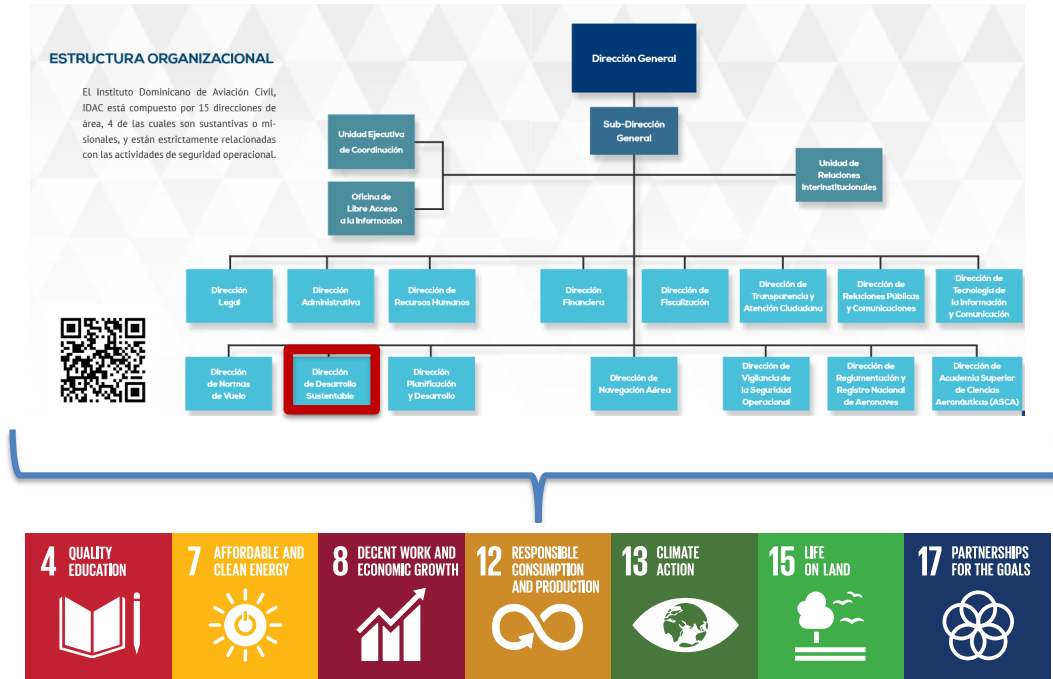


FIGURE 3: IDAC Organizational Structure supporting UN SDGs

The IDAC published a regulatory framework with the objective of ensuring the neutral growth of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Included in the Institutional Strategic Plan<sup>1</sup> is the objective of protecting the environment and a modified Structure of the Department to the Directorate of Sustainable Development, to monitor compliance with the goals of the UN SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) by its Member States in Dominican aviation.

### Participation In CORSIA

The Dominican Republic communicated in 2018 that it was voluntarily participating in the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA), with the aim of continuing the efforts it had been making in terms of protecting the aviation environment. By July 2019, it modified the regulatory framework through the Dominican aeronautical regulations for the implementation of CORSIA.

In March 2020, the CORSIA MRV COURSE was given at the Superior Academy of Aeronautical Sciences (ASCA), where it was attended by national verification entities,

aviation sector personnel, and members of aeronautical authorities from other States such as Panama and the Bahamas.

Under the ACT-CORSIA Framework, we held virtual working meetings in 2020 with the United States, Panama, and Ecuador to share best practices on the verification Body and National Accreditation Body scheme. This was of great value to the national team.



FIGURE 4: CORSIA MRV Course at the Superior Academy of Aeronautical Sciences (ASCA), March 2020

1 <https://www.idac.gob.do/plan-estrategico-institucional-2021-2024/>



**FIGURE 5:** Virtual meeting CORSIA capacity building for CO<sub>2</sub> mitigation from international aviation - Africa and Caribbean, April 2021.

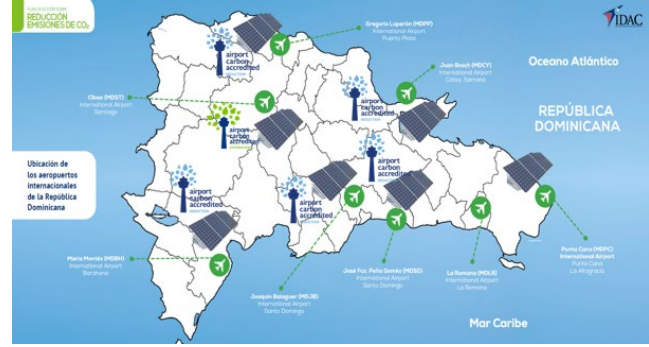
## I. CORSIA<sup>2</sup> Capacity Building For CO<sub>2</sub> Mitigation From International Aviation Africa and Caribbean

The Dominican Republic is one of the 45 States that is participating in the capacity building project for the implementation of CORSIA that commenced in 2021. This Project is linked to the Working Group (DRWG) No. 7 of the action plan.

Training was given through virtual seminars to government institutions such as national accreditation bodies, verification bodies, air operators, environment and climate change agencies.

## II. Airport Improvements<sup>3</sup>

The Airports Council International (ACI) granted the Cibao International Airport (AIC), and the six airports managed by Aeropuertos Dominicanos Siglo XXI (AERODOM), the accreditation in the Optimization and Reduction Levels respectively of the Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) Program. This included the standard implemented for the reduction of carbon emissions. The strategy is to be able to obtain Level 3+ (Neutrality) until 2024 where 6 international airports are accredited and a domestic aerodrome.



**FIGURE 6:** Map of solar panels in the airports of the Dominican Republic



**FIGURE 7:** Inauguration of electric chargers for vehicles in the Norge Botello aeronautical complex

The mitigation measures implemented include the use of renewable energy sources through solar panels, implementation of chargers for electric vehicles, and other measures such as waste management. It represents an estimated reduction of 9,594 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.

## III. Creation of the National MRV

Through decree 541-20 issued on October 9, 2020, the President of the Dominican Republic, Luis Abinader, created the national system for measuring, reporting and verifying greenhouse gases in the Dominican Republic (MRV). This system includes the objective of accounting for greenhouse gas emissions and executing mitigation actions aimed at promoting climate actions.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.eu-corsia-af-c.org/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.airportcarbonaccreditation.org/participants/latin-america-caribbean.html>





**FIGURE 8:** Launch of the 4th edition of the action plan accompanied by Héctor Porcella Deputy General Director of IDAC, Miguel Mejía, Director of Sustainable Development, Román Caamaño Director of IDAC, Max Puig President of the Council of Climate Change and Clean Development Mechanism, Mónica Infante General of Aeropuertos Dominicanos Siglo XXI, SA (Aerodom).

The ICAO/European Union (EU) project that concluded in 2018, allowed the establishment of a CO<sub>2</sub> emissions monitoring system, through the Aviation Environmental System Software (AES), which has contributed to the generation of reports of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions resulting from aviation.

## Lessons Learned

We understand that the implementation of the capacity building project sponsored by the ICAO-EU from 2015 to 2018, was of great benefit to the Dominican Republic. It developed the important capacity within the working groups, despite the change in government and the pandemic of the COVID-19. As a result, mitigation measures have been maintained through their implementation.

We can point out:

- Cooperation agreements between States are an excellent tool for capacity development, because they can share the barriers that may arise for the implementation of measures and options as implemented by other States;
- The creation of working groups contributes to public-private partnerships that make it possible to achieve the implementation of mitigation measures;

- Capacity building and assistance programs are key to successful implementation in developing countries, such as:
  - Project of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the European Union (EU) On Capacity Building For Mitigation Of CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions Resulting From International Aviation;
  - ACT-CORSIA; and,
  - CORSIA Capacity Building for CO<sub>2</sub> Mitigation from International Aviation Africa and Caribbean.

## The Next Three Years

The Dominican Republic will face great challenges in the next 3 years. As such, these challenges have been implemented in the State Action Plan. The most relevant include:

- Capacity building on CORSIA, carbon market financing, offsetting, carbon neutrality projects;
- Technical and economic assistance to implement a pilot project for alternative fuels for medium plane aviation.