

**57th CONFERENCE OF
DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
ASIA AND PACIFIC REGIONS**

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AGENDA ITEM 7: AVIATION AND ENVIRONMENT

**SAFE, SUSTAINABLE, AND SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE AIR
TRANSPORT GROWTH FOR THE FUTURE**

Presented by the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) and
the International Air Transport Association (IATA)

INFORMATION PAPER

SUMMARY

Air transport is a key contributor to social and economic development globally. In order to maintain its relevance for the future, the aviation sector must continue its efforts to be environmentally and socially conscious, delivering tangible benefits to the wider community and future generations, whilst fully respecting core Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles. This will ensure a resilient and viable air transport industry in the longer term.

SAFE, SUSTAINABLE, AND SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE AIR TRANSPORT GROWTH FOR THE FUTURE

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Since the Wright brothers launched their first flight in 1903, air transport has played a crucial role in connecting communities, and enabling social and economic development across the world. The growth in aviation has been phenomenal – indeed, in 2019, 4.5 billion passengers were carried around the world while global air freight now represents 35 per cent of international trade by value. Safety has always been the number one priority for the industry, with sustainability playing an equally important role as the industry continues to grow to meet the needs of many communities.

1.2 The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the importance of aviation as the industry played a critical role in reuniting loved ones and transporting essential goods. As more States move towards an endemic phase, and air transport resumes its role as the conduit for global recovery and development, it is important that the revival and growth of the sector be implemented in a manner that continues to ensure that the industry's safety, sustainability, security, and inclusivity goals are upheld.

1.3 Achieving these goals requires the continued collaboration of all stakeholders across the industry. In order to maintain its relevance for the future, the aviation sector must continue its efforts to be environmentally and socially conscious, delivering tangible benefits to the wider community and future generations. A viable air transport industry is crucial to the recovery and continued resilience of the global economy.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Air traffic demand has grown steadily over the years in tandem with the growth of the global economy. Despite such growth, flying has never been safer or more secure.

2.2 The pandemic ground air transport to a halt in 2020. As it emerges out of its hibernation the industry is taking extra care to safeguard its strong resilience and safety record. The potential for the erosion of operational knowledge and expertise, coupled with the psychological stress from the fear of job losses, as well as possible financial and physical detriment for operational crew, had to be taken into consideration for the recurrent training and preparation for the gradual restart of aviation in 2022.

2.3 Over the years, the industry has made great strides to improve its fuel efficiency performance. Between 2009 and 2019, the industry achieved an annual average improvement in efficiency of over 2%, thanks in part to a new generation of aircraft and engines. The industry has succeeded in halving emissions from every passenger journey and is now committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

2.4 Technological as well as operational and infrastructural enhancements will continue to play an important role in reducing the industry's carbon footprint. For international air transport the main contributions will come from both the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) and sustainable aviation fuels (SAF). CORSIA provides a common suitable framework for addressing international aviation's emissions by facilitating carbon-neutral growth until 2035, while market-based offsetting measures would still be necessary to address residual emissions thereafter. Participation by a greater number of governments in the CORSIA process would greatly increase the effectiveness of the scheme and minimize market distortions.

2.5 All-industry collaboration to incentivize and fast-track SAF production including the allocation of feedstock and land to SAF production will go a long way to ensure cost-effective supply to meet the surging demand for SAF. Benefits will accrue to all stakeholders. Governments can seed a whole new industry as well as job and income streams. Fuel suppliers can tap the global potential of SAF. Equipment manufacturers can be purveyors of future-proof solutions for air transport. Airlines and airports can implement sustainable growth for the foreseeable future.

2.6 A major challenge faced by the industry is the lack of qualified personnel to meet the projected demand in air traffic. To attract more talent to the industry, there is an urgent need to address the gender diversity gap in aviation, particularly at middle and senior management levels, where women are still inadequately represented. The current bottlenecks at airports and the overall shortage of staff in many areas of the industry suggest that aviation risks losing its attractiveness as a career option if the industry does not update its policies and practices to better meet the aspirations of a new generation of workers. A global talent pool with fewer barriers to entry and global mobility for skilled workers are key to aviation's continued success.

2.7 Safety, Sustainability, Security and Inclusivity are global issues which should be addressed globally and collectively by all stakeholders. Air transport is a global industry and has a bright future. However, greater efforts should be made to boost global collaboration and connectivity, so that air transport's socio-economic contribution can continue to grow and a career in aviation is seen as an attractive option for new generations of young people entering the workforce.

2.8 A common environmental, social and governance (ESG) framework promoted by ICAO would ensure that the key principles to drive progress are embraced globally and become the foundation of a successful air transport sector. The suggested principles include the following:

2.8.1 Environmental: Inclusive Collaboration on Aircraft Noise, Climate Change & Aviation Emissions through aeronautical, technological innovations, optimising flight procedures to reduce fuel burn, increasing the production and deployment of SAF and clean energy, as well as implementing CORSIA*.

2.8.2 Social: Gender Diversity, Worker Development & Mobility, Community Enhancement

2.8.3 Governance: Safety Culture, Security Proficiency, SAF Supply & Use, CORSIA adoption and participation, Air Transport Access for more communities.

2.8.4 Working Group II to the 6th Assessment Report of IPCC, examining impact of climate change on nature and people as well as offering options to strengthen society's resilience to ongoing climate change, to fight hunger, poverty and inequality, provides further guidance for the industry's various stakeholders. **

*ICAO Environment Website

**IPCC Press Release 28 February 2022

3. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

3.1 The Conference is invited to note the information contained in this Paper.

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