

# **CANADA'S HIGH-LEVEL STATEMENT**

## **3<sup>RD</sup> ICAO CONFERENCE ON AVIATION ALTERNATIVE FUELS**

Monday November 20, 2023

**Craig Hutton, Associate Assistant Deputy Minister Policy, Transport Canada  
(Head of Delegation)**

Good day distinguished Delegates, bonjour à tous —

It is a pleasure to be here in Dubai and an honour to address such an esteemed group today.

On behalf of Canada, a founding member and the proud host country to ICAO, I think we can be proud of the high-quality work that ICAO does – work that is essential to maintaining a safe, secure, reliable, and environmentally sustainable aviation sector today, and for the future.

In particular, I must commend the ICAO Council's Climate and Environment Committee and its Small Working Group, on the preparatory work that has been done in the buildup to CAAF/3.

Last fall, ICAO member states agreed to a Long-Term Aspirational Goal of net zero by 2050. While a net-zero aviation sector will be based on several advanced technologies including synthetic fuels and hydrogen as well as concerted efforts between government and industry, it is clear that sustainable aviation fuels will form the cornerstone of a net zero future for aviation.

With that in mind, it is vital that we seize the opportunity afforded to us this week at this conference, to agree on an ambitious quantified vision for SAF and other aviation cleaner energies.

ICAO's progress this week should quantify the global need for cleaner energy sources, sending a clear signal and offering much-needed certainty to industry, investors, and the public. Importantly, it could also make a strong statement that the aviation community is committed to decarbonization.

Central to that statement, we need a vision that contains a feasible trajectory and milestones which support and monitor meaningful progress in the short and medium-term. This will ensure that the international aviation sector is on track to meet the LTAG.

Given the scale of SAF production that is needed to meet the LTAG, all States will need to contribute to achieving our shared vision. An agreed Global Framework should support States

in all regions to scale up SAF development and availability, while recognizing that different states will take different paths and have different priorities.

We have also heard the views from many States regarding the importance of financial support and we welcome the work initiated by ICAO on the Fininvest initiative to facilitate access to financing. Setting clear policy direction at this Conference through a quantified vision would also send a strong signal to the investment sector about the growth opportunities in sustainable aviation.

Domestically, Canada is taking decisive action to reduce our economy-wide emissions. Canada was one of the first countries to not only declare its commitment to achieve net-zero by 2050, but also entrench it into legislation and publicly release a detailed Emission Reduction Plan.

Last year, Canada released the 2022 Aviation Climate Action Plan, which lays out a new long-term approach to decarbonization of the sector in Canada.

This Action Plan recognizes that the use of sustainable aviation fuel is a key pathway to decarbonizing the sector and sets an ambitious aspirational target of 10% SAF use by 2030.

The federal government has also made available significant support for sustainable fuels, including through our Clean Fuels Fund which is investing C\$1.5B to grow domestic clean fuel production – including SAF. For example, earlier this year we announced up to C\$86 million, to convert an oil refinery in Atlantic Canada into a world-class facility that aims to produce sustainable aviation fuel and several other projects are in advanced states of readiness.

ICAO and its member States have already taken significant action to tackle the sector's environmental impact, including through the Assembly resolutions on CORSIA and the LTAG, and by setting a CO<sub>2</sub> Standard for airplanes in 2016.

We must seize the momentum as a global community, leveraging this innovative spirit to advance the solutions we need to protect the environment.

Canada will continue to do its part to decarbonize the aviation sector and we look forward to working with our international partners through compromise and collaboration to realize an ambitious, credible vision for a greener transportation sector.

Thank you. Merci.