

Third ICAO Conference on Aviation and Alternative Fuels (CAAF/3)

Dubai, 20 to 24 November 2023

Statement by Ethiopia

(Presented by HE Mr. Dhenge Boru, State Minister of Transport and Logistics)

President of the Council, Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano,

Secretary General, Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, I would like to extend my appreciation to ICAO and the entire international aviation community for the joint effort of decarbonizing aviation while maintaining its growth trajectory to serve humanity in sustainable manner. Allow me, Excellencies, also to express my sincere appreciation to the Federal Government and People of the United Arab Emirates for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to my delegation and the delegates gathered from all corners of the world.

Ethiopia is vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and as a consequence, has continuously and severely been affected. Hence, we always welcome all efforts to build climate resilient economy through adaptation and mitigation measures. Although, we have negligible contribution for historic and current emissions, we are committed to do our part by building net zero economic development pathway and implementing low carbon practices all the way through. The Government and People of Ethiopia are aggressively engaged in planting over 6 billion seedlings every year as part of our Green Legacy Initiative. Our effort in producing clean energy from renewable sources such as hydropower, solar, wind and geothermal are bearing fruits signifying our immense potential for further exploitation in this aspect. Our commitment to decarbonize transport is also been demonstrated in our railway and road sectors by introducing electricity and

blending biofuel (ethanol). Likewise, we have been controlling Co₂ emission and noise pollution in aviation by implementing in-sector measures to the best of our capacity. Modernizing our fleets is the one to mention.

Ethiopia is the founding Member State of ICAO and one of the 52 signatory countries of Chicago Convention in 1944. Ever since, Aviation became a very important enabler in socio-economic development of our nation. Ethiopia is one of the historical, cultural and eco-tourism destinations in Africa where aviation plays a vital role. Land Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs) like Ethiopia use air transport as one of the main means to connect with the rest of the world. It is also important to note that Ethiopia uses its aviation sector to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDG) of 2030 while struggling to cop up with the impacts associated with climate change.

As we all know international aviation market is rebounding from the pandemic aftermaths, but unfortunately the accessibility and affordability of air transport is still farfetched for citizens of Ethiopia and Africa. It is acknowledged that alternative aviation fuel plays significant role in aviation decarbonization. However, unavailability of adequate quantity globally and lack of decentralization in production will result in high travel cost that intern affect the growth and competitiveness of international aviation particularity in Developing States. I kindly would like to attract the attention of the respected congregation to recognize this reality while framing a globally achievable ICAO vision 2050 for cleaner energy that will not compromise the effort put towards air transport development.

Preliminary studies exhibited Ethiopia's potential to produce SAF through an oil-to-fuel pathways using Ethiopian mustard and alcohol to jet pathways from sugarcane. Ethiopia also has meaningful potential to be engaged in power to liquid pathways given the availability of required resources. Recognizing the untapped potential in Ethiopia, as many other Developing States, we anticipate impactful commitment be declared by this conference to bridge technological and financing gaps to realize early engagement of many States in the production. Ethiopia supports the aviation environmental protection efforts be

guided by the commitment established under UNFCCC and it shall also respect the Common, But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC).

Distinguished Delegates,

I am honored to kindly remind you that Ethiopia presented itself to contribute for discussions that will not push any country to choose between poverty alleviation and environment protection. Ethiopia strongly request the global framework be drafted in a way it realizes local production of cleaner energy. We are emphasizing on local production because it offers environmental, economic and social benefits and further more sustains energy security. We, on the other hand, should discourage any measures that could result in market distortion.

Once again appreciating the hard work of the ICAO President, the ICAO Council, the Secretary General and the Secretariat, I would like to urge all joining hands to work together and extend utmost support in envisioning a just and equitable energy transition in aviation where “No Country Left Behind”.

Finally, I wish for fruitful discussions and a successful outcome of this conference.

Thank you very much!