

ICAO 3RD CONFERENCE ON AVIATION AND ALTERNATIVE FUELS (CAAF/3)

Dubai, United Arab Emirates, November 20 to 24th, 2023

STATEMENT OF THE GABONESE REPUBLIC

*Presented by: Captain Dieudonné Loïc NDINGA MOUDOUMA, Minister of Transport,
Merchant Navy and the Sea)*

The President of the Assembly,

The President of the Council,

The General Secretary,

Ladies and Gentlemen, Ministers of transport and Civil Aviation

Ladies and Gentlemen, Heads of Delegations,

Ladies and Gentlemen, Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen, representatives of international organizations,

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Delegation of the Gabonese Republic would like to join its voice to those which preceded it, and extend warm congratulations to ICAO for the organization of this 3rd Conference on Aviation and Alternative Fuels, abbreviated CAAF 3, before whom I have the honor and immense pleasure of speaking today.

I take the opportunity of this forum to express my gratitude and those of my country to the authorities of the United Arab Emirates for the arrangements they have kindly taken to provide for this pleasant working environment and to facilitate our entry into its territory.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This Assembly, which brings us together in this sumptuous city of Dubai, is called upon to re-examine the ICAO Vision on SAF for 2050, including LCAF and other cleaner energy sources for aviation, and thus define a global framework under the aegis of ICAO in accordance with the No Country Left Behind initiative and by taking into account the national circumstances and capacities of each State.

In the environmental protection, Gabon paying particular attention to issues relating to emissions impacting local air quality and those of CO₂, especially since its biodiversity constitutes one of the ecological lungs of our planet.

Gabon has notably developed a National Action Plan to reduce CO₂ emissions due to international aviation, and subscribed to the pilot phase of the compensation and reduction scheme for CO₂ emissions related to aviation (CORSIA). Likewise, Gabon takes part in the ICAO Assistance, Capacity Building and Training Program in the field of sustainable aviation fuels (ACT-SAF).

It is rich in its commitments and experience that, as part of the implementation of the ICAO strategic objective on Environmental Protection that Gabon was designated vice-champion, alongside Kenya for the coordination and monitoring of priority actions to be implemented for the Africa and Indian Ocean Region (AFI).

As part of its expertise in the region, Gabon currently occupies the position of Chairman of the Working Group of Environmental Experts of the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC). Group of experts which role is to propose coordination measures through AFCAC in its area of expertise.

In this regard, Gabon fully supports the coordinated positions presented at this CAAF/3 meeting by AFCAC, in particular the initiative aimed at accelerating the development, production and deployment of SAF/LCAF in Africa. ICAO Assembly Resolution A41-21 recognizes that means of implementation commensurate with the level of ambition, including financing, will support the achievement of the Long-Term Global Ambitious Goal (LTAG). In addition to financing, the transfer of appropriate technologies and the strengthening of institutional and human technical capacities must accompany the ICAO vision and the global framework that this CAAF 3 should intend to address. All these views have been expressed by AFCAC and Gabon fully supports them.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

During its statement at the 41st ICAO Assembly, the Gabonese Republic said it supports the principle of partnerships in the production of sustainable aviation fuels which are compatible with current engines and infrastructure and can reduce emissions of CO₂ by 80% compared to kerosene over their entire use cycle.

In this perspective, the Gabonese Republic maintains that since that the concepts of virtual market or "book and claim" are still the subject of technical evaluations by the Committee for Environmental Protection in Aviation (CAEP), the latter should carry out a more in-depth analysis of the technical feasibility of these concepts in order to clearly define the operation of those systems, their impact on international aviation and the program aimed at accelerating the development, production and deployment of SAF/LCAF.

I note that CAAF 3 is no longer far from COP28 which will be held soon, here in Dubai. Also, it is essential to maintain the valuable consensus and diplomacy which prevailed in the adoption of the LTAG for international aviation for net zero carbon emissions by 2050 in accordance with the objective set in the Paris Agreement in regard to global warming, while taking due account of the particularities and capacities of each State.

Finally, the Gabonese Delegation thanks you for your kind attention and wishes full success to the work of the ICAO 3rd Conference on Aviation and Alternative Fuels.

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