

India's Statement

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Council representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen

Greetings to all from India, the country with humungous biodiversity that has been preserved through culture, traditions and consistent efforts for sustainability. We extend our thanks to ICAO and UAE for organizing this Conference on Alternate Aviation Fuels.

Recognizing that global warming is a global collective action problem, India is committed to address the challenge with firm adherence to multilateralism, and, on the basis of equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, as embodied in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The transition towards lower carbon and Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) will be fundamental to achieving NetZero by 2050. The process of SAF legislation, regulation, production, and deployment is external to civil aviation and requires multi-agency participation. The competition for bio-fuels from other sectors, especially road transport poses a challenge of prioritization. The application of sustainability criteria for CORSIA eligible fuels is another area, which will require external verification bodies to apply their rules.

It goes without saying that India has enormous potential for production of SAF, and our commitment can be seen in number of flights which have been operated with SAF blended fuel. Recently, during the recent G20 summit, India, U.S. and Brazil launched Global Biofuel Alliance in order to boost the use of cleaner fuels. The alliance is aimed at facilitating cooperation and intensifying the use of sustainable biofuels, including in the transportation sector.

We are looking forward to this Conference on Aviation Alternate fuels to develop a global framework for SAF, with four building blocks of Policy & Planning, Implementation Support, Regulatory Framework and Financing. But, any quantified vision for SAF is premature at this stage as each State must be allowed time to develop its own strategy for reaching LTAG as per its national plans. It is also pertinent to

mention that till SAF production, certification and availability are ensured, any volumetric vision will not be consistent with the ideology of LTAG adopted in the ICAO's 41st Assembly, which is to be accomplished by States based on their special circumstances and capabilities and as per their national plans. It is urged that the delicate balance achieved during the last ICAO Assembly should not be compromised, and any deviation from the agreed position must be decided on the wider platform. It is also apprehended that the scientific, and empirical due diligence on SAF and other cleaner energies framework should be analyzed through CAEP experts, so that all the concerns raised can be addressed in a manner which is acceptable technically, geographically, and scientifically.

We echoed a similar view during the Pre-CAAF negotiations held in September this year at Montreal, and further detailed views are expressed in the India's working paper which will be presented later during the conference.

We should also understand that the main purpose of developing clean energy is to promote the green transformation of civil aviation industry and achieve high-quality development. Developing countries are confronted with many more challenges in clean energy development in the areas of technology, finance, capacity building, knowledge and training etc. which have to be suitably addressed at both the structural and functional levels.

The fundamental imperative is to operationalize the principle of "No country left behind" and to refrain from any quantified mandate at this stage through ICAO for the global vision for aviation cleaner energy.

I look forward to working collaboratively on the issues with you here today, and wish everyone a very productive conference, and hope that we will be able to honor the different capacities and special circumstances of states to develop the industry in a sustainable manner in the true spirit of harmonious construction.

Thank you for your attention