

THIRD CONFERENCE ON AVIATION ALTERNATIVE FUELS (CAAF/3)

Dubai, 20 to 24 November 2023

STATEMENT BY ITALY

PRESENTED BY AVV. PIERLUIGI DI PALMA, PRESIDENT OF THE ITALIAN CIVIL AVIATION
AUTHORITY ON BEHALF OF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT

Your Excellencies, Ministers, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is an honor for me being with you here today offering, on behalf of Italy's Ministry of Infrastructures and Transport, an address in order to support and facilitate the dialogue and exchange of views on some very important issues related to the contribution of Air Transport to the reduction of its impact on climate change, at very first reducing GHG emissions.

Let me first warmly thank the United Arab Emirates for the amazing organization of the CAAF/3.

We are enjoying great time and are grateful to the hosts for the delightful welcome to share opportunities of exchanges of experiences for the mutual benefit of the Air Transport sector.

The CAAF/3 is probably the most important venue for the current phase of the journey towards the net-zero emissions goal for aviation. The Member States may have slightly different views and perspectives but it is fundamental to keep in mind that, to continue this journey and be successful, we need to share a common Vision and put it at the basis of a collective effort at the global level.

The "No Country Left Behind" principle represents the highest expression of this approach, reminding us that the shift we want to introduce in Air Transport will be possible only if all the States will be given the opportunity to provide a contribution and thus receive the benefits that will come.

The ICAO CAEP and, in particular, experts involved in Fuel analysis, has done a great job in providing us with the guidance and best references to drive such collective effort. Let us just mention the LTAG, which has been and will be a lighthouse in this challenging journey, and CORSIA, which provides a clear framework to define what sustainable fuels are and how they should be deployed.

We all know that Research and Development have a fundamental role in this process, and we believe that, in the future, we will have many different solutions, such as hydrogen or electric propulsion.

In the meanwhile, we all know, according to the analyses and studies undertaken by CAEP, that such solutions have a lower technology readiness level than today's available options, such as SAF and LCAF.

It is maybe euphemistic saying that “we have to act now”, but this needs a realistic check.

We should use what we could use now to comply with the goal of achieving sustainable aviation by reducing the CO₂ emissions in line with our common objectives to reconcile Air transport with the Environment.

As underlined in one of the European papers (WP 19 paragraph 3.3) submitted to the Conference, SAF could be already used today, given their compatibility with existing in-service aircraft and the prevailing engine combustion technology.

For this reason, SAF use will continue in the long-term considering the usual operational life of aircraft and it will therefore be important to secure the access to the sustainable natural resources to succeed in scaling-up the SAF production in such a time frame.

In this perspective, we look with great interest at the industry efforts towards the technology development enabling the use of unblended SAF. This improvement, combined with the technology and commercial maturity of sustainable biofuels, such as those derived from biomasses, could provide a prompt response, allowing also to reduce the price gap between SAF and conventional jet-fuels.

In conclusion, we wish to thank the member States' delegations for the valuable contributions that they will bring to the discussion in the upcoming days and, one more time, we want to thank ICAO and CAEP for all of their effort to make this event an opportunity at the global level to share views, ideas and solutions amongst the Aeronautical Community.

We wish all the participants a fruitful CAAF/3 and hope that the outcomes of the Conference will become a milestone for the future steps along this common journey.