

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

Dubai, 20 to 24 November 2023

Day 1 16:30-19:30 Monday, 20 November 2023

High-level statements by Member States

Statement by Japan

(Presented by Mr. ONUMA Toshiyuki,

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Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan)

To begin with, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Government of United Arab Emirates for welcoming us and hosting CAAF/3 in Dubai, one of the leading modern cities in the world. I would also like to pay my sincere respect to Mr. Sciacitano, the ICAO Council President, Mr. Salazar, Secretary General and Secretariat for their continuous efforts to date.

As it has been widely acknowledged, achieving a long-term global aspirational goal (LTAG) is crucial for international aviation. Japan has been actively taking part in this concept and would like to emphasize the importance of each state's commitment.

As our own initiative, Japan has set a very ambitious target of replacing 10% of aviation fuel used by Japanese airlines to sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) by 2030. In order to promptly expand SAF production, ensure quality, and create uniform rules, international coordination is crucial therefore we will further promote the cooperation with other states in this regard.

While setting a quantity target is important, we should not forget about the significant role that quality of SAF can play. In this regard, G7 member states have agreed to set a quality target including the carbon intensity of SAF at the G7 Transport Ministerial Meeting held in Japan this June.

In order to expand this initiative, capacity building that enables worldwide production of SAF is critical. Japan has actively supported the ACT-SAF program led by ICAO and is committed to continue strengthening such assistance.

Needless to say, bilateral and multilateral policy coordination between public and private sector is paramount to accelerate the use of SAF. In this regard, Japan welcomes a joint initiative with Singapore and the U.S. aimed at exploring viability of “Aviation Green Lane” to advance sustainable aviation. We look forward to participating in this concept in the near future.

To ensure successful outcomes in this Conference, it is imperative to commit to an interim target along with the quantified target of the 2050 ICAO Vision. In order to send a clearer message to the aviation industry and market.

As for the regulation issue, Japan believes that the existing CORSIA framework is the most comprehensive and transparent tool for international aviation. Therefore, Japan welcome every SAF that meets the CORSIA sustainability criteria, and it is important to encourage industry to use such SAF in a prompt manner through a robust and transparent SAF accounting system.

Last but not least, Japan is determined to actively participate in the discussion to make the international aviation sustainable and to preserve the nature of this wonderful planet for future generations. Japan believes that the benefit of international aviation should not be limited to this issue. Instead, we must overcome climate change and pass the benefit to a younger generation as we have done so far.

Thank you.