



Spanish Statement to the CAAF/3 Conference

20 November 2023

[Initial greeting]

Dear Chairman, dear delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to address this Conference of the International Civil Aviation Organization **on behalf of Spain, who is now at the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, and thus, as spokesman for the European States**, to address a matter of the utmost importance, which is the decarbonization of the aviation sector.

[Relevance and purpose of the Conference]

We have increasing evidence of the contribution of human activity to climate change. Our societies are becoming more and more aware and are pushing for the transformation of our economy towards a decarbonized model. In this context, the **aviation sector cannot, and does not stand aside**.

Therefore, I would like to highlight the timeliness and relevance of the Conference that begins today. Resolution A41-21 of the ICAO Assembly established the **Long Term Aspirational Goal for international aviation**, given States a clear mandate: **we must decarbonize the sector by 2050**, in order to comply with the Paris Agreement and its temperature targets.



Spain is convinced that the strategy to achieve this goal must include, as one of its fundamental pillars, **the promotion of sustainable aviation fuels.**

This is the reason why Spain, and Europe as a whole, consider that **this Conference should establish a Global Framework that supports the development and use of aviation cleaner energy**, as only by working in a joint and coordinated manner at international level will we be able to address the decarbonization of the aviation sector.

It is essential that this Global Framework is ambitious, comprehensive and inclusive, that it sets a collective and aspirational objective for 2050 and a clear pathway towards it, and that it builds on the extensive consultation process carried out by ICAO leading towards this Conference.

Only such a Global Framework can send a strong market signal that offers predictability and reliability to investors and producers, that are key to creating a truly global market for sustainable fuels.

Spain and Europe reaffirm their strong commitment to the ICAO *No Country Left Behind* initiative, and in particular to the ACT-SAF programme, and recognise the central role of assistance and capacity building in supporting the development and production of sustainable fuels in all regions.



[Relevance of air transport in Spain and Europe]

We do have a responsibility to ensure the sustainability of this sector, which is undoubtedly **a key sector for Spain**. So far this year, 243 million passengers have travelled through Spanish airports, surpassing 2019 pre-pandemic figures by 2%. Not only that, civil aviation is one of the engines of our economy, accounting for 1.8 million jobs, acting as a catalyst for tourism and being key to guaranteeing our social and territorial cohesion.

Aviation plays a crucial role in driving economic growth, prosperity and connectivity across the entire European continent. The sector generates over €110 billion in gross value added to the European economy. But aviation can thrive only if it becomes sustainable and a part of the solution to the climate challenge. This is what society is demanding of us, and we must live up to it.

[Conclusion]

Therefore, **now is not the time to postpone decisions**. Our sector must be part of the fight against climate change. With this Conference agreeing to an ambitious and comprehensive global framework for cleaner aviation energy, the aviation community will send a strong message ahead of the United Nations Climate Change Conference, which will start next week in this very city.

Mr. Chairman, delegates, on behalf of the Spanish delegation and of the European States, I wish you all a successful Conference.



Spain will work hard to ensure it, reiterating our commitment to ICAO and to all the States that are part of it.

Thank you very much.