



**Agenda Item 5: Air Navigation Matters**  
**5.3 Action Plans on States' CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction activities in aviation and their implementation**

**ACTION PLANS ROLE IN REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM AVIATION**

(Presented by United States)

<b>SUMMARY</b>	
This paper encourages the submission of State action plans to the International Civil Aviation Organization in support of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from aviation. Action plans serve an important role in identifying individual State activities to address climate change impacts of aviation. The paper supports enhancements to improve overall quality and robustness of action plans at the 38 <sup>th</sup> ICAO Assembly.	
<b>References:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• US Climate Action Plan</li><li>• ICAO Assembly Resolution A37-19</li></ul>	
<b>Strategic Objective</b>	<i>This working paper is related to Strategic Objective: C. Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development of Air Transport</i>

**1. Introduction**

1.1 ICAO Assembly Resolution A37-19 introduced a collective, medium-term global goal of carbon neutral growth by 2020. Under the resolution, States were urged to submit action plans to ICAO to identify domestic actions and policies to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from aviation. State action plans demonstrate the important actions that many States are taking to reduce aviation emissions. Action plans can also help measure progress towards the ICAO aspirational goal. According to the ICAO Secretariat, as of April 2013, 59 ICAO Member States, representing over 77 percent of global air traffic have submitted plans to ICAO. Action plans help ICAO demonstrate commercial aviation's efforts to reduce emissions.

## 2. Discussion

2.1 The United States is committed to addressing the impacts of climate change from commercial aviation and utilizes a multi-pronged approach to achieve GHG emissions reductions. Consistent with the Assembly Resolution A37-19, the United States has already submitted an action plan, the U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan, in 2012.

2.2 The U.S. action plan provides a snapshot of the actions that the United States Government is taking, in collaboration with stakeholders, to reduce GHG emissions from aviation. Actions include technology development, operational improvement, development and deployment of sustainable alternative aviation fuels, and implementation of policies and measures. A copy of the U.S. action plan can be found at [http://www.faa.gov/about/office\\_org/headquarters\\_offices/apl/research/](http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/apl/research/).

2.3 As noted in Paragraph 1.1, the United States is not alone. Many other States have also submitted action plans. Together these plans are an important element of demonstrating progress toward addressing the climate change impacts of aviation.

2.4 While the initial effort to prepare action plans was a good first step, there are opportunities to improve on them to better capture the important actions that ICAO States are taking to reduce emissions from aviation. For example, while many States have submitted action plans, not all of them have been shared for other States and stakeholders to review. A key benefit of the action plans is to demonstrate to others the good work that States are doing and therefore, the plans should be made public.

2.5 The 38<sup>th</sup> Assembly provides an opportunity to enhance the role of action plans. In addition to committing to make action plans public and to share them with other States, States should also be encouraged to update the plans on a three year basis in order to provide new and updated information as it becomes available. While States should continue to have the flexibility to determine the contents of their action plan, efforts should be made to provide consistent information in the plans that can help demonstrate overall progress toward ICAO aspiration goals. The ICAO Secretariat can continue to play a vital role in assisting States with the development of their action plans.

## 3. Action By The Meeting

3.1 States are invited to:

- a) note the important role of climate action plans in demonstrating the commitment of ICAO States to the global goal of reducing emissions from international aviation; and
- b) support an ICAO Assembly Resolution that encourages States to improve on action plans, to submit them on a periodic basis, and to make them publicly available.