

# ACT-CORSIA: A Coordinated Approach for Assistance and Capacity-building on CORSIA

By ICAO Secretariat

## INTRODUCTION TO ACT-CORSIA

While conceptual discussions were being undertaken on the global market-based measure to be adopted for international aviation in order to reach its post-2020 carbon neutral growth aspirational target, capacity building was already a must-have element for any decision on the matter. Therefore, just after adopting the CORSIA-related SARPs (Annex 16, Volume IV) in June 2018, the ICAO Council endorsed the ICAO Secretariat's plan for the CORSIA-related outreach and capacity building activities, on the understanding that the plan should continue to evolve with the implementation features of CORSIA. The ACT-CORSIA (Assistance, Capacity-building and Training for CORSIA) Programme was launched during the ICAO Seminar on CORSIA, which was held in Montréal, on 2 and 3 July 2018. A number of ICAO Member States need targeted assistance in order to prepare for the implementation of the CORSIA monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) system as per the SARPs requirements, and time was of essence as the CORSIA-related SARPs were to become applicable on 1 January 2019.

The ACT-CORSIA Programme is composed of various elements, which are intended to facilitate better understanding and the access to information on CORSIA, including: the establishment of CORSIA Buddy Partnerships, the availability of model regulations, Frequently Asked Questions, Brochures and Leaflets, Videos, the CORSIA Seminars and Workshops, Online Tutorials, and other Background Information.

Complete information about the ACT-CORSIA Programme is reflected on ICAO CORSIA public website<sup>1</sup>.

## ACT-CORSIA BUDDY PARTNERSHIPS

When endorsing the plan for CORSIA-related outreach and capacity-building activities, the Council emphasized the need for a coordinated approach to undertake the global capacity building initiative under ICAO, and that any bilateral or multilateral partnerships among States should be informed and coordinated with ICAO, so that the global progress of such coordinated efforts would be monitored. In this regard the Council encouraged the establishment of “buddy partnerships” among States themselves to help each other to prepare for CORSIA implementation, in particular with regard to the development and approval of aeroplane operators' Emissions Monitoring Plans, and the establishment of national and/or regional regulatory frameworks for CORSIA implementation.

CORSIA Buddy Partnerships are a cornerstone of ICAO's plan to support States to prepare for CORSIA implementation. Under the first phase of the partnerships, technical experts provided by donor States worked together with the CORSIA Focal Points of recipient States to provide on-site training, and to closely follow-up on the preparation and implementation of the recipient States' CORSIA MRV system; in particular on the development and approval of Emissions Monitoring Plans, as well as on the establishment of national and/or regional regulatory frameworks.

<sup>1</sup> [www.icao.int/corsia](http://www.icao.int/corsia)

**FIGURE 1:** ACT-CORSIA Buddy Partnerships as of 30 June 2019



By 30 June 2019, a total of 15 donor States are providing support to 98 recipient States under ACT-CORSIA Buddy Partnerships. Figure 1 provides information on the established Buddy Partnerships as of 30 June 2019; the most up-to-date information is provided on ICAO CORSIA public website.

Typically, the assistance is in the form of a donor State offering expert(s) on CORSIA to provide individual training to and undertake the necessary follow-up with, the CORSIA Focal Points of the recipient States, in close coordination with the ICAO Secretariat. ACT-CORSIA Buddy Partnerships follow a three-step approach. In step 1, both the experts from donor States and the CORSIA Focal Point from recipient States prepare for the training activities, including the necessary travel arrangements; in step 2, the donor State expert travels to the recipient State and delivers an on-site training; and in step 3, the donor state expert provides remote follow-up to the recipient State CORSIA Focal Point.

It is important that each expert has in-depth knowledge of all relevant documentation relating to the implementation of CORSIA. To ensure the consistency of assistance provided and relevant materials used through the first phase of CORSIA Buddy Partnerships, the involved technical experts were trained by the ICAO Secretariat to the CORSIA requirements. In the initial phase of the CORSIA Buddy Partnerships, training focused on the preparation and implementation of the recipient State's CORSIA MRV system, and in particular, on the development and approval of Emissions Monitoring Plans and the establishment of a national regulatory framework. To ensure a coordinated approach under ICAO, and the consistency of the assistance provided and the materials used, the ICAO Secretariat developed training materials to be used by the donor State experts, including model regulations for CORSIA implementation, and organized the first "Training of Trainers" event in Montréal, Canada from 29 to 31 August 2018, during which experts from donor States were trained to be ready to deliver on-site training to recipient States starting from September 2018 (Figure 2). Using this coordinated approach ensures that in the framework of ICAO's No Country Left Behind initiative, all States are receiving the same high quality training.

**FIGURE 2:** Photo from the first ACT-CORSIA Training of the Training event in Montréal, Canada from 29 to 31 August 2018



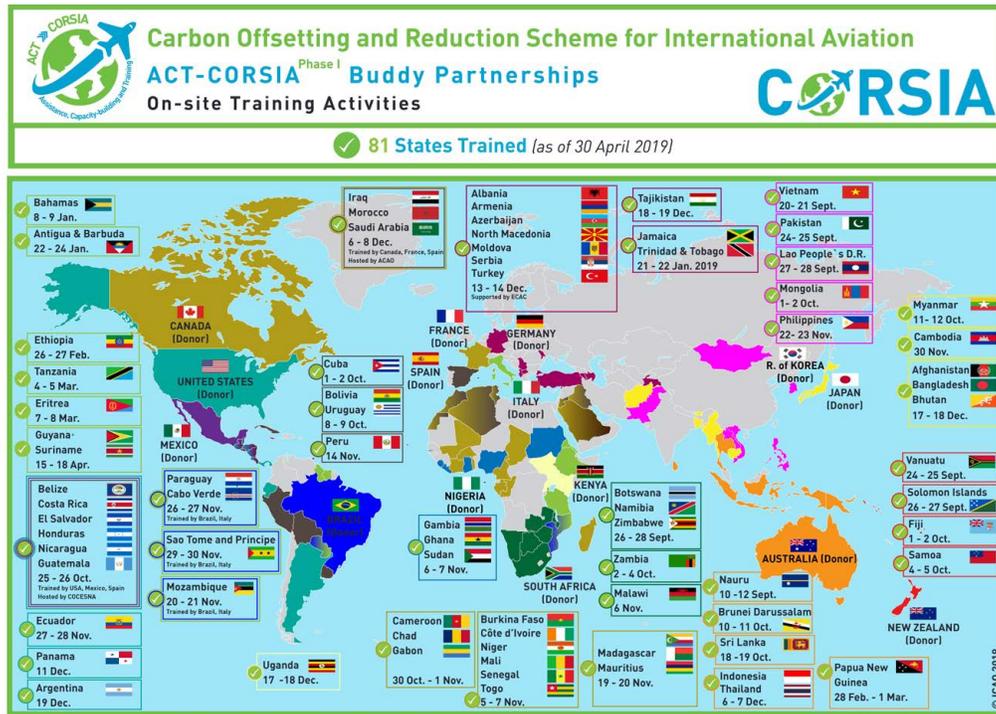
The on-site training is the main part of the ACT-CORSIA Buddy Partnerships activities. A typical ACT-CORSIA Buddy Partnership training takes place over the course of two days. The ICAO Secretariat provided a suggested schedule for the trainings, however, the actual sequence of training activities was agreed between the donor State experts and the CORSIA Focal Point of the recipient State, taking into account the availability of the individuals to be trained, and specific questions of the recipient State. Approximately 80 recipient States have received training under the ACT-CORSIA Buddy Partnerships (see Figure 3).

Following-up with the CORSIA Focal Point of the recipient State and other individuals, as agreed during the on-site training, is a crucial part of the ACT-CORSIA Buddy Partnerships. It provides the opportunity for the donor State trainer to assess if the necessary progress has been made within areas covered by the training and to provide further guidance/assistance to the recipient State. Follow-ups were mainly being provided on a remote basis, however, follow-up on-site training sessions are also being organized as needed to assess the progress achieved and to provide further support.

## **TOWARDS THE SECOND PHASE OF THE ACT-CORSIA BUDDY PARTNERSHIPS**

The 2019 ICAO CORSIA Regional Workshops were organized in all ICAO regions from 21 March to 12 April 2019. Following the initial stage of CORSIA capacity-building which focused on the development of Emissions

FIGURE 3: ACT-CORSIA Buddy Partnerships: On-site Training Activities



Monitoring Plans, and on the establishment of national regulatory frameworks, the objective of the two-day regional workshops was to provide further information on the upcoming CORSIA implementation requirements. Particular focus of the Regional Workshops was on any pending issues regarding the monitoring of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2019, including the approval of Emissions Monitoring Plans, as well as on reporting and verification of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from international aviation to support States in complying with the related provisions of the CORSIA SARPs by early 2020.

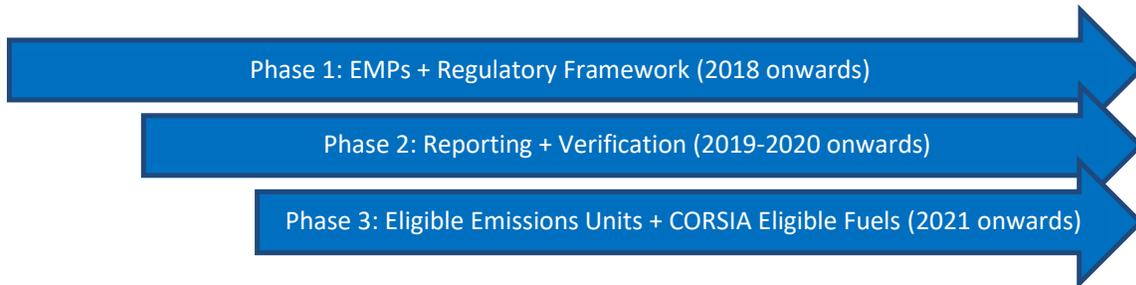
A total of five Regional Workshops were organized, in the following locations:

- Asunción, Paraguay, 21 to 22 March 2019, for South American + North American, Central American, and Caribbean Regions;
- Helsinki, Finland, 26 to 27 March 2019, for European and North Atlantic Region;
- Seoul, Republic of Korea, 1 to 2 April 2019, for Asia and Pacific Region;
- ICAO MID Office, Cairo, Egypt, 7 to 8 April 2019, for Middle East Region; and

- Dakar, Senegal, 11 to 12 April 2019, for Eastern and Southern Africa + Western and Central African Regions.

The Regional Workshops gathered together experts from donor States as well as CORSIA Focal Points from recipient States, and provided an opportunity to reflect on the experiences from ACT-CORSIA Buddy Partnerships in all ICAO Regions. During the Workshops, experts from donor States shared their experiences in providing training on Emissions Monitoring Plans and national regulatory frameworks, and CORSIA Focal Points from recipient States expressed their views on the training received. The importance of ACT-CORSIA Buddy Partnerships to provide assistance and capacity-building to States was highlighted by the Workshop participants, and States were encouraged to partner together in order to renew and add more Buddy Partnerships.

Whereas approving the Emissions Monitoring Plans and finalizing the national regulatory frameworks remain a priority for States in implementing CORSIA during 2019, States also need to get ready for the reporting and verification aspects of CORSIA. Thus, the Second

**FIGURE 4:** Three Phases of ACT-CORSIA Buddy Partnerships

Phase of ACT-CORSIA was launched during the 2019 ICAO Environmental Symposium (14 to 16 May 2019), with a specific focus on reporting and verification of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions under CORSIA. In this connection, the second Training of the Trainers event was organized in Montreal on 13 and 14 May 2019, during which the experts from donor States were trained by the ICAO Secretariat to provide harmonized capacity-building to the recipient States during the second phase of ACT-CORSIA Buddy Partnerships. Additional remote training was provided over the summer on the 2019 version of the ICAO CORSIA CERT tool to ensure that the experts have the latest knowledge on this important CORSIA Implementation Element before commencing the training activities with recipients States, foreseen to take place during the second half of 2019. The plan of activities is accessible on the ICAO CORSIA website for full transparency.

Recognizing the need for continuous capacity-building in implementing CORSIA, the contents of the ACT-CORSIA Buddy Partnerships will be adjusted in accordance with the implementation phases of CORSIA. Figure 4 presents the three phases foreseen for ACT-CORSIA: the first phase from 2018 onwards focuses on the development and approval of the Emissions Monitoring Plans as well as on drafting and finalizing the national/regional regulatory frameworks; the second phase in 2019-2020 focuses on reporting and verification aspects of CORSIA implementation; and the third phase will provide assistance on the aspects related to CORSIA eligible emissions units and CORSIA eligible fuels.

## ICAO CORSIA VERIFICATION COURSE

In addition to the training provided under the ACT-CORSIA Buddy Partnerships, and in order to provide the necessary training on how to verify CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions Reports that have been prepared by aeroplane operators in accordance with CORSIA-related SARPs and guidance, ICAO developed a 3-day CORSIA Verification Course. The course targets professionals with experience in the verification of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions using ISO 14064-3:2006 who want to get involved in the verification of aeroplane operators' CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions Reports under CORSIA.

The learning objectives of the course include: performing the CORSIA monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) requirements as outlined in Annex 16, Volume IV, and the Environmental Technical Manual (Doc 9501), Volume IV; applying the verification requirements as outlined in Annex 16, Volume IV, and the Environmental Technical Manual (Doc 9501), Volume IV, including materiality threshold, verification criteria, verification scope and objectives and the Verification Report preparation and submission requirements; gaining knowledge to correctly identify the scope of applicability for CORSIA MRV requirements, as well as for CORSIA offsetting requirements; and applying a working knowledge of the fuel use monitoring methods and of the ICAO CORSIA CERT estimation tool as outlined in Annex 16, Volume IV.

The most up-to-date information on the ICAO CORSIA Verification course dates and venues is available on ICAO Global Aviation Training Office's website: <https://www.icao.int/training/Pages/training-catalogue-details.aspx?catid=2657&language=0&region=&ITP=1>