

# Advancements in Multistakeholder Cooperation Over the Last Triennium

By ICAO Secretariat

Climate change is a global challenge that all sectors need to work in collaboration to reduce emissions and mitigate the impacts on climate change, as well adapt to changing climate conditions. As the specialized UN agency for international civil aviation, ICAO continues to exercise its leadership on the sector's environmental matters, and cooperate with other sectors in advancing global climate actions. To this end, ICAO has actively engaged and collaborated with various other UN agencies, international organizations, and the aviation industry.

The ICAO's multistakeholder cooperation traditionally focused on understanding the impact of aviation on the environment as well as the development of SARPs. Over the years, ICAO has made significant progress in addressing international aviation emissions particularly: the 2016 agreement on the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA); the 2022 agreement on the long-term aspirational goal (LTAG) of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050; and the 2023 agreement on the ICAO Global Framework for Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF), Lower Carbon Aviation Fuels (LCAF) and other Aviation Cleaner Energies. These ambitious initiatives and goals require continued cooperation to effectively address the climate change challenge and realize aviation's sustainable future. Further multistakeholder cooperation has taken place in the last triennium.

## United Nations (UN) General Assembly — UN Decade of Sustainable Development

The United Nations General Assembly adopted a Resolution<sup>1</sup> on 19 December 2023 which included its decision to proclaim the first ever UN Decade of Sustainable Transport for a 10-year period beginning on 1 January 2026. While the consultation and drafting of the Implementation Plan for the UN Decade of Sustainable Development is ongoing, ICAO is committed to actively contribute to the process with inputs from the international aviation sector's perspective. This will help to raise awareness of the sector's role in advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to mobilise innovative solutions, resources, and partnerships to drive a more sustainable future for international aviation.

## United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

The **27th Conference of the Parties (COP27)** to the UNFCCC meeting, was held from 6 to 20 November 2022 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

ICAO participated actively in various events at COP27 to showcase the outcomes of the 41<sup>st</sup> ICAO Assembly particularly the LTAG agreement.



<sup>1</sup> <https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/78/148>



During the opening session, ICAO delivered its statement under the agenda item “bunker fuel” (emissions from international aviation and maritime transport), supplemented by a written submission. The President of the ICAO Council, Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano, took part in the High-level Summit roundtable on “Just Transition” and engaged in a series of bilateral meetings with senior representatives of States and international organizations. ICAO also organized a side event and contributed as a panellist in other sessions. All COP27 ICAO activities and outreach materials are available at the ICAO COP27 website.<sup>2</sup>

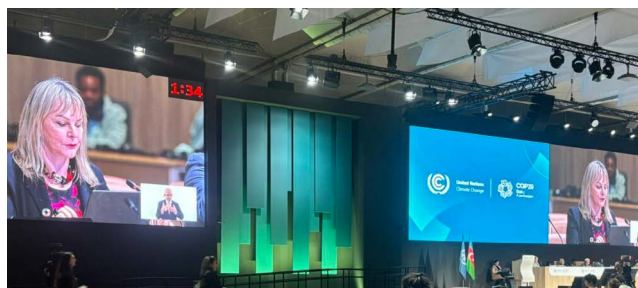


At **UNFCCC COP28** held from 30 November to 12 December 2023 in Dubai, UAE, ICAO provided its statement at the opening session, supplemented with a written submission, highlighting the outcomes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference on Aviation and Alternative Fuels (CAAF/3) which took place just before COP28. The President of the ICAO Council participated in the COP28 High-level Presidency Roundtable on Energy Transition and showcased the results of CAAF/3 at the side event organized by ICAO, in partnership with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), with panelists from States and industry stakeholders. In addition, ICAO participated in several side events during the Energy and Transport days of the Conference, highlighting the ICAO Assembly outcomes, the implementation of the LTAG, and CAAF/3 outcomes. ICAO’s activities and outreach materials are available at the ICAO COP28 website.<sup>3</sup>



The **UNFCCC COP29** was held from 11 to 22 November 2024, in Baku, Azerbaijan. Led by the President of the ICAO Council, Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano, the ICAO delegation took part in discussions and hosted several

events to inform Parties and relevant stakeholders of the latest developments achieved by ICAO and our Member States in addressing emissions from international aviation, with the details available on the ICAO COP29 webpage.<sup>4</sup>



On the opening day, ICAO hosted a briefing session titled “Implementing a Clean Energy Transition for International Aviation in support of the UN SDGs”. The event highlighted ICAO’s efforts in achieving the aviation sector’s ambitions of Net Zero 2050 while ensuring that No Country is Left Behind in aviation’s clean energy transition, contributing to the achievement of UN SDGs, including SDG #13 on climate action. The President of the ICAO Council also addressed the High-level Roundtable on Energy: Advancing Climate Mitigation Action, where he informed world leaders of the progress of aviation’s clean energy transition. Several bilateral meetings also took place with the IMO, IRENA, UNFCCC, the Work Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).



<sup>2</sup> <https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/Pages/COP27.aspx>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/Pages/COP28.aspx>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/Pages/COP29.aspx>.



In addition, ICAO continues to monitor and engage with the UNFCCC on matters related to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, particularly regarding the eligibility of emissions units under CORSIA. Key areas of focus include guidance on avoiding double-counting and double-claiming. Ensuring effective alignment between Article 6 and CORSIA is crucial, as airline operators must meet their CORSIA offsetting requirements using eligible emissions units that fully comply with ICAO's quality and environmental integrity criteria.

The UNFCCC COP meetings continue to serve as an important platform for ICAO to advocate and provide updates on the latest ICAO progress and planned actions for implementing the LTAG, CAAF/3 outcomes, and CORSIA. ICAO looks forward to making meaningful contributions to COP30, which will be held in Belém, Brazil, from 10 to 21 November 2025.

## International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

ICAO is strengthening its collaboration with IRENA with the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation in October 2024<sup>5</sup>, to cooperate and explore pathways to operationalize the ICAO Finvest Hub by facilitating the identification of financial resources for scaling up SAF, LCAF and other cleaner energy solutions.

ICAO also continues its advocacy and outreach efforts, including through the collaboration with States and financial institutions such as development banks and private equity entities by regional meetings, bilateral exchanges, and high-level meetings, to discuss financing needs, and possible means to support project implementation, and identify opportunities to increase access to public and private capital for aviation decarbonization projects, in line the request of the ICAO Assembly. More information on climate financing is provided in Chapter 9 – Climate Financing of this Report.



## Financial Institutions and Energy Sector

As part of the preparation process toward CAAF/3, in March 2023, an informal meeting of the Council with several global and regional development banks (the African Development Bank, the Emirates Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Investment Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the World Bank) and the Air Transport Action Group (ATAG) was convened to address the challenges and opportunities in decarbonizing international civil aviation.

In June 2023, the ICAO Council held two high-level exchanges on climate financing: one with private banks and investment firms and another with energy companies, focusing on the challenges and opportunities in aviation decarbonization. These discussions built on the inaugural high-level exchange with multilateral development banks in March 2023.

Further discussions on financing the transition to SAF and cleaner energies also took place between States, industry, and financing institutions at the 2023 ICAO

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.icao.int/Newsroom/Pages/ICAO-and-IRENA-join-forces-to-accelerate-access-to-financing-and-implementation-of-aviation-decarbonization-projects.aspx>.



LTAG Stocktaking<sup>6</sup> and Pre-CAAF/3 Policy and Finance Consultation in July 2023, and at the 2024 ICAO LTAG Stocktaking in October 2024.<sup>7</sup>

The financing institutions and energy companies welcomed ICAO's initiative to accelerate aviation decarbonization and the LTAG and CAAF/3 outcomes (ICAO Global Framework) were considered as a key signal to the industry and financing community to unlock investments towards SAF, LCAF and other aviation cleaner energies. ICAO will continue to engage and cooperate with various stakeholders to facilitate access to financial resources to advance aviation decarbonization initiatives.

## UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

### *Greening the Blue: UN System-wide Cooperation*

ICAO continues to follow-up and cooperate with the UNEP on environmental matters within the UN system organizations. The UNEP Sustainable United Nations (SUN) Facility manages the "Greening the Blue" initiative, which is an UN-wide initiative to engage and support UN system organizations in the transition to integrate environmental considerations into their management decisions and actions. On an annual basis, the Greening the Blue report<sup>8</sup> provides information on the UN system's environmental footprint and efforts to adopt sustainable practices. ICAO actively contributed to the annual Greening the Blue report since its inception, as well as participated in other initiatives.

In particular, the ICAO Carbon Emissions Calculator (ICEC)<sup>9</sup> was officially adopted by the UN Environment Management Group (EMG) since 2009 as the official UN tool to calculate CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from UN-mission related air travel. In the 2024 Greening the Blue report, 58 UN entities<sup>10</sup> estimated the air-travel related portion of their UN inventories using the ICEC.

The ICEC methodology undergoes continuous updates to incorporate parameters such as the modelling of new aircraft types, revisions to the ICAO Fuel Formula and seat class configurations, in coordination with the work of the ICAO Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection (CAEP). Work is also ongoing to introduce more cabin class configurations in the model, from the two (economy and premium) to four (economy, premium economy, business and first) travel classes. An Application Programming Interface (API) has also been made available free of charge to the UN system and as a paid service to private organizations.

The ICEC will be further detailed in this Chapter under the article "ICAO Carbon Emissions Calculator (ICEC): a reference tool for estimating carbon emissions" by ICAO Secretariat.



### *Plastic pollution*

ICAO closely monitors developments on the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, led by the UNEP Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC). Subject to the availability of resources, ICAO should be ready to deliver its support for the ongoing aviation in-sector efforts on plastic pollution.

ICAO has already addressed the topic of plastics at the ICAO Green Airports Seminar<sup>11</sup>, held in Athens, Greece in April 2024, which highlighted the need and the significant role of the aviation industry in the global efforts against plastic pollution. The Seminar is highlighted in detail in Chapter 12 – Green Airports of this Report. In addition, CAEP has developed guidance and best practices on this matter under the Eco Airport Toolkit Publication on Single-Use Plastics<sup>12</sup>, published on the ICAO website.

6 <https://www.icao.int/Meetings/Stocktaking2023/Pages/default.aspx>.

7 <https://www.icao.int/Meetings/LTAGStocktaking2024/Pages/default.aspx>.

8 <https://greeningtheblue.org/>

9 <https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/Carbonoffset/Pages/default.aspx>.

10 <https://greeningtheblue.org/sites/default/files/interactive-report-landing/Annual-Report-2024-GtB.pdf>.

11 <https://www.icao.int/Meetings/greenairports2024/Pages/default.aspx>.

12 <https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/Documents/Eco-Toolkit - Single Use Plastics.pdf>.

## United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP15)

The 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity was held in December 2022 in Montreal, Canada, with theme of “Ecological Civilization – Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth”. During the High-level Segment of the conference, the Secretary General of ICAO provided a keynote statement, highlighting the recent ICAO achievements at the Assembly, and how ICAO’s ongoing work (e.g. sustainability criteria and eligible emissions units for CORSIA, as well as sustainable airport operations) were relevant and support the achievement of post-2022 biodiversity framework.<sup>13</sup>

The ICAO Secretary General also provided a statement at the UN Heads of Agencies Dialogue<sup>14</sup> organized by the UN EMG, and participated in several bilateral meetings with high-level representatives of States and international organizations to discuss possible areas of cooperation.

## Concluding remarks

As climate change remains a pressing global challenge, ICAO is committed to advancing efforts to address international aviation emissions in pursuit of the Long-Term Aspirational Goal (LTAG). This will involve strengthening and expanding collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders—including Member States, UN agencies, international organizations, and other relevant entities—to harness collective synergies in tackling the climate crisis.

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XtFzqLJKCRo&list=PLjpSs1uejVAnS4vr52XdS0ye22E4cPEI2&index=35>.

<sup>14</sup> [https://enb.iisd.org/implementing-common-approach-biodiversity-post-2020-gbf?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=ENB%20Update%20-%2016%20December%202022&utm\\_content=ENB%20Update%20-%2016%20December%202022+CID\\_99dad3f4383b5a3a0785c2edd6bab95d&utm\\_source=cm&utm\\_term=Read](https://enb.iisd.org/implementing-common-approach-biodiversity-post-2020-gbf?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ENB%20Update%20-%2016%20December%202022&utm_content=ENB%20Update%20-%2016%20December%202022+CID_99dad3f4383b5a3a0785c2edd6bab95d&utm_source=cm&utm_term=Read).