

The Role of Aviation in the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport 2026–2035

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ICAO's long-standing cooperation with UN-DESA continues including through provision of technical inputs to UN General Assembly mandated processes and the organization of various UN system wide events.

Rooted in the United Nations Charter and guided by the transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, DESA upholds the development pillar of the United Nations. It does this by providing intergovernmental support, analysis and capacity-building on various areas of sustainable development.

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In 2023, the General Assembly declared the first ever United Nations Decade of Sustainable Transport to start in 2026. Through the resolution A/78/148 titled “Strengthening the links between all modes of transport to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals” Member States also requested DESA to develop an Implementation Plan for the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport, in collaboration with the UN Regional Commissions and in consultation with the Member States, the United Nations system and all other relevant stakeholders.

The UN Decade of Sustainable Transport will be an opportunity to raise awareness of transport's crucial role in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to gather and rally new solutions, resources and partnerships to advance sustainable transport globally. It will encourage action on all modes of transport — aviation, maritime and inland transport.

While there is no single dedicated SDG for transport, it is reflected in several SDG targets and recognized as an enabler for achieving many of the goals. ICAO has provided technical input to the development of the Implementation Plan to ensure that aviation's role in advancing the SDGs will be well reflected in the Plan. The Plan will address transport's — and aviation's — linkages with topic such as resilient infrastructure development, economic growth, trade, global supply chains, food security, promotion of health, energy efficiency, and climate change. The Implementation Plan will serve as a framework to encourage and reflect the international aviation sector's actions towards sustainable development throughout the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport 2026–2035.