

# Message from Airbus' Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO)

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The upcoming ICAO 42nd Assembly in September is set to be a critical event for the aviation industry. Just three years ago, at the 2022 Assembly, the entire sector united to commit to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

**The adoption of the Long Term Aspiration Goal (LTAG) marked an historic milestone**, signaling our industry's ambitious journey towards sustainability.

## Building Momentum: ICAO's Framework Driving Aviation's Decarbonization Journey

The progress achieved in the past few years, particularly through **the LTAG and the CAAF/3 frameworks, has been instrumental in providing a global framework for our collective decarbonization journey**. The CAAF/3's emphasis on concrete actions and the facilitation of emissions reductions aligns perfectly with Airbus' commitment to tangible progress. We believe that the framework's call for enhanced cooperation and the exploration of various decarbonization tools directly supports the accelerated deployment and adoption of Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF). As we gather for this year's Assembly, we stand at the threshold of a transformative era, driven by innovation and a shared vision for a sustainable and safe future.

## Sustainable Aviation Fuels: A Near-Term Imperative

For Airbus, SAF represents a cornerstone of our decarbonization strategy. With the potential to reduce lifecycle emissions by up to 80%, SAF offers a tangible and impactful solution. Realizing our ambitious decarbonization targets is directly dependent on the widespread availability and affordability of Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF). With SAF currently making up less than 1% of the total

aviation fuel supply, a significant and rapid increase in its production and adoption is absolutely essential. This requires the concerted effort of all stakeholders, including governments, fuel producers, and the aviation industry.

Airbus strongly advocates for the establishment of robust policy frameworks and meaningful incentives to catalyze the global scaling of SAF production. These policies are essential to create a viable business case for airlines to transition to SAF, ensuring a level playing field and preventing competitive disadvantages. We believe that just as global regulations have fostered unparalleled safety in aviation, similar supportive frameworks are now crucial to unlock the full potential of SAF and drive its uptake across the industry.

## Beyond SAF: A Holistic Approach to Decarbonization

While SAF is critical for immediate emissions reductions, **Airbus is pursuing a parallel strategy focused on key technological advancements for long-term impact**. Continuous innovation in aircraft design and operational efficiency, enabled by digital tools and AI, delivers vital incremental fuel savings.

Concretely, **Airbus advances key technologies which include more efficient engines, including disruptive "open fan" designs, long foldable wings allowing for significant aerodynamic gains, next-generation batteries to enable hybrid architectures, lightweight materials and integrated systems for a connected aircraft**. Airbus is working towards entry into service of the next generation of single-aisle aircraft in the second half of the next decade, with a likely launch of the programme by the end of this decade.

**We still firmly believe that hydrogen will play a critical role in the long-term decarbonization of aviation,** complementing the benefits of SAF. Airbus is making substantial progress in developing the technologies required to bring the first hydrogen airliner to market, recognizing its unique ability to eliminate in-flight carbon emissions. This ambitious undertaking involves overcoming complex engineering challenges related to cryogenic storage and distribution, propulsion, and airport infrastructure.

**Addressing unavoidable residual emissions necessitates the development and deployment of carbon capture technologies like Direct Air Capture (DAC).** While regulatory frameworks are still emerging, Airbus recognizes their significant potential and actively supports the establishment of clear international policy frameworks to facilitate their crucial role in achieving net-zero.

## **Looking Ahead: Partnering for a Sustainable Aviation Future**

The aerospace industry has consistently demonstrated its capacity for transformative change, and the journey towards decarbonization will be no exception. With ICAO's leadership providing a clear direction and the collective commitment of stakeholders, we are prepared to enter a new era of sustainable air travel. **Airbus stands firmly alongside ICAO, governments, our industry partners, and the broader community, ready to contribute our innovation, expertise, and unwavering determination to achieve the ambitious goals we have set.** We approach the 42nd Assembly with optimism and a strong collaborative spirit, confident that together, we will not only meet the decarbonisation roadmap but also shape a safer and more sustainable future for generations to come.