

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Voluntary Air Transport Fund

Fund Overview

The ICAO Voluntary Air Transport Fund serves as a mechanism for the collection and use of voluntary contributions from States and other donors to support ICAO's work in the air transport field in a consistent, transparent, efficient and timely manner.

The purpose of the Fund is to allow a streamlined administration of donated funds and timely execution of air transport activities not covered by the Regular Programme Budget under ICAO's Strategic Objective supporting the Economic Development of Air Transport.

Why Support ICAO through the Voluntary Air Transport Fund?

Air Transport makes significant contributions across social, economic, and environmental pillars of sustainable development. It provides freedom to travel, access to foreign markets, and the exchange of cultural experiences.

As part of global efforts to recover from the COVID-19 crisis and "build back better", air transport will play an even more important role in the development of economies worldwide. Improving air connectivity, creating more competitive business opportunities, and increasing consumers' benefits and choices will be key to drive economic growth, create jobs and facilitate international trade and tourism.

Prior to the pandemic, air transport carried 4.5 billion passengers and 57.6 million tonnes of freight per year. It contributed 4.1% – USD 3.5 trillion – of global GDP and supported 87.7 million jobs worldwide. Moreover, 59% of international tourists travelled to their destinations by air, and the USD 6.5 trillion worth of goods transported by air represented 35% of global trade.

About our Work in Economic Development

The ICAO Air Transport Bureau's activities in the field of economics are closely linked to the sustainability of air transport development. The Bureau is responsible for developing, promoting and disseminating policies and guidance materials on major regulatory issues linked to the economic regulation and liberalization of international air transport, as well as to the economics of airports and air navigation services.

Of paramount importance to these efforts is the availability of a wide range of reliable and robust aviation data, which the Air Transport Bureau produces through a comprehensive Statistics Programme, forecasting activities and economic studies. Together these determine a wide range of authoritative information resources relating to both present and future air transport development.

