



**DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION - ICAO EUROPEAN AND NORTH ATLANTIC  
REGIONS**

**2023 MEETING (EUR/NAT-DGCA/2023)**

*(Paris, France, 20 June 2023)*

**Agenda Item 5:** Sustainability: timely actions and cooperation to achieve the LTAG

**SUSTAINABILITY: TIMELY ACTIONS AND COOPERATION TO ACHIEVE THE LTAG**

*(Presented by the Secretariat)*

**SUMMARY**

*This Working Paper provides some updates on ICAO's activities at global level as well as in the ICAO EUR/NAT Office's accreditation area (EUR/NAT area) in support of the Long Term Aspirational Goal (LTAG) of Net Zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in international civil aviation by 2050. In addition, it invites EUR/NAT States and Organizations active in the EUR/NAT area to engage in these activities and to further enhance information-sharing, coordination and cooperation in order to avoid duplication of efforts and to optimize benefits for States.*

**1. Introduction**

1.1 More than ever, environmental protection will be a key priority of ICAO at global and regional levels following the adoption by the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the ICAO Assembly of a global Long-Term Aspirational Goal (LTAG) for international aviation of net-zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2050 (Assembly Resolution A41-21 refers), in support of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Paris Agreement's temperature goal.

1.2 At the global level, 2023 will be a pivotal year. Several events have been and will be organized by ICAO on Environment mostly related to aviation fuels, including sustainable aviation fuels (SAF), lower carbon aviation fuels (LCAF) and other aviation cleaner energy, leading to the Third Conference on Aviation and Alternative Fuels (CAAF/3), which will take place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 21 to 24 November 2023.

1.3 In the EUR/NAT area, the ICAO Regional Office's capacity building and training activities are aligned with the ICAO Assembly Resolutions that require ICAO to play a pivotal role in providing assistance to its Member States through the dissemination of the latest information on best practices, and the provision of guidance and other technical assistance in order to enhance capacity building and the transfer of technology.

## 2. Updates on ICAO's global activities in support of the LTAG

2.1 The LTAG represents the most important and significant decision of the Organization for the environmentally-sustainable future of international civil aviation. The LTAG is primarily an environmental objective and needs various areas of expertise and cooperation of relevant stakeholders to make global, effective and timely progress. The LTAG report, which presents the background, methodologies, results and interpretations of the LTAG analysis, shows that Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) has the greatest potential to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from international aviation.

2.2 Following the ICAO Assembly's request to the ICAO Council to explore the feasibility of a LTAG for international aviation, in 2022, the Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection (CAEP) conducted a technical analysis through a collaborative, inclusive and transparent process, and the Council unanimously approved the technical report on the feasibility of an LTAG. Under the LTAG report, three integrated scenarios were developed to cover a range of readiness, attainability, and aspirations for aviation in-sector CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction. In the most ambitious scenario, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions could be reduced by 87% in 2050, broken down into 21% from aircraft technologies, 11% from operations and 55% from fuels.

2.3 The ICAO LTAG report highlights the importance of Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF), Lower Carbon Aviation Fuels (LCAF) and cleaner energy sources for aviation, including hydrogen and renewable electricity. On 1 June 2022, ICAO launched a new ICAO Assistance, Capacity-building and Training for SAF (ACT-SAF) programme. The ACT-SAF programme aims to support States and relevant stakeholders in the development and deployment of SAF and cleaner energy sources for aviation, incorporating tailored support, which may comprise of feasibility studies, policy and regulatory development, and specific SAF implementation projects, where potential green funding may be sought. Under ICAO's coordination, ACT-SAF will facilitate the establishment of partnerships among States and relevant stakeholders. ICAO Member States, Organizations and Stakeholders are encouraged to become ACT-SAF partners. To join the ACT-SAF programme, interested parties need to agree to the ACT-SAF Terms and Conditions, which are available on the ICAO website.

2.4 The 2050 ICAO Vision will be updated at the upcoming Third Conference on Aviation and Alternative Fuels (CAAF/3), where States will define the quantified portion of SAF to replace conventional fuels. To prepare for CAAF/3, ICAO has initiated a series of activities to support States for the important decisions to be taken to facilitate the development, deployment and access to these fuels. The ICAO EUR/NAT Office participated in the organization and facilitation of the ICAO EUR/NAT Environmental Regional Seminar held in Rotterdam, Netherlands from 13 to 14 April 2023. The objective of this Environmental Regional Seminar was to raise awareness on the outcomes of the 41st session of the ICAO Assembly, focusing on the implementation of the LTAG, including recent developments on the ACT-SAF programme, financing cleaner energy, etc. Representatives from 36 States registered to the event as well as representatives from partner Regional Organizations, namely the Air Transport Action Group (ATAG), the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC), the European Commission, the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the International Business Aviation Council (IBAC) and the International Coordinating Council of Aerospace Industries Associations (ICCAIA).

2.5 The CAAF/3 will be preceded by the 2023 ICAO Pre-CAAF/3 Stocktaking Meeting, which will be held from 11 to 13 July 2023, in Montreal, Canada, in a hybrid format, to enable the sharing of the latest relevant information, including on policy and finance consultations. The Pre-CAAF/3 will be held in September 2023 (dates to be confirmed at the upcoming session of the Council) to discuss the outcomes of the consultation, and the final deliberations will occur at the CAAF/3 in late November.

### 3. Updates on ICAO's regional activities in the EUR/NAT area in support of the LTAG

#### *Capacity-building and assistance activities in the EUR/NAT Regions*

3.1 The ICAO EUR/NAT Office has developed a capacity-building strategy through a technical assistance programme that aims at providing direct support to States or group of States through workshops and regular follow-up calls with the States' Focal Points. To strengthen this strategy, the Environment Task Force was created in 2018 with the objectives of sharing information on the latest ICAO developments on environment, providing support and developing capacity-building activities for the States in the EUR/NAT area.

3.2 Since the 2022 EUR/NAT DGCA meeting, the ICAO EUR/NAT Office has organized several events to support:

- a) the development and update of the State Action Plans, as well as the implementation of the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSA) requirements and the related ICAO Environment tools; and
- b) the development and deployment of the ACT-SAF programme.

3.3 In addition, the ICAO EUR/NAT Office has carried out a number of capacity-building and assistance activities for States' Focal Points. Besides providing technical support to individual States upon request, several capacity-building and training meetings with groups of States have also been conducted virtually.

3.4 Over the last year, the ICAO EUR/NAT Office has further strengthened cooperation with regional organizations to facilitate capacity-building activities and avoid duplication. Several events have been organized in coordination with the Arab Civil Aviation Organization (ACAO) for the North African States in the EUR/NAT area and the ICAO Middle East (MID) Region on State Action Plans and implementation of CORSIA requirements. Furthermore, the ICAO EUR/NAT Office has participated in several capacity-building webinars organized by other organizations. ECAC has invited the ICAO EUR/NAT Office to participate at several capacity-building webinars. In early March 2023, the ICAO EUR/NAT Office delivered a presentation on the ICAO Guidance on potential policies and coordinated approaches for the deployment of SAF during the 3rd ECAC Sustainable Aviation Fuels workshop.

3.5 In March 2023, a virtual meeting of the ICAO 2023 Environment Task Force was held. The participants received information on initiatives undertaken to address aviation CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction. States were invited to work closely with ICAO to optimize progress on the implementation of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction measures. States' Focal Points and Representatives from Azerbaijan, France, the Netherlands and Switzerland presented various initiatives that would contribute to the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from international aviation. Moreover, partner Regional Organizations' Representatives from ACAO, Airports Council International – Europe (ACI Europe), ECAC and EUROCONTROL provided updated information on their initiatives, mitigation measures and studies undertaken to support aviation's decarbonisation. A second meeting will be held later this year.

3.6 The ICAO EUR/NAT Office made several presentations on environment at the first ACAO Environment forum last year and will support the second ACAO Environment forum that will be held in October 2023. These activities are aligned with the Memorandum of Understanding between the ICAO EUR/NAT Office and ACAO. Further events will be organized with the ICAO EUR/NAT Office and ACAO including a technical assistance mission in 2023.

3.7 Concerning the State Action Plan initiative, this has become a key element of the Organization's comprehensive capacity-building and assistance strategy to support Member States' implementation of a broad range of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions mitigation measures selected from the ICAO "basket of measures". As of today, 48 EUR/NAT States have developed and submitted to ICAO their State Action Plan (SAP). In addition, 31 EUR/NAT States have updated their SAP in the last triennium and submitted them to

ICAO using the Action Plan Emissions Reduction (APER) website. Furthermore, one EUR/NAT State has developed its first SAP and is planning to submit it shortly. States that need support to develop their State's Action Plan are invited to contact the ICAO EUR/NAT Office.

3.8 While State Action Plans remain an important tool for communicating national plans of climate action for international aviation, they also serve as a key tool for ICAO to assess Member States' progress toward achieving their collective global aspirational goals. Some States have recently developed more concrete long-term strategies and plans to reduce carbon emissions from international aviation with the use of new innovative technologies, operations and sustainable aviation fuels. Future updates and submissions of State Action Plans should focus on the latest innovative solutions available, while also enabling States to tap into potential funding sources, in order to facilitate States' voluntary contributions to reduce international aviation CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. In addition, SAPs have helped establishing governance structures within States, in the form of multi-stakeholder groups. The update and effective implementation of State Action Plans will continue to play a pivotal role to ensure cooperation of all partners towards the LTAG, and the ICAO EUR/NAT Office is committed to continue supporting States in their efforts to develop and update SAPs.

3.9 Under the ICAO ACT-CORSIA programme (Assistance, Capacity-building and Training for the CORSIA), which aims to harmonize and bring together all relevant actions and promote coherence to capacity building efforts, bilateral or multilateral partnerships among States are coordinated with ICAO. "CORSIA Buddy Partnerships" have been established across various ICAO Regions, involving 16 donor States (including 5 EUR/NAT States France, Germany, Italy, Spain and United Kingdom) and 98 recipient States (including 14 EUR/NAT States). The ICAO EUR/NAT Office has organized two ACT-CORSIA seminars since the beginning of 2023 and supported follow-up coordination calls. Additional seminars are planned for 2023.

3.10 For the ACT-CORSIA phase III, which started in 2020, focussed on the implementation of reporting including CORSIA eligible fuels and verification requirements:

- a) with Germany as the Donor State, 11 States from Central and Eastern Europe have been trained; and
- b) with France as the Donor State, the 3 Maghreb States and 20 African French-Speaking States have been trained.

3.11 With regard to the implementation of CORSIA requirements, the ICAO EUR/NAT Office continues to support States' Focal Points with upcoming deadlines such as:

- a) informing ICAO on the voluntary participation to CORSIA prior to 30 June 2023 (for first time participation only);
- b) verification and submission by the States of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions data for the year 2022 to ICAO through the Central CORSIA Registry (CCR) by 31 July 2023; and
- c) submission of the list of aeroplanes operators and verification bodies by the 30 November 2023.

3.12 Further video calls with group of States will be organized as well as individual technical support will be provided upon request.

#### *Outreach activities*

3.13 The Regional Director has undertaken several outreach activities since May 2022, during official State visits (meeting with Ministers, State aviation authorities, industry leaders and the academia) and during high-level conferences and seminars where ICAO's environmental activities and programmes were presented and discussed. Follow-up States letters have been sent to some EUR/NAT States to provide additional information specifically on ICAO ACT-SAF and invite them to join this programme.

3.14 Based on the foregoing, the following is proposed:

**Draft EUR/NAT-DGCA Conclusion 2023/1 – Further enhancing engagement, information-sharing, coordination and cooperation to achieve the LTAG**

That the ICAO Regional Director, Europe and North Atlantic, take action to:

- a) remind EUR/NAT States that they shall verify and submit their reports on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from international flights for the year 2022 to ICAO using the Central CORSIA Registry (CCR) before end of July 2023;
- b) further encourage EUR/NAT States to:
  - i) develop or update their quantified States' Action Plans on CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions Reduction Activities in accordance with the provisions in the *Guidance on the Development of States' Action Plans on CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions Reduction Activities* (ICAO Doc 9988) including cleaner energies, green technologies and innovations mitigation measures as well as long-term emission reduction initiatives and submit the Plan to ICAO before June 2024;
  - ii) use the ICAO environmental tools to estimate the emissions reductions from the implementation of the mitigation measures as part of the development of States' action plans;
  - iii) join CORSIA in the first phase and notify ICAO accordingly (by 30 June 2023 for voluntary participation from 1 January 2024);
  - iv) join (as donor States or beneficiary States) the ICAO ACT-CORSIA Capacity-Building activities, including the CORSIA buddy partnerships;
  - v) join (as donor States or beneficiary States) the ICAO Assistance, Capacity-building and Training for Sustainable Aviation Fuels (ICAO ACT-SAF) programme by signing the Terms and Conditions available on the ICAO website;
  - vi) reach out to the ICAO EUR/NAT Regional Office for any support needed for the preparation and submission of States' action plans, and implementation of the related mitigation measures;
- c) invite Organizations active in the EUR/NAT area, including international and regional organizations, to:
  - i) join the ICAO Assistance, Capacity-building and Training for Sustainable Aviation Fuels (ICAO ACT-SAF) programme by signing the related Terms and Conditions;
  - ii) continue to support information-sharing and coordination, in order to avoid duplication of efforts and help ensure consistency; and
  - iii) continue to explore synergies to enhance effectiveness, timeliness and efficiency in activities in support of the LTAG.

**4. Action by the Meeting**

4.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information provided;
- b) amend as necessary and endorse the proposed Conclusion; and
- c) provide direction as deemed necessary.

— END —