

# High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development New York, 10-19 July 2017

## Side event :

### AVIATION PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: HIGH-LEVEL BRIEFING ON AVIATION CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN COUNTRIES IN SPECIAL SITUATIONS

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked  
Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS)

World Bank Group (WBG), and

Air Transport Action Group (ATAG)

#### CONCEPT NOTE

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, sustainable transport, including air transport, was reinforced as an enabler of sustainable development and improvements in this sector should now be intrinsically related and embedded within global, regional and national development frameworks. ICAO is the only organization in the United Nations (UN) common system with aviation as a mandate and is actively engaged, in alignment with its Strategic Objectives, in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by assisting its Member States in enhancing their air transport systems with a view to contributing, consequently, to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

With a view to advocate for sustainable aviation development within States, while involving the UN system, international and regional organizations, financial institutions and the private sector, as well as to broaden the outreach in States to obtain the engagement of high-level authorities beyond the air transport sector, ICAO invited DESA, OHRLLS, WBG, and ATAG to join the **Aviation Partnerships for Sustainable Development (APSD)**. Under APSD, specific events will be organized by aviation partners aimed at sensitizing high-level government officials, raising awareness about the possible contributions of the aviation sector to sustainable development, and promoting the benefits of mobilizing resources for and investing in sustainable aviation. This high-level briefing will be focused on countries in special situations, e.i. least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing States (SIDS) and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), and will be organized as a side event on the margins of the **2017 High-level Political Forum on sustainable development (2017 HLPF)**<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> 2017 HLPF convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, will be held from 10 to 19 July 2017; including the 3-day ministerial meeting of the forum from 17 to 19 July 2017. The theme will be *Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world*. The set of goals to be reviewed in depth will be: Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere; Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture; Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages; Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation; Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development and Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

**When:** Wednesday, 19 July 2017, from 0815 to 0930 hrs.

**Where:** Conference Room 11 in the UN Conference Building in New York City, United States.

**Registration:** open at <https://goo.gl/YbS5zS>. For any questions, you may contact the host at [SPCP@icao.int](mailto:SPCP@icao.int).

**Overview:** Sustainable aviation is a driver for economic development, trade and tourism. Air transportation is instrumental in facilitating humanitarian and disaster response to crises and public health emergencies. For countries in special situations, such as least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing States (SIDS) and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), aviation represents an essential lifeline to connect to the world. A poorly funded and neglected aviation industry, which does not meet international requirements adopted by ICAO, has been proven to raise risks and barriers for the sustainable development of States. Focusing on the prioritization and financing for development of sustainable air transport systems in these States has the potential to unlock the benefits sustainable aviation generates.

This high-level event, organized as a side event on the margins of the 2017 High-level Political Forum on sustainable development (HLPF) is an Aviation Partnerships for Sustainable Development initiative that will support States in achieving commitments made in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Istanbul Programme of Action, the Vienna Programme of Action, and the Samoa Pathway.

**Objective:** This side event aims at encouraging dialogue and action, to sensitize decision-makers about raising sustainable air transport as priority for sustainable development and investment. It will also be used to promote the APSD initiative.

#### TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

**MODERATOR: Ms. Irena Zubcevic, Chief, SIDS, Oceans and Climate Branch, Division for Sustainable Development, DESA**

**Panel:**

1. **Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, High Representative for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, UN-OHRLS**  
*Context of countries in special situations in the era of sustainable development*
2. **H.E. Mr. Brian Mushimba, Minister of Transport and Communications of Zambia**  
*Challenges and areas of opportunity for sustainable aviation in Zambia*
3. **Mr. Michael Gill, Executive Director, ATAG**  
*Benefits that sustainable aviation brings to countries in Special Situations*
4. **Mr. Henry Gourджи, Head, Strategic Planning, Coordination and Partnerships, ICAO**  
*Enablers and indicators of sustainable aviation and prioritization of the sector*
5. **Mr. Christopher J. De Serio, Transport Specialist, WBG**  
*Financing mechanisms to enhance sustainable air transport systems*

**Exchange of views and interactive discussion**