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Recent Developments on International Aviation and Climate Change

~ ICAO's activities, COP/15 and beyond ~

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International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

- UN specialized agency
- Established by the "Chicago Convention" in 1944
- Forum for cooperation in all fields of civil aviation
- 190 Contracting States and 86 int. orgs.
- Policies, Standards & regulations for environmental protection since early 70's







Air transport - Key figures

- Fast, reliable, and safe mode of transport
- No comparative alternatives for long haul pax transport
- 2.3 billion pax/year carried worldwide
- Scheduled pax traffic worldwide forecast to grow at 4.6% per year (2005–2025)
- Aircraft produced today are 70% more fuel efficient than 40 years ago
- First sector with a special IPCC report (1999)







UNFCCC Kyoto-Protocol

- Domestic aviation emissions within States territory included as part of the national totals
- International aviation emissions beyond States' boundaries not included in national totals and reported separately
- Article 2.2 of Kyoto-Protocol:
- " The Parties included in Annex I shall pursue limitation or reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases ... from aviation ... bunker fuels, working through the ICAO"





Main Challenges for ICAO

How to find an appropriate balance between future growth and climate impacts ?

How to apply both ICAO's nondiscrimination principle and UNFCCC's CBDR principle ?

How to accommodate States' different views into a globally harmonized approach?

How to overcome the data challenges – allocation, verification and monitoring?





ICAO's Leadership Role

ICAO Assembly Resolution (A36-22) in September 2007:

- Recognized the critical importance of providing continuous leadership on international aviation in limiting or reducing its emissions that contribute to global climate change
- Requested to form a new Group on International Aviation and Climate Change (GIACC) to develop an Programme of Action on International Aviation and Climate Change
- Requested to convene an ICAO's High-level Meeting to review the Programme of Action recommended by GIACC

ICAO's High-level Meeting in October 2009 reviewed the Programme of Action recommended by the GIACC, and reaffirmed ICAO's leading role in all matters involving international aviation

ICAO Programme of Action on International Aviation and Climate Change (1/2)
ICAO and its member States agreed to:
 Global Goals 1) achieve a global 2% annual fuel efficiency improvement up to 2050; 2) further explore the feasibility of more ambitious goals, including carbon- neutral growth and emissions reductions, for consideration by 37th ICAO Assembly in September 2010;
Basket of Measures 3) develop a global CO2 Standard for aircraft;

- 4) facilitate the development and deployment of sustainable alternative fuels for aviation;
- 5) facilitate the implementation of operational changes and the improvement of air traffic management and airport systems;



ICAO Programme of Action on

International Aviation and Climate Change (2/2)

ICAO and its member States agreed:

Basket of Measures (contd.)

- 6) to develop a framework for market-based measures in international aviation;
- 7) to elaborate on measures to assist developing States as well as facilitate access to financial resources, technology transfer and capacity building;

Progress Monitoring

- 8) in order to monitor progress towards reaching the goals, States are encouraged to submit their action plans, outlining their respective policies and actions, and annual reporting on international aviation CO₂ emissions to ICAO; and
- 9) ICAO will regularly report CO₂ emissions from international aviation to the UNFCCC, as part of its contribution to assessing progress made in the implementing actions in the sector.



Alternative Fuels for Aviation

- One element of ICAO's comprehensive mitigation strategy that includes technological, operational and market-based measures
- ICAO held a Conference on Aviation and Alternative Fuels in November 2009, to facilitate the development and deployment of sustainable alternative fuels for aviation
- The Conference endorsed the use of sustainable alternative fuels for aviation, particularly the use of drop-in fuels in the short and medium-term
- The Conference established a Global Framework for Aviation Alternative Fuels towards making aviation the first sector to use alternative fuels on a global basis





COP15 – Copenhagen Accord

- Intense negotiations at the level of experts, Ministers and Heads of Governments
- Most debates were focused on the principles of CBDR under the UNFCCC as well as on financing for adaptation activities rather than mitigation actions
- Questions concerning transparency and the need to ensure a democratic process arose particularly during the 2nd week
- Informal negotiations under the Joint High-level Segment resulted in a political agreement called "Copenhagen Accord", which was "taken note" by COP15 plenary
- NO specific decision on how to address GHG emissions from international aviation





Next Steps

- DGCA Climate Group meetings March/June/August 2010
- Colloquium on Aviation and Climate Change 11 to 14 May 2010
- ICAO Environment Report 2010 July 2010
- The 37th session of the ICAO Assembly September 2010
- COP16 and COP/MOP6 November 2010





Conclusions

- Government and the air transport industry worked together under the auspices of ICAO to identify global solutions, while taking into account the special needs and circumstances of all countries
- Aviation is the first sector to come forward with a specific programme of action and a target agreement on a sustained fuel efficiency improvement of 2% per annum until 2050
- ICAO is aware of the fact that more can, and should be done to compensate for the growth in global demand for air transport services
- ICAO Assembly in 2010 will consider additional options for deeper emissions reductions, including:
 - Carbon neutral growth in the medium-term (2020); and
 - Absolute emissions reductions in the long-term (2050).

