

SIDE EVENT AT: The Global Sustainable Transport Conference

Aviation Partnership for Sustainable Development in Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

09:40-11:30 Sunday 27 November 2016

Background

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) came into effect in 2016. Governments, international organizations, private sector, financial institutions civil society, the UN system and other actors are collaborating at various levels to achieve them. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, air transport was considered for the first time as an enabler of sustainable development and that improvements in this sector should now be intrinsically related and embedded within global, regional and national development frameworks. Partnerships among all stakeholders to enhance air transport systems to enable sustainable development are critical as this can pave the way for the accomplishment of real, concrete changes supporting the 2030 Agenda.

The Aviation Partnerships for Sustainable Development, which were launched during the ICAO World Aviation Forum (IWAF) in September 2016, is a No Country Left Behind initiative that will progress various projects aimed at raising awareness about aviation's contribution to sustainable development and promoting the benefits of mobilizing resources for and investing in air transport.

Indeed, 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 Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), it represents an essential lifeline to connect to the world. A poorly funded and overseen aviation industry, which does not meet international requirements adopted by ICAO, has been proven to raise risks and barriers for the socio-economic development of a State. Focusing on the prioritization and financing for development of air transport systems in these States is thus crucial to assist these States in unlocking the benefits that aviation generates.

This side event organized during the first Global Sustainable Transport Conference is an Aviation Partnerships for Sustainable Development in LLDCs and SIDS that will support these groups of States in achieving related commitments undertaken through the 2030 Agenda, the Vienna Programme of Action and the Samoa Pathway. This time, it has brought together three members of the UN system: ICAO, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS), the aviation industry represented by the Air Transport Action Group (ATAG) and the World Bank Group as the lead in financing for development.

Objective

The objective of this side event is threefold to encourage dialogue and action, to sensitize decision-makers about raising air transport as priority for development and investment, as well as to present a to share their motivation for creating this initiative and their goal on the long term.

Speaker role

10-minute presentation on the topic identified below.

Expected outcome

Participants will be sensitized on the importance of investing in aviation as a socio-economic driver in LLDCs and SIDS. The event will be an opportunity to illustrate the benefits of aviation for these States and demonstrate in what ways the industry is a catalyst for sustainable development. The enablers for sustainable development relating to aviation will be emphasized as well as the need to develop and integrate this sector in development plans. With respect to the financial aspect, an overview of the different financing mechanisms available to support the enhancements of air transport systems will be provided.

Possible questions for discussion

- 1. What are some of the benefits of aviation to LLDCs and SIDS specifically ? How can they be measured/observed ?*
- 2. What are the available initiatives or funding mechanisms that the LLDCs and SIDS can utilize to support their programmes? How could the LLDCs be assisted to utilize these initiatives or funding?*
- 3. How can the partners support the development of aviation in LLDCs and SIDS? Are there specific programs already in place ?*
- 4. How can other entities join the Aviation Partnerships for Sustainable Development ? Are you working with other international and local institutions/ planning on working with some in the future ?*

The event is open to all delegates and participants.