

AVIATION PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (APSD)

Side event: **“REACHING GLOBAL MARKETS: CONNECTING LLDCS’ CITIES THROUGH SUSTAINABLE AVIATION”**

**High-Level Political Forum 2018
UN HQ, New York**

organized by

**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 Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)
World Bank Group (WBG) and
Air Transport Action Group (ATAG)**

**11 July 2018, 13:15 – 14:30 hrs
Conference Room S-1520, UN HQ Secretariat Building**

CONCEPT NOTE

1. INTRODUCTION

With the adoption of the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), sustainable transport, including air transport, was reinforced as an enabler of sustainable development and improvements in this sector. Aviation has been globally recognized as having an essential role in bringing connectivity to the world. It specifically fosters the opportunities for sustainable development in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

ICAO is a UN specialized agency with a unique mission. Within the UN system ICAO is the sole agency with a mandate to achieve international civil aviation that is safe, secure, sustainable and environment-friendly. ICAO’s work supports 15 of the 17 SDGs. In 2016, ICAO launched the **Aviation Partnerships for Sustainable Development (APSD)** and that same year invited UNDESA, UN-OHRLLS, the WBG, and ATAG to join the Initiative. This partnership now includes representation from the UN system, international and regional organizations, financial institutions and the private sector. It advocates the aviation benefits for sustainable development and sensitizes high level government decision makers beyond the air transport sector to promote the benefits of mobilizing resources for and investing in sustainable aviation.

2. APSD IS ADVANCING THE 2030 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

To advocate action towards achieving the 2030 Agenda with civil aviation as its enabler, the APSD partners have been actively engaging in an array of events which target the achievement of the UN SDGs. In 2018, SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, 15 and 17 featuring “city”, “energy” and “ecosystems” and means of implementation will be voluntarily reviewed by UN Member States at the July UN High-Level Political Forum. Throughout 2018, the APSD will showcase contributions of civil aviation towards these SDGs. Its members will jointly illustrate from their distinct perspectives how civil aviation is shaping the sustainable mobility agenda, impacting urban development, supporting regional socio-economic prosperity and contributing towards an environmentally responsible transportation. This will happen through a series of events that are planned to be embedded in selected 2018 high-level conferences. Kick-off was the APSD side event during the “2018 Transforming Transportation” conference organized by the World Bank and EMBARQ, the sustainable mobility initiative of the World Resources Institute (WRI) Ross Center for Sustainable Cities.

3. APSD SIDE EVENT – “REACHING GLOBAL MARKETS: CONNECTING LLDCS’ CITIES THROUGH SUSTAINABLE AVIATION”

When: 13:15 – 14:30 hrs Wednesday 11 July 2018

Where: Conference room S-1520. Secretariat Building United Nations Headquarters, New York.

Registration: Open to HLPF participants

Overview: The APSD is organizing a side event at the margins of the 2018 High-Level Political Forum, focused on connecting Landlocked Developing Countries’ (LLDCs) cities to global markets through sustainable aviation.

Sustainable aviation is a driver for economic development, trade and tourism in all countries. 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 countries.

For the LLDCs, given their geographical location and isolation, aviation also represents an essential lifeline to connect to the rest of the world and help overcome the challenges of landlockedness. Air transport systems, in particular airports, are ideally positioned to connect the major cities of the LLDCs, which are the hubs of economic activity but are typically remote and isolated from global centres of economic activity, with the world markets. Greater use of air transport can also present opportunities for the LLDCs to diversify their export products and add value to their exports, contributing to the structural transformation of their economies.

Focusing on the prioritization and financing for development of sustainable air transport systems in LLDCs has the potential to unlock the benefits that sustainable aviation generates. Enhanced development and investment for aviation infrastructure that is sustainable, efficient, cost effective and connects with other modes of freight transport is required in the LLDCs to fully leverage its potential to connect their cities to global markets. Capacity building, transferring of know-how and strong public private partnerships are necessary to develop aviation and at the same time help overcome the associated high infrastructure costs.

The side event will contribute to the discussions of the contribution of aviation in achieving commitments made in the Vienna Programme of Action for the LLDCs (VPoA) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Vienna Programme of Action recognizes that the development and maintenance of aviation infrastructure services are essential to achieving sustainable development, and calls for specific actions to support its development. The UN General Assembly in its resolution 72/232 decided to hold a comprehensive high-level midterm review on the implementation of the VPoA in 2019. This side event will be part of the preparatory process and as one of the pre-conference thematic events, its outcome will contribute to the midterm review.

Objective: This side event aims at sensitizing decision-makers from LLDCs, transit countries and development partners on the contribution of air transport in connecting the landlocked developing countries to global networks and supporting socio-economic development. Additionally, it aims at encouraging dialogue and action on the solutions to the challenges faced by LLDCs in the aviation sector, including in the areas of infrastructure development, cross-border trade, urban development, financing of sustainable air transport systems, etc.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME
<p>MODERATOR: Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, UN-OHRLS</p>
<p>Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynote address - Paraguay (Chair of the Group of LLDCs): <i>National experience sharing with a specific focus on how aviation benefits the LLDCs’ socio-economic development.</i> • ICAO: <i>Benefits of prioritizing aviation in the urban development, with view to identify the driving force of aviation for enhancing connectivity of LLDC cities.</i> • University of Sydney; Institute of Transport and Logistics Studies, Dr. Xiaowen FU: <i>Modelling the Potential for Aviation Liberalization in Central Asia (via video)</i>
<p>National experience sharing by LLDCs: <i>Contribution of well-planned aviation infrastructure towards facilitating greater connectivity of LLDCs’ cities with global markets</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethiopia: <i>Best practices and principles in sustainable urban land use and land management around air transport infrastructure – the Addis Ababa airport</i> • Mongolia: • •
<p>Exchange of views and interactive discussion</p>