



Aviation's environment commitment to the Copenhagen Summit: letter from the Director General of IATA to the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr Ban Ki-moon

14 October 2009

Dear Mr Secretary General,

It was a great honor and pleasure to meet you and discuss the leadership role the international aviation industry is playing in addressing the challenge of climate change. I very much appreciate your recognition of our successful efforts to date and your endorsement of our aggressive targets moving forward. I also welcome your offer to help us convey this positive message to the COP-15 meeting in Copenhagen.

As we discussed, aviation serves as a role model for industries seeking to reduce their carbon footprint. The IATA four-pillar strategy has already resulted in a savings of 70 million tons of CO₂. Our commitments to carbon-neutral growth from 2020, 1.5% average annual improvement in fuel efficiency until that point and a 50% reduction in net emissions by 2050 compared to 2005 levels are more ambitious than what has been proposed by the ICAO member states. The broad industry, including manufacturers, airports and air navigation service providers as well as airlines, under the leadership of IATA, is united behind these targets and we will meet them.

The 7-9 October ICAO High Level Meeting on International Aviation and Climate Change was a preview of the difficult challenges that will be presented at Copenhagen, particularly by those countries committed to the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR). I am convinced that the positive story of international aviation, jointly working with the UN, can serve as an inspiration for other industries and member states that are hesitant to take the difficult steps to address this major global challenge.

As you noted, it is important that this positive message be understood and appreciated by the delegates to the COP-15 meeting in Copenhagen. To that end, as you have suggested, the international aviation industry, represented by IATA, will present jointly with ICAO these strong industry commitments to the COP-15 meeting. I would ask for your strong support for this proposal as we approach the December meeting.

Thank you again for your very warm reception, your generosity with your time and kind words of encouragement.

Sincerely,

Giovanni Bisignani
Director General and CEO
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