Dear Colleagues,

It was great to see many of you over the past month in person, and not on a screen, at IATA’s AGM in Boston, the Aviation Day in Honduras or the ALTA Leaders Forum in Colombia. There is a spirit of hope and collaboration between all stakeholders to move out of this crisis towards a new tomorrow and continue our push to restart air transport in the region and make it more competitive.

The main take-away of the AGM was the approval of a resolution that commits the industry to achieving net-zero carbon emissions from all operations by 2050. This pledge brings air transport in line with the objectives of the Paris agreement to limit global warming to 1.5°C. The real work begins now as the path forward will require a collective effort from all sectors within the aviation industry. We will pursue these activities jointly with our regional associations ALTA and A4A. At their recent AGM, ALTA adopted a regional resolution aligned with IATA’s global position, directly calling on Governments across Latin America and the Caribbean to work towards a more sustainable and efficient industry. We are planning to host a Regional Sustainability Summit during IATA’s Wings of Change Conference in Chile at the beginning of April 2022 to engage the entire supply chain and gain clear commitments from Governments across the region.

While in Bogota, we also had the opportunity to meet with Colombia’s President Iván Duque Márquez and presented a joint roadmap to enhance the conditions for a successful restart of aviation in the country and to correct Colombia’s infrastructure challenges at El Dorado International Airport (BOG). The President committed to work with the industry and agreed for IATA to conduct an efficiency study at BOG. We have strongly voiced our members’ concerns on the Ground Delay Program implemented at BOG during the last several months and were pleased to see that Aerocivil implemented several measures IATA and our members have been requesting, resulting in a significant increase of on-time performance metrics and allowing Aerocivil to increase capacity from 47 to 65 operations per hour.

This week also marks the re-opening of the US market to fully vaccinated passengers which not only reunites loved ones after 19 months but will further boost the recovery of air transport in our region.

As usual, please find IATA’s latest advocacy activities across the Americas below. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like us to take further action.

PETER CERDÁ
REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, THE AMERICAS

AIRLINE COMMITMENT TO NET ZERO 2050

Our commitment:

TO ACHIEVE NET ZERO CARBON EMISSIONS BY 2050

- Target aligned with Paris Agreement goal to keep global warming under 1.5 °C
- Aimed at keeping the benefit of global connectivity for future generations

WHAT WE NEED TO ACHIEVE NET ZERO BY 2050

Manufacturers
Accelerate research on airframe designs, electric/hydrogen propulsion

Air Navigation Service Providers
Catch up: implement Aviation System Block; upgrade programs (e.g., SES); collaborate on efficiencies, and prepare for electric and hydrogen aircraft

Governments
Policy support for SAF, and implement ICAO standards

Oil industry
Cost-competitive production of SAF

Corporates
Boost SAF purchase agreements

Researchers
Fast-track R&D on electric/hydrogen aircraft and CCUS

Investors & the carbon markets
New financial products to de-risk investment, and work with the aviation sector

Passengers
Be aware and support aviation’s decarbonization efforts
BRAZIL: USE OF JET A FUEL APPROVED
Following joint industry efforts, the National Agency for Petroleum, Natural Gas and Biofuels (ANP) approved an amendment to the specifications for fossil and alternative aviation kerosene allowed in Brazil, authorizing the introduction of Jet-A fuel in the country. This measure is expected to generate savings of about US$10 million/year for airlines operating in the country. For details, please contact IATA’s Country Manager for Brazil, Dany De Oliveira.

BRAZIL: CONTRIBUTION TO 7TH ROUND OF AIRPORT CONCESSIONS
IATA participated in the public hearing organized by ANAC to debate and collect contributions to the 7th Round of Airport Concessions for 16 airports to be transferred to private management. We presented arguments in defense of an efficient consultation process that allows for an adequate evolution of the investments to be made and that guarantees effective airline participation while avoiding any cost or fee increases for airlines. As a next step, IATA will deliver its written recommendations prepared jointly with its member airlines. The public consultation phase will end on November 8 and the auction will take place in the first quarter of 2022. For details, please contact IATA’s Assistant Director, External Relations for Brazil, Marcelo Pedroso.

CHILE: RIGHTS TO ENDORSE AND TO RETRACT FROM PURCHASE OF DOMESTIC TICKETS
Despite industry efforts advocating against the project of law that grant passengers the rights to endorse tickets and to retract from their purchase of domestic tickets, it was approved by the Congress on November 2. The following are its main aspects: 1) Endorsement of tickets, granting the right to transfer tickets at no cost up to 24 hours before departure, and a maximum of two tickets per carrier per year. 2) Right to retract from the purchase of flight up to 48 hours after purchase, no later than seven days before departure, and up to seven days after purchase of ticket for travel dates of at least 180 days since purchase. International flights are excluded. For more details, please contact IATA’s Country Manager for Chile, Gabriela Peralta.

COLOMBIA: NEWLY PUBLISHED SLOT REGULATION ALIGNED TO WASG ED1
Colombia’s Civil Aviation Authority published Resolution 2473 of 2021 updating its existing regulation on Slots. Based on feedback from IATA, the CAA included all the proposed changes related to the handling of new entrant and access to congested airports in Section 8 including the New Entrant definition and the new rules for allocation of new slots and additional criteria included in the WASG Ed1. Colombia becomes the first country to align to these latest international standards. For details, please contact IATA’s Assistant Director, Member & External Relations, Alejandro Munoz.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: AERODOM ANNOUNCES INCREASES FOR 2022
IATA is objecting to the increases communicated by AERODOM who average 6.3% on airport services and ground handling charges for the 5 airports under their concession contract, effective January 1, 2022. IATA requested to suspend the increases until 2023 which resulted in their decision to proceed on a two phased approach: 3.3% as of January 1, and 3.3% as of July 1, 2022. For details, contact IATA’s Area Manager for the Caribbean, Annaleen Lord.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: SUSPENSION OF PLANS TO BUILD NEW INTL’ AIRPORT IN BAVARO
In October 2020, the Dominican Civil Aviation Institute (IDAC) suspended the permit that the previous administration had issued for the construction of the Bavaro International Airport. The ruling was taken before the Superior Administrative Court (TSA) for judicial validation. IATA wrote to the Ministry of Public Works citing our concerns regarding the proximity of the new airport to PUJ which could result in financial, technical and operational issues in the existing airspace. In September 2021, the TSA declared the construction of the Bavaro Airport as “harmful for the general interest” and revoked the authorization to move ahead with the airport construction. For details, please contact IATA’s Area Manager for Caribbean, Annaleen Lord.

EL SALVADOR: ADOPTION OF BITCOIN NOT EXPECTED TO AFFECT BSP OPERATIONS
The government confirmed that while customers have the option to pay in either currency, it is at the vendor’s discretion to accept dollars or bitcoin. Agents and airlines can sell in either currency as long as the passenger uses an electronic wallet that charges bitcoin to the owner and pays dollars to the agent or airline. For details, please contact IATA’s Director of Financial Settlement & Distribution Services, The Americas, Alicia Lines.

EL SALVADOR: MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE REFORMULATES AGRICULTURAL FEE INITIATIVE
After revoking an initial proposal to charge a US$3.50 pyrotaxanian fee per passenger with destination to El Salvador, the Ministry of Agriculture reformulated the project following industry advocacy efforts and proposed a staggered implementation plan: Effective 1 January 2022, the new rate will be US$1.00 per pax; on June 1 2022, the fee will increase to US$1.50 per pax. We continue to request that the fees would only be applicable for tickets issued after these dates. For details, contact IATA’s Manager of Industry Relationships for Central America, Lucas Castrellon.

HONDURAS: AVIATION DAY – PARTICIPATION AND COMMITMENT FROM PRESIDENT
IATA held a successful Aviation Day in Honduras with the active participation of President Juan Orlando Hernandez and key Ministers of his cabinet, including Transport, Finance and Tourism. The country is taking positive steps towards improving its air connectivity through the construction of the new airport, providing incentives for airlines, and ratifying the Montreal Protocol on the treatment of unruly passengers. The President committed at the event to establish a working group with the industry focused on further improving the country’s connectivity by reviewing possible tax reductions, intra-Central American flights and dedicating resources to regain the FAA’s Category 1 safety rating. For details, please contact IATA’s Area Manager for Central America, Ecuador & Venezuela, David Hernandez.

USA: INDUSTRY CALLS FOR DELAY OF 5G DEPLOYMENT OVER ALTIMETER CONCERNS
IATA joined a coalition of aviation organizations in calling for a delay to the deployment of 5G technologies to the C-band until the safety and efficiency of the National Airspace System is ensured. In a letter to the National Economic Council (NEC), we urged collaboration with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to convene a joint industry working group to bring the aviation and telecommunications industries together to find a solution that will protect the flying public by ensuring radio altimeters operate accurately while allowing 5G to roll out safely. For details, contact IATA’s Assistant Director, Safety & Flight Operations, Kieran O’Carroll.