Net zero carbon 2050 resolution

Fact sheet

At the 77th IATA Annual General Meeting in Boston, USA, on 4 October 2021, a resolution was passed by IATA member airlines to reach net-zero carbon emissions from their operations by 2050. This pledge brings air transport in line with the temperature objectives of the Paris agreement.



Current projections estimate that demand for individual air passenger journeys in 2050 could exceed 10 billion.



The expected carbon emissions on a 'business as usual' trajectory over the 2021-2050 period is approximately 21.2 gigatons of CO2. Mitigating that amount of carbon will be an enormous technological challenge.

Success will require the coordinated combined efforts of the entire industry (airlines, airports, air

Contribution to achieving Net Zero Carbon in 2050



navigation service providers, manufacturers) and significant government support.

The net-zero objective will be met through a combination of maximum elimination of emissions at source and the use of approved offsetting and carbon capture technologies. The key elements of the emissions reduction strategy are:

- The use of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), sourced from feedstocks that do not degrade the environment or compete with food or water
- Investment in new aircraft technology, including radical new aerodynamic and alternative propulsion (electric or hydrogen) solutions
- Continued improvement in infrastructure and operational efficiency, with a particular focus on improved air traffic management
- The use of approved offsets including carbon capture and storage technology

