

COP29 UN System Side Event:

Decarbonizing Transport: Policies and Strategies for civil aviation, maritime and inland transport

20 November 2024 (15:00 to 16:30), Blue Zone

Draft Concept Note

Event Summary

Background

The transport sector accounts for about 23% of global energy-related CO₂ emissions. The latest IPCC report (2022) indicates that aviation is responsible for approximately 2.4% of total anthropogenic emissions of CO₂ (including land-use change) on an annual basis¹, while estimated total emissions from maritime transport correspond to 2–3% of total anthropogenic emissions.² Inland transport contributed more than 72% of **global energy-related CO₂ emissions**³ in the transport sector, with 69% stemming from road transport.

Emissions from inland transport are to be included as part of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. Emissions from international aviation and maritime sectors are not part of the Paris Agreement NDCs and they are addressed by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), respectively.

The event will cover 3 pillars of transport addressed by the United Nations– **international civil aviation (ICAO), inland transport (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Inland Transport Committee (ITC)) and international shipping (IMO)** – to outline their respective policies and strategies and share their plans and actions to decarbonize each transport sector, demonstrating the shared commitment of these organizations and their respective Member States to decarbonize their respective transport sectors.

- In 2022, the **ICAO** Assembly adopted the Long-term Aspirational Goal (LTAG) of Net-Zero carbon emissions by 2050⁴, following the setting of previous global aspirational goals of carbon neutral growth from 2020⁵. Furthermore, the Third ICAO Conference on Aviation and Alternative Fuels (CAAF/3) [in November 2023](#) took a landmark decision to accelerate the global scale-up in the development, production and deployment of aviation cleaner energies, by adopting the [ICAO Global Framework for Sustainable Aviation Fuels \(SAF\), Lower Carbon Aviation Fuels \(LCAF\) and other Aviation Cleaner Energies](#).

¹ IPCC, 2022: *Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change. Contribution of Working Group III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*, p. 1086. International Energy Agency (2020), World Energy Model.

² *Ibid*, p. 1093

³ *Ibid*, p. 1056.

⁴ Through Resolution A41-21

⁵ 2% annual fuel efficiency improvement through 2050 and carbon neutral growth from 2020 onwards, initially adopted by the ICAO Assembly in 2010 and reaffirmed in 2013 and 2016.

- In July 2023,⁶ **IMO** adopted its [2023 IMO Strategy on Reduction of GHG Emissions From Ships](#) setting out a net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) ambition to be achieved by or around, i.e., close to, 2050 for international shipping. The IMO is currently working on a new set of globally binding climate measures for the shipping industry designed to achieve net-zero target, to be adopted in the autumn of 2025 and to enter into force in 2027.
- In February 2024, **UNECE's Inland Transport Committee (ITC)** adopted its landmark Decarbonization Strategy⁷ with the aspirational goal of net zero greenhouse gas emissions from inland transport by 2050. ITC is the UN platform for all modes of inland transport and was formally recognized as UN centre for inland transport by the Economic and Social Council in 2022.

Objectives

The event will highlight the recent progress made by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in addressing the impact of their respective transport sectors on climate change.

While each of these transport sectors faces distinct challenges and solutions to reduce GHG emissions, they share a common ambition to transition to low- or zero-carbon fuels, technologies and infrastructure. The event will provide a unique platform to showcase how their respective Member States and key stakeholders are contributing to the implementation of action to achieve ambitious goals.

Logistics

- Date: 20 November 2024 | Urbanization / Transport / Tourism Day
- Time: 15:00 – 16:30
- Venue: Blue Zone, Room: Side Event 6
- Format: In person | open door meeting (**online streaming tbd**)

Organized jointly by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

Event Format

The event will begin with a high-level opening session with remarks from participating ministers and high-level representatives from each Organization (ICAO, IMO, UNECE). The event will then continue with 3 sessions, each one highlighting the achievements made by the respective UN organizations on International Aviation, International Shipping, Inland Transport, including perspectives from their Member State representatives. Finally, the event will conclude with a session presenting perspectives from the energy sector and civil society on the clean energy transition and decarbonization strategies across the different transport sectors.

⁶ By the adoption of Resolution MEPC.377(80)

⁷ As contained in Annex I to [ECE/TRANS/344](#).