

Open letter dated 07 November 2012 to;

H.E. Raymond Benjamin, Secretary General, ICAO
H.E. Roberto Kobeh González, President of ICAO Council
The Permanent Representatives to ICAO
ICAO, International Civil Aviation Organisation,
999 University Street, Montréal, Quebec H3C 5H7, Canada

Dear Secretary General Benjamin, President Kobeh and Permanent Representatives,

Our organizations, representing concerned citizens around the world, write to call on you to redouble your efforts to develop a proposal for a global aviation market-based measure (MBM). Last January you announced that ICAO would present a proposal by the end of the year. Midway through the year you announced that the proposal would be presented by March 2013. The world is waiting. Timing is crucial. NGOs and industry agree, as indeed does the EU which signalled nine months ago that it was ready to adapt its legislation to any adequate ICAO agreement.

ICAO member states already have the authority through their adherence to the Chicago Convention to implement an ICAO-agreed global MBM using their existing legal authorities. But all we have today is the work of internal experts which has yet to receive any political direction or outside scrutiny. It is imperative that this week's ICAO Council meeting take the necessary political decisions that will enable the next triennial Assembly in September 2013 to agree the specific details of an ICAO global MBM. This means that the March 2013 Council must be enabled to decide on all key parameters. Missing this timetable means ICAO will have again failed to meet its defining environmental responsibility.

We urge that you ensure the November Council agrees a timetable/structure for a political and technical process to answer these questions prior to its session in March.

- that any global MBM be of high environmental integrity
- that the participating entity in an MBM should be operators, not states
- that any MBM should include all airline emissions in a carbon pricing mechanism while respecting differentiation
- that resolving developing country concerns be a key priority and therefore;
- that any MBM should include revenue generation which is capable of being used both for international climate finance – such as assisting climate action in developing countries via the Green Climate Fund - and for further emissions reduction measures within the sector
- that route-based options for an MBM as a means of addressing states' concerns about differentiation should be considered in greater depth
- that the quality of offsets needs close examination so that any access to offsets represents real and additional net reductions in total emissions.
- that the basis of any MBM framework/global MBM should be outbound flights
- that agreement on a framework nullifies any need for mutual agreement
- that work on a framework must not delay agreement on a global MBM.

ICAO's decision in 2004 to eschew the pursuit of a global measure is at the heart of today's dispute. You have undertaken to reverse this and bring forward a global proposal this year. NGOs representing concerned citizens from a wide range of countries call on you, on the Council members and the membership of ICAO to take the right action now to be able to agree in 2013 on a global MBM which delivers meaningful emissions reductions. Failure to do so would be a tragedy for ICAO, for industry and for the climate.

Yours sincerely

Signed by the following NGOs:

Aviation Environment Federation
Bread for the World
CAN Europe
CDM Watch
Centre for Social Markets (India)
Climate Action Monaro
Concerned Citizens against Climate Change
Conservation Council of South Australia
Earthjustice
Environmental Defense Fund
Fédération Inter-Environnement Wallonie
Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign
Germanwatch
Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement, International, Lomé
Lighter Footprints
Mackay Conservation Group
Milieudefensie FoE Netherlands
Naturefriends International
NABU
Oxfam
Quercus
RAC-France
Sustainable Population Australia
Tearfund
Transform Scotland
Transport & Environment
WWF International

