Aviation and Offsets:

The future of aviation climate action?

Aoife O'Leary July 2013



Aviation Radiative Forcing 5% of Global



International and Domestic Aviation Fuel Burn by Region in 2010



IEA, 2012a; IEA, 2012b



Under a 2°C emissions pathway, without a MBM, aviation could account for 4-15% of total median CO₂ equivalent emissions





David Lee 2013: Carbon Neutral Growth 2020 Gap



Top 20 Aviation Emitters in 2009 (non-Annex I in red)

Ranking	Country	% Share in 2009	Ranking	Country	% Share in 2009
1	USA	15.14	11	Ireland	2.23
2	China	8.02	12	Canada	1.93
3	Germany	7.31	13	Australia	1.93
4	UK	6.34	14	Thailand	1.82
5	UAE	6.08	15	Spain	1.77
6	France	4.78	16	Qatar	1.56
7	Korea	4.34	17	Malaysia	1.46
8	Netherlands	3.65	18	Russia	1.44
9	Singapore	3.61	19	India	1.42
10	Japan	3.53	20	Turkey	1.35



Top 20 account for 80% of emissions

Past and Future by Region



1974 to 2009

2020 to 2050



ICAO History of Inaction

- 1996: ICAO first considers climate impact of aviation
- •1997: Kyoto Protocol gives ICAO the task of reducing/limiting emissions
- •2008: 11 years of inaction in ICAO: EU includes aviation in EU ETS
- •2010: ICAO Assembly adopts guiding principles for a MBM and development by 2013 of a Framework
- •2013 (June): IATA (industry body) says it wants global offsetting
- •2013 (Sept): ICAO Assembly (only every 3 years)



Current ICAO Deadlock

•Three options for MBMs on the table:

- Offsetting
- Offsetting plus a revenue generation mechanism
- A cap and trade emissions trading system
- •Non-MBM Measures
- •Ticket Taxes in Member States



Country Positions

- India & BRICS say no need for developing countries to act
- Very little support for revenue generating option
- No discussion on targets in HGCC (though CNG adopted by default), options, allocation
- Re Framework: US declared support for airspace as geographic scope; explicit acknowledgment that it is environmentally ineffective
- Countries like Singapore, Gulf States jump on bandwagon i.e. these countries probably won't be helpful



Challenges for a Global Deal

- First time developing countries take on a reduction target = UNFCCC precedents?
- If offset regime, first time developing country entities buy offsets from themselves?
- Aviation wants to be given unlimited licence to grow alien concept in UNFCCC
- The biggest and fastest growing aviation market is China
- Setting up a registry and ETS is costly, especially for developing countries



Discussion

- Given the weak target (unlimited licence to grow) how much pressure can we put on higher targets, and if so when?
- What can additional incentives for in-sector reductions and nonmarket based basket of measures do?
- Do we agree that emissions trading has advantages over offsetting?
- For regions where ETS is too complex to set up, would a dual approach using both ETS in some places and offsetting in others work?
- At what level do we address quality?

