

Air Travel Policy Measure Proposal: Keeping Global Air Travel Constant

Global air travel emissions reduction plan 1

This proposal offers a comprehensive policy measure package to regulate air travel and maintain its levels while addressing environmental concerns from January 2024 to December 2030. Acknowledging the rebound in air traffic, urgent action is required to curb aviation emissions sustainably. The policy package comprises eight key sections. It introduces a global carbon pricing mechanism, incentivizing airlines to reduce emissions, and establishes an international offsetting program to neutralize aviation's carbon footprint. Encouraging sustainable aviation technology, funds are allocated for research and development in low-emission aircraft. To influence traveler behavior, the proposal introduces individual flight quotas and frequency-based ticket pricing to discourage excessive flying. Simultaneously, it promotes sustainable alternatives like high-speed rail and virtual meetings to reduce short-haul flights. Transparency is emphasized, with airlines mandated to disclose carbon footprints during booking, empowering passengers to make informed choices. Collaborative international agreements set emission reduction targets, ensuring global accountability. Lastly, a just transition approach fosters green job opportunities and equitable access to sustainable travel options for all communities. Together, these measures form a robust framework to mitigate aviation emissions and foster a sustainable future for global air travel.

Time Horizon

This package aims for the time from January, 2024 to December, 2030. The global Civil democracy community agrees to demand the parties at COP 28 to agree on the following positions:

1 Carbon Pricing and Offset Program

1.1 Global Carbon Pricing Mechanism

Implement a globally coordinated carbon pricing mechanism specific to the aviation industry, imposing a fee per ton of CO₂ emitted during flights. The pricing mechanism will gradually increase over the time horizon to incentivize airlines to reduce emissions.

1.2 International Offsetting Program

Establish an international offsetting program, requiring airlines to invest in certified sustainable projects to compensate for their aviation emissions. The program will support initiatives such as renewable energy, reforestation, and carbon capture to offset the carbon footprint of air travel.

2 Sustainable Aviation Technology and Innovation

2.1 Research and Development

Allocate funds for research and development in sustainable aviation technologies, including electric or hybrid aircraft and advanced air traffic management systems. Encourage the

aviation industry to adopt and scale up these technologies to reduce carbon emissions.

2.2 Incentives for Green Initiatives

Provide tax incentives and grants to airlines that invest in sustainable practices, such as using biofuels, adopting more fuel-efficient engines, and implementing operational measures to reduce fuel consumption.

3 Flight Quotas and Frequency-Based Ticket Pricing

3.1 Individual Flight Quotas

Introduce individual flight quotas based on frequency and distance traveled. Implement an escalating pricing structure for flights beyond the allocated quota to discourage excessive air travel.

3.2 Frequency-Based Ticket Pricing

Develop a pricing model that factors in the number of flights taken by individuals within a specific period. Higher ticket prices will apply to frequent flyers, promoting responsible travel choices.

4 Sustainable Alternatives and Modal Shift

4.1 Investment in Sustainable Transportation

Redirect funds towards the development and expansion of sustainable transportation alternatives, such as high-speed rail networks, to reduce the demand for short-haul flights.

4.2 Promotion of Staycations and Virtual Meetings

Encourage local tourism and virtual conferencing as alternatives to long-distance air travel for both business and leisure purposes.

5 Transparency and Passenger Awareness

5.1 Carbon Footprint Labeling

Mandate airlines to display the carbon footprint of each flight during the booking process, empowering passengers to make informed decisions about their travel choices.

5.2 Education and Awareness Campaigns

Launch global campaigns to raise awareness about the environmental impact of air travel and the benefits of sustainable alternatives.

6 Sustainable Airport Infrastructure and Operations

6.1 Green Airport Certifications

Establish international standards for sustainable airport infrastructure and operations. Recognize and reward airports that implement eco-friendly measures, such as renewable energy adoption and waste reduction.

6.2 Efficient Ground Operations

Encourage airlines to adopt fuel-efficient ground operations, optimize taxiing routes, and reduce idling time to minimize emissions during airport operations.

7 Collaborative International Agreements

7.1 Global Aviation Emission Reduction Targets

Develop and adopt ambitious global emission reduction targets for the aviation sector, encouraging all nations to work collectively towards a low-carbon aviation future.

7.2 Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism

Establish a new international body to monitor and report on national compliance with the global aviation emission reduction framework. Regular assessments will ensure accountability and drive action.

8 Just Transition and Social Impact

8.1 Equitable Access to Sustainable Travel

Ensure equitable access to sustainable transportation options for all communities, including marginalized and remote regions, to promote inclusivity and social justice.

8.2 Green Jobs and Training Programs

Invest in training programs and job opportunities in the sustainable aviation sector, supporting a just transition for workers and communities affected by potential reductions in air travel demand.

9 Conclusion

This policy measure package aims to regulate air travel, keeping global air travel constant over the specified time horizon while prioritizing sustainability and environmental protection. By combining various measures, such as carbon pricing, sustainable technology adoption, flight quotas, and transparency, we can work towards a more balanced and eco-conscious aviation industry. The collaborative international approach and monitoring mechanism will ensure global compliance and progress towards a low-carbon future for air travel.