



ICAO

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF AIR TRANSPORT'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

This Strategic Objective demonstrates ICAO's global leadership in harmonizing air transport frameworks focused on economic policies and infrastructure management and financing. Main priorities today include increased liberalization leading to improved global connectivity for passengers and business.

The mapping below correlates Economic Development of Air Transport activities and deliverables contained in the ICAO Business Plan with the supporting targets of the Sustainable Development Goals ([SDGs](#)). Economic Development of Air Transport related activities contribute to 13 out of 17 SDGs and relevant supporting targets.



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF AIR TRANSPORT'S CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 1:

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Supporting Target(s): 1.4; 1.a

ICAO Activity

ICAO developed a strategic planning document for a possible Global Air Transport Plan (GATP) with the objective to provide a long-term vision and aspirational goals in harmonizing the air transport framework in all Member States and to set the strategy to foster the development of a sound and economically-viable civil aviation system globally through targeted economic policies and supporting activities. The results of these endeavours will contribute to the growth of civil aviation activities and the efficiency of air transport; hence, to the global economy and the expansion of trade and tourism. These activities promote that all men and women have access to economic resources, transportation services and new technologies.

ICAO facilitates States' access to financial resources to be invested in connectivity and infrastructure improvement projects that can assist States in taking poverty alleviating actions and in dealing with emergency situations. The Organization also analyses and facilitates the flow of financial resources and Enhanced Integrated Framework ([EIF](#)) for trade-related assistance for Least Developed Countries ([LDCs](#)).

Furthermore, ICAO promotes the importance of connectivity and air liberalization, through partnerships with other UN agencies (e.g. [UNWTO](#)), regional and global meetings and subsequent declarations (e.g. the 2018 Guyana Declaration on Sustainable Air Transport Development), as drivers for better access to transportation of passengers and goods, such as humanitarian aid. These activities contribute to SDG 1 by ensuring significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources and contributing to the provision of adequate and predictable means to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its forms, in particular [LDCs](#).



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF AIR TRANSPORT'S CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 3:

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Supporting Target(s): 3.d

ICAO Activity

ICAO, jointly with the World Health Organization ([WHO](#)), conducts studies on the linkages between air transport, health and their economic impact. The Organization then delivers and promotes the results of these economic analyses on emerging issues of global importance with other international organizations. ICAO and WHO collaborated on vector control mapping and aircraft disinsection initiatives, which resulted in a review of WHO recommendations and a request from WHO to use the ICAO Risk Assessment and Disinsection Decision Making Tool (currently under development by ICAO) as a basis for further development and recommendations. ICAO also strengthened its working relationship with the World Economic Forum ([WEF](#)) by participating in the Epidemics Readiness Accelerator project to improve global health security.



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF AIR TRANSPORT'S CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 4:

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Supporting Target(s): 4.4

ICAO Activity

ICAO has numerous training and events focused on assisting States in implementing ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices ([SARPs](#)), policies and programmes. The Organization supports human resources development strategies established by Member States to ensure their access to an adequate number of competent personnel to operate the air transport system based on international standards for all its Strategic Objectives, including Economic Development of Air Transport. ICAO training activities encompass training development and delivery of courses in areas in which ICAO has intellectual property, such as Global Plans and [SARPs](#), and are accomplished through the TRAINAIR PLUS Programme, ICAO's network of recognized training organizations and industry partners. ICAO also partners with other key players in the industry to provide holistic training courses on various areas of expertise relating to Economic Development (Course on Airport Charges with [ACI](#)) and delivers workshops and seminars on Air Transport Regulatory Policy and Airport and Air Navigation Services. An ICAO Training Catalogue listing courses under specialized training areas, including Economic Development of Air Transport, is available at <https://www.icao.int/training/Pages/Training-Catalogue.aspx>.

ICAO also convenes global and regional aviation training events to provide participants with international fora to exchange best practices in aviation training, discuss opportunities for the enhancement of human resources development, and identify new effective training tools and techniques. These efforts contribute to provide quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities to all. For example: a regional Aviation Data and Analysis Seminar, held in conjunction with the African Airlines Association ([AFRAA](#)), which included presentations on the latest applications in data and analytics used for efficient decision making, implementation of information systems for improved airline efficiency as well as improved economics of airports and ANSPs.

ICAO leads the Next Generation of Aviation Professionals Programme ([NGAP](#)) that aims at ensuring that enough qualified and competent aviation professionals are available to operate, manage and maintain the future international air transport system. ICAO is working with stakeholders to develop an Operational Plan for the NGAP Programme. Specific objectives for the NGAP Programme Working Groups have been developed and will continue to be updated as work progresses and will be incorporated into the NGAP Programme Operational Plan. ICAO convened two NGAP Global Summits, where the Organization made engagements with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization ([UNESCO](#)), International Labour Organization ([ILO](#)), the International Telecommunication Union ([ITU](#)) and [UN Women](#) to jointly support the NGAP Programme.

These activities contribute to SDG 4 by increasing the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF AIR TRANSPORT'S CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 5:

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Supporting Target(s): 5.5; 5.c

ICAO Activity

ICAO's Gender Equality Programme aims at promoting participation of and enhanced representation of women at all professional posts and higher levels of employment in the global aviation sector. The Programme also urges States, regional and international aviation organizations and the international aviation industry to demonstrate strong, determined leadership and commitment to advance women's rights and to take the necessary measures to strengthen gender equality. In 2018, the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) and ICAO hosted the first ever [Global Aviation Gender Summit](#). This gathering was supported by the Government of the Republic of South Africa, through the Department of Transport. The Summit was co-organized by SACAA and ICAO, in collaboration with [UNESCO](#). [UN Women](#) supported the development of the Summit's programme. The Summit concluded with the adoption of a communique detailing a set of concrete actions that will advance the implementation of Assembly Resolution A39/30 and globally accelerate gender equality as well as empower women throughout the aviation sector.

ICAO collaborates with Member States, aviation industry partners and professional associations, academia, and the UN system on programmes and projects to attract young girls to aerospace and to assist in providing career development opportunities to women working in aviation by undertaking professional assignments at ICAO through which they are able to contribute to specific aspects of the Organization's technical work programmes. These principles are also embedded in the Next Generation of Aviation Professionals Programme ([NGAP](#)). ICAO also hosts networking and outreach events aimed at raising awareness for gender in aviation and the advancement of talented women within the global aviation community.

For enhanced statistical and analytical data collection, ICAO has proposed the creation of a new ICAO Air Transport Reporting Form to effectively collect data on aviation licensed personnel segmented by gender and age. ICAO has also coordinated with other United Nations bodies and is harmonizing the proposed form aiming for a final version ready to be sent to Member States for the 2020 reporting. Analysis stemming from such a rich and whole data source will support decision makers to create and to invest opportunities to foster gender equality in aviation.

These efforts contribute to SDG 5 by promoting equal leadership opportunities for women and encouraging their full participation in aviation.



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF AIR TRANSPORT'S CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 7:

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Supporting Target(s): 7.a

ICAO Activity

ICAO develops, harmonizes and updates aviation-related forecasts to support air navigation planning that feed into the work of the Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection ([CAEP](#)). The harmonization of traffic databases in support of aviation development and air navigation planning also provides fuel consumption data to enable reports on CO₂ emissions to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ([UNFCCC](#)). ICAO participates in the UNFCCC's Conference of the Parties ([COP](#)). For example in Katowice, Poland during the COP24, ICAO provided a statement and submissions related to recent developments on international aviation and climate change (<https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/Pages/statements.aspx>).

ICAO also conducts studies on the economic aspects of the environmental and social impacts of aviation and promotes the results of these economic analyses on emerging issues of global importance with other international organisations.

ICAO also partners with academia to develop an air transport diagnostics project with the objective to analyze the complex dynamics and interlinkages between the various policy factors and market realities that influence the competitive strategies of aviation stakeholders. The project aims to provide valuable insights to policymakers to support works in connectivity optimization and consequently maintaining a sustainable growth of air transport.

Through this stream of activities, ICAO contributes to SDG 7 by enhancing international cooperation to optimize the air transport networks and connectivity with the aim to bring the aviation industry to the highest standards of effectiveness and sustainability.



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF AIR TRANSPORT'S CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 8:

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Supporting Target(s):): 8.1; 8.2; 8.5; 8.6; 8.8; 8.9; 8.a

ICAO Activity

The organization provides tools to enhance the transparency of the air transport regulatory framework and encourage its development, including ICAO aeronautical charges, the ICAO on-line Compendium of Competition Policies and Practices, and a database on world's air services agreements ([WASA](#)). ICAO also facilitates States' air services negotiations through the annual ICAO Air Services Negotiation Event ([ICAN](#)) and provides principles on consumer protection and policies on taxation. ICAO develops guidance material on air cargo services, conducts studies on aircraft leasing and on business and general aviation services. These activities directly support the target of achieving higher levels of economic productivity on the long term through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation.

ICAO is developing a methodological framework document on the [Aviation Satellite Account](#) to measure the size of aviation-related direct gross domestic product (GDP) and to evaluate the economic contribution of aviation safety and air navigation related projects. The Organization also publishes the Aviation Benefits Report, in cooperation with related industry organizations, which provides a comprehensive view of the importance of aviation on supporting the global economy and generating social benefits through the prism of sustainable air transport solutions.

ICAO has initiated the development of a template study to measure the economic impact of policy changes in Small Island Developing Countries (SIDS), where aviation represents an essential lifeline to enhance connectivity in turn promoting greater tourism, trade and other vital business activities.

ICAO develops, updates and customizes licensed personnel requirement and long-term traffic as well as air navigation planning forecasts, provides fuel consumption data that enable reports on CO2 emissions to the [UNFCCC](#) and harmonizes traffic databases.

ICAO assures that ICAO Member States priorities are reflected in tourism policies through the World Tourism Organization ([UNWTO](#)) and trade in services negotiations through the World Trade Organization ([WTO](#)). ICAO has been conducting follow-up work to implement a Ministerial Declaration and Framework for a Plan of Action for Air Transport and Tourism Development in Africa adopted at the ICAO/UNWTO Ministerial Conference on Air Transport and Tourism in Africa in 2019.

In coordination with the International Labour Organization ([ILO](#)), ICAO will conduct economic analyses on the effectiveness of social regulations that can affect aviation safety, aviation medicine and security, which contribute to SDG 8 by fostering protection of labour rights and the promotion of safe and secure environments for all workers.



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF AIR TRANSPORT'S CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 9:

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Supporting Target(s): 9.1; 9.2; 9.5; 9.a; 9.b

ICAO Activity

ICAO is the custodian agency of global indicator 9.1.2 Passenger and Freight Volumes, by Mode of Transport. The data and analysis provided is reflected in the annual global SDG report and in the [online UN platform](#) for monitoring the progress towards the SDGs. This indicator assists ICAO Member States to monitor and benchmark air transport infrastructure and to facilitate related investments. These actions drive the sustainable growth of air transport and benefit from the potential offered by intermodal transport.

ICAO has developed a strategic planning document for a possible Global Air Transport Plan (GATP), in which “no constraints of infrastructure capacity, technology and financial resources for aviation development” is included as one of the aspirational goals. Quality aviation infrastructure should safely accommodate the increase in air traffic demand, and respond to the diversified needs of providers, users and consumers, global environmental concerns, and other issues inherent in the current air transport systems.

Efforts were made on providing practical guidance and tools to assist States in conducting analysis to support financing airport and air navigation infrastructure. For example, ICAO is now developing new guidance on business case, cost-benefit analysis, economic impact analysis and cost-effectiveness analysis, aiming at providing detailed explanation on how to use and undertake these assessment techniques to evaluate economic and financial analysis of major aviation infrastructure projects, including Aviation System Block Upgrades ([ASBUs](#)).

ICAO also facilitates States’ air service negotiations through the annual ICAO Air Services Negotiation Event ([ICAN](#)) and provides principles on consumer protection and policies on taxation. ICAO develops guidance material on air cargo services, conducts studies on aircraft leasing and on business and general aviation services.

ICAO also enables for a favorable environment through the ICAO World Aviation Forum ([IWAF](#)). These provide a platform for high-level government officials responsible for aviation, transport, economic planning and international development to exchange on policies, business models, regulatory processes and governance in support of a sustainable social, economic and environmental development of the regions.

ICAO develops, updates and customizes licensed personnel requirement and long-term traffic as well as air navigation planning forecasts, provides fuel consumption data that enable reports on CO2 emissions to the [UNFCCC](#) and harmonizes traffic databases.

These activities contribute to SDG 9 by developing quality, reliable and resilient infrastructure, promoting innovation and sustainable industrialization, by supporting economic development and human wellbeing on the long term, by enhancing scientific research, and by leading to an upgrade in the technological capabilities of the aviation sectors concerned.



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF AIR TRANSPORT'S CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 10:

Reduce inequality within and among countries

Supporting Target(s): 10.3 ; 10.b

ICAO Activity

As suggested by its Council, ICAO launched the No Country Left Behind ([NCLB](#)) initiative to assist States that continue to face challenges in effectively implementing these [SARPs](#) policies, plans and programmes and with the resolution of Significant Safety and Security Concerns (SSCs and SSeCs). The [NCLB](#) is implemented through ICAO's day-to-day operations by focusing and expanding assistance so that all States have an equal opportunity for development.

This initiative contributes to SDG 10 in reducing inequalities by promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action for the safe development of an air transport system.

ICAO also facilitates States' air service negotiations through the ICAO Air Services Negotiation Event ([ICAN](#)) and provides principles on consumer protection and policies on taxation. The implementation of these strategies contribute to SDG 10 by promoting equal opportunity and reduction of inequalities of outcome, and by discouraging discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action.

The Organization conducts studies on regional differences in airline operating economics to support the global airline revenue prorationing system, annually calculates the air mail basic conveyance rate for the Universal Postal Union ([UPU](#)). ICAO develops guidance material on air cargo services, conducts studies on aircraft leasing and on business and general aviation services. All of these activities contribute to ensuring equal opportunity by reducing inequalities through the promotion of appropriate policies.

ICAO cooperates with related industry organizations on the publication of the [Aviation Benefits Report](#), which underlines, inter alia, the importance of the provision of essential air services by States. Due to their low commercial profitability, certain air services would not be naturally provided by private stakeholders, but adequate levels of air services vital for life, health and business participation may maximize a State's economic and social benefits. Furthermore, the assurance of essential air services will facilitate and even drive economic development, primarily through stimulating inward tourism and investments.



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF AIR TRANSPORT'S CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 11:

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Supporting Target(s): 11.2; 11.3

ICAO Activity

The work of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport (2016) and the Global Sustainable Transport Conference (Ashgabat, 2016) highlighted the need to integrate all sustainable transport planning efforts with balanced development of transport modes. Intermodal or multi-modal connectivity with air transport should encompass all modes of transportation flows to, from and within the airport.

ICAO is strongly committed to promoting air connectivity, including urban air mobility, as a vital driver in the development of strategic and integrated transport infrastructures enhancing the mobility of people and businesses travelling or transporting goods throughout all transportation methods. The ICAO World Aviation Forum ([IWAF](#)) provides a platform for high-level government officials responsible for aviation, transport, economic planning and international development to exchange on policies, business models, regulatory processes and governance in support of a sustainable social, economic and environmental development of the regions.

With these activities, ICAO contributes to SDG 11 by facilitating access to safe, affordable and sustainable transport systems for all, which will contribute to enhancing inclusive and sustainable urbanization as well as integrated and sustainable human settlement planning. These actions are also consistent with the sustainable aviation development linkages contained in the [New Urban Agenda](#).



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF AIR TRANSPORT'S CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 12:

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Supporting Target(s): 12.b

ICAO Activity

Through strengthened partnerships on collection, analysis and dissemination of data with other organizations and academia, such as Airports Council International ([ACI](#)), World Trade Organization ([UNWTO](#)), [World Bank](#), International Labor Organization ([ILO](#)), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development ([UNCTAD](#)), Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development ([OECD](#)), International Transport Forum ([ITF](#)), ICAO rationalizes data management and reduces costs, modernizes and re-engineers business processes under the Enterprise Data Management framework with the UN Statistical Commission's endorsement.

These activities contribute to SDG 12 by development of tools to monitor the sustainable development impacts of sustainable tourism in the creation of local jobs.



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF AIR TRANSPORT'S CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 13:

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Supporting Target(s): 13.3

ICAO Activity

ICAO conducts studies on the economic, environmental and social impacts of aviation and shares the results with other international organisation. ICAO also works to support States in dealing with emergency situations by providing economic data for disaster relief activities.

Through data reporting and preparedness activities, the organization contributes SDG 13 by raising awareness, educating and building institutional capacity on climate change mitigation and consequent impacts reaction.



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF AIR TRANSPORT'S CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 16:

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Supporting Target(s): 16.3; 16.10

ICAO Activity

The functions of the Secretariat of the organization in the legal field, include the provision of legal advice and assistance to ICAO Member States, and the governing bodies of the Organization, the President of the Council and the Secretary General; research and studies in international air law to promote its codification and, development; and assistance to the Council in the settlement of disputes between Member States. It also executes depositary and treaty registration functions in relation to certain international agreements which ensures public access to information. In carrying out these functions, ICAO contributes to SDG 16 by promoting the rule of law at the national and international level.



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF AIR TRANSPORT'S CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 17:

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Supporting Target(s): 17.1 ; 17.2 ; 17.3 ; 17.6 ; 17.7 ; 17.8 ; 17.9 ; 17.11 ; 17.13 ; 17.14 ; 17.15 ; 17.16 ; 17.17 ; 17.19

ICAO Activity

ICAO has developed a strategic planning document for a possible Global Air Transport Plan (GATP), which calls for strong partnerships among all the stakeholders to foster a sound and economically-viable civil aviation system globally. The aim is to modernize the global air transport regulatory framework with the long term vision of liberalizing international air transport that will promote tourism and trade in all ICAO Member States. ICAO facilitates States' air service negotiations through the ICAO Air Services Negotiation Event ([ICAN](#)) and provides principles on consumer protection and policies on taxation. By supporting States in establishing regulatory and policy frameworks, ICAO assists them in strengthening domestic resource mobilization by improving domestic capacity for tax and revenue collection and promoting effective [public-private partnerships](#).

The Organization assists States in developing strategies to implement technical cooperation and technical assistance projects and explores additional sources of funding from multiple sources to implement effective and targeted capacity-building to support national plans. In this respect, ICAO developed guidance to support a national aviation planning framework aimed at providing those responsible for sustainable development within a Civil Aviation Authority and other governmental entities with the context required to ensure that all relevant aspects of aviation are included in the strategic planning processes. ICAO also runs the ICAO Programme for Aviation Volunteers ([IPAV](#)). ICAO develops new policies and guidance material to facilitate availability of funding and financing to implement air transport development projects, including Aviation System Block Upgrades ([ASBUs](#)) and related cost-benefit analyses, safety, security and economic oversight functions, including Regional Safety Oversight Organizations ([RSOOs](#)), as well as analysis of [public-private partnerships](#).

Furthermore, ICAO promotes the importance of connectivity and air liberalization, through partnerships with other UN agencies (e.g. [UNWTO](#)), regional and global meetings and subsequent declarations (most recently the 2018 Guyana Declaration on Sustainable Air Transport Development), as drivers for better access to transportation of passengers and goods.

By doing so, ICAO provides a basis of international support to States, identifies donors and develops specific resource mobilization strategies to be integrated in their national plans, specifically in developing countries. ICAO encourages various types of partnerships focused on sharing of knowledge, expertise, technology and resources and performing targeted capacity building projects to facilitate the implementation of the sustainable development goals thus increasing policy coherence. The Secretariat developed a Partnership Framework with the aim to provide guidance on the policies, processes and procedures related to ICAO partnership activities in support of the SDGs.

ICAO's [Aviation Satellite Account](#) aims at measuring the size of aviation-related direct gross domestic product (GDP) and to evaluate the economic contribution of aviation safety and air navigation related projects. The Organization also publishes an Annual Economic Contribution Report, quantifies the impact of liberalization on traffic, fares and economies, develops, updates and customizes licensed personnel requirement and long-term traffic as well as air navigation planning forecasts, provides fuel consumption data that enable reports on CO2 emissions to the [UNFCCC](#) and harmonizes traffic databases. By performing these activities, ICAO enters into numerous partnerships that increase access to science, technology and innovation as well as mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the SDGs in all countries, in particular those developing. The outcomes together with the development of measurements of progress on various topics enhances policy coherence while respecting each country's policy space and thus contribute to increasing macroeconomic stability.

The Organization also collects e-commerce data jointly with the United Nations and the Universal Postal Union

([UPU](#)) and works with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development ([UNCTAD](#)) for the e-trade for all projects. ICAO assures that its Member States priorities are reflected in tourism policies through the World Tourism Organization ([UNWTO](#)) and trade in services negotiations through the World Trade Organization ([WTO](#)). Through strengthened partnerships on collection, analysis and dissemination of data with other organizations and academia, such as Airports Council International ([ACI](#)), [UNWTO](#), [World Bank](#), International Labor Organization ([ILO](#)), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development ([UNCTAD](#)), Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development ([OECD](#)), International Transport Forum ([ITF](#)), ICAO rationalizes data management and reduces costs, modernizes and re-engineers business processes with the [UN Statistical Commission](#)'s endorsement. This is done through the increase in availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data as well as the development of measurements of progress on various topics.

This international coordination led by ICAO contributes to SDG 17 by building capacity in developing countries as well as significantly increasing their global exports share enabled by air transport, and to support national plans and ensure a greater economic stability through policy coherence.