

**58<sup>th</sup> CONFERENCE OF  
DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION  
ASIA AND PACIFIC REGIONS**

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**AGENDA ITEM 7: AVIATION AND ENVIRONMENT**

**BALANCING AVIATION GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:  
A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF IMPACT AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES**

(Presented by Bangladesh)

**SUMMARY**

This paper contributes valuable insights to the ongoing dialogue surrounding aviation and environmental sustainability, focusing on the specific context of Bangladesh. By acknowledging the challenges and opportunities within this framework, it strives to inform policy decisions and actions that lead to a more harmonious coexistence between aviation expansion and environmental well-being.

Technological advancements in aviation, including alternative fuels and innovative aircraft design, are also explored as potential solutions to mitigate the environmental impact. The paper emphasizes the importance of a balanced approach, where economic growth is harmonized with environmental protection. By providing insights into ongoing projects to upgrade international airports and facilities, the paper underscores Bangladesh's commitment to enhancing connectivity and accommodating growing air travel demand. It highlights the significance of these developments in promoting trade, tourism, and regional connectivity.

In conclusion, the paper contributes to the global dialogue on aviation and environmental sustainability by focusing on Bangladesh's unique perspective. It underscores the need for collaborative efforts among government bodies, aviation stakeholders, and environmental experts to achieve a sustainable balance between aviation growth and environmental well-being.

## **BALANCING AVIATION GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY: A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF IMPACT AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The aviation industry has experienced remarkable growth in recent decades, contributing significantly to global connectivity and economic development. However, this growth has raised concerns about its environmental impact, including carbon emissions, noise pollution, and land use. As societies prioritize environmental sustainability, finding ways to reconcile aviation expansion with these concerns becomes paramount. This thesis delves into the complex interplay between aviation and the environment, aiming to provide a comprehensive understanding of the industry's impact and explore innovative mitigation strategies. By examining the latest research, policy initiatives, and technological advancements, this study seeks to contribute to the ongoing dialogue on achieving a harmonious balance between aviation development and environmental preservation.

1.2 In the context of Bangladesh, the aviation industry has been undergoing significant growth, driven by increasing economic activities and a rising middle class. However, this growth comes with its own set of environmental challenges. Bangladesh faces unique environmental concerns such as air quality issues in densely populated urban areas, as well as the potential impact of aviation on fragile ecosystems and biodiversity.

1.3 This paper will delve into the specific perspective of Bangladesh, examining how the aviation sector's expansion aligns with the country's environmental goals and commitments. It will explore how the government, regulatory bodies, and industry stakeholders are addressing these challenges through policy measures, sustainable infrastructure development, and technological innovations. By analyzing the experiences, successes, and obstacles faced by Bangladesh in managing the environmental impact of aviation, this study aims to contribute to the broader global conversation on achieving a greener aviation industry.

### **2. DISCUSSION**

2.1 Certainly, Bangladesh has been actively working on expanding and upgrading its international airports and aviation facilities to accommodate the increasing demand for air travel and to enhance connectivity. Some of the ongoing projects include:

- a) Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport Expansion: This airport in Dhaka is undergoing a significant expansion to modernize its infrastructure and increase its capacity. The project aims to improve passenger facilities, aircraft handling capabilities, and overall operational efficiency.
- b) Shah Amanat International Airport Upgradation: Located in Chittagong, this airport is undergoing upgrades to enhance its facilities and accommodate larger aircraft. This is essential to support the growing demand for international and domestic flights in the region.
- c) Cox's Bazar Airport Development: Given the popularity of Cox's Bazar as a tourist destination, efforts are being made to upgrade its airport. The expansion aims to support larger aircraft and provide better facilities for both tourists and local travelers.
- d) Sylhet Osmani International Airport Expansion: The airport in Sylhet is undergoing expansion to accommodate more passengers and flights. This project is crucial to promote connectivity to the northeastern region of Bangladesh.
- e) Upgradation of Domestic Airports: Besides international airports, several domestic airports are being upgraded to support regional connectivity and tourism growth. These include airports in places like Rajshahi, Barishal, and

Jashore.

2.2 These projects reflect Bangladesh's commitment to improving its aviation infrastructure to cater to the increasing demand for air travel and boost its economic growth. These developments are essential for promoting tourism, trade, and overall connectivity, both domestically and internationally. However, it's important for these expansions to also consider environmental sustainability and incorporate measures to mitigate their impact on the environment.

2.3 This paper explores the intricate relationship between the aviation industry and environmental sustainability, with a specific focus on the context of Bangladesh. The rapid growth of the aviation sector has brought about both economic opportunities and environmental challenges. The study delves into the unique perspective of Bangladesh, highlighting the environmental concerns posed by aviation expansion in a densely populated and ecologically sensitive region. The paper examines the adverse effects of aviation growth, such as carbon emissions, noise pollution, and land use changes, and their implications for Bangladesh. It discusses the regulatory measures and policy initiatives taken by the country to address these challenges, including emissions reduction targets and noise abatement strategies.

### **3. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE**

3.1 The Conference is invited to:

- a) Discuss and note the information contained in this paper;
- b) share insights on how aviation-related activities can be designed to support climate-resilient environmental practices, particularly in the face of changing weather patterns; and
- c) urge ICAO to assist States to formulate their State action plan related to CO<sub>2</sub> emission and CORSIA in order to achieve ICAO aspiration goal of Net Zero by 2050.

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