

From: Stay Grounded Network
c/o Finance & Trade Watch
Neustiftgasse 36
1070 Vienna
Austria

To: The National Representations to the International Civil Aviation Organization

Open Letter to the ICAO Council

Vienna, 26th of October 2018

To whom it may concern,

more than 130 civil society organisations around the world are sending this message to the ICAO council, in order to raise our concerns about CORSIA: The Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation does not tackle the climate impact of aviation, and could even lead to further problems, like land conflicts and biodiversity loss due to offset projects and biofuel production.

In order to address the serious climate crisis, it is necessary to put a cap to aviation, instead of pretending that “carbon neutral growth” could exist in the future. This is because on the one hand, the climate impact of aviation is at least double the impact of carbon [dioxide alone](#). On the other hand, numerous studies and recent history have proven that a decoupling of resource use and emissions from economic growth remains a myth.

Carbon offsets do not deliver real emissions reductions. Offset projects often lead to local conflicts or land grabbing, which is especially the case with land- or forest-based projects like REDD+. Offsetting is unjust and distracts from the urgent need to reduce, not shift, destruction.

Further, biofuels cannot be supplied at the large scale the industry would require. Substantial use of biofuels in aircraft would (both directly and indirectly) drive a massive increase in deforestation and peat drainage and thereby cause vast carbon emissions.

Last but not least, future technical improvements for aircraft and operations should continue to be researched [and deployed](#) but we must recognise that these are and will be insufficient to overcome aviation’s emissions problems. The forecasted efficiency gains in fuel use are exceeded by historic, current and

planned growth rates of air travel and air freight (a phenomenon known as the 'rebound effect'). Step-changes in aviation technology are uncertain and will not come into effect until decades from now. Given the urgency of emissions reductions, relying on questionable scenarios is too risky and diverts focus away from the immediate emission cuts needed.

We therefore demand [ICAO](#) to finally cut the unjust privileges of aviation, on the national as well as the global level, by finally introducing kerosene taxes, VAT and ticket taxes, frequent flyer levies, aircraft environmental standards, caps on the number of flights and moratoriums on airport infrastructure.

More than 130 civil society organisations – among them environmental organisations like Friends of the Earth International or the Global Forest Coalition, local initiatives of airport affected people, or groups fostering cross-border train traffic, among others – therefore demand “13 steps for a just transport system and for rapidly reducing aviation”, as outlined in the position paper which you find in the annex of this letter.

Thank you very much in advance for your response and for considering our concerns in the upcoming ICAO Council meeting and further negotiations.

Yours sincerely,

132 organisations listed below:

- Abibimman Foundation (Ghana)
- Actiecomité Vlieg hinder Baarn (The Netherlands)
- Aktionsbündnis “aufgeMUCkt” (Germany)
- Aktionsbündnis Wachstumswende Bremen (Germany)
- Aktionsgruppen stoppa Brommaflyget (Sweden)
- All India Forum of Forest Movements (India)
- Am Boden Bleiben (Germany)
- Amigos da Terra Brasil (Friends of the Earth Brazil)
- Amigos de la Tierra (Friends of the Earth Spain)
- Attac Austria
- Attac France
- Attac Germany
- Attac Spain
- Auckland The Plane Truth (New Zealand)
- Aviation Impact Reform (USA)
- Behoud Kemnade en Waalse Water (The Netherlands)
- Bergwaldprojekt e.V. (Germany)
- Bevar Jordforbindelsen (Denmark)
- BBI Bündnis der Bürgerinitiativen – Kein Flughafenausbau – Nachtflugverbot von 22 bis 6 Uhr (Germany)

- BI gegen Fluglärm Raunheim (Germany)
- Biofuelwatch (UK/ USA)
- Bond Beter Leefmilieu (Belgium)
- BUND – Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland e.V. (Friends of the Earth Germany)
- BUNDjugend (Germany)
- BürgerInnen für Transparenz, Kostenwahrheit und Nachhaltigkeit in der Luftfahrt (Austria)
- Campaign Against Climate Change (UK)
- Can Decreix (France)
- CDO – UGent (Belgium)
- Centar za životnu sredinu (Friends of the Earth Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- Center for Biological Diversity (USA)
- Citizens For Quiet Skies (USA)
- Climate Action Moreland (Australia)
- Climáximo (Portugal)
- Comitato per la riduzione dell’impatto ambientale aeroporto di Treviso (Italy)
- CommunityAIR (Canada)
- Coordinadora de Pueblos y Organizaciones del Oriente del Estado de México en Defensa de la Tierra, el Agua y su Cultura (Mexico)
- Corporate Europe Observatory (EU)
- Dachverband der unabhängigen Bürgerinitiativen gegen den Bau der 3. Piste am Flughafen Wien (Austria)
- Deutscher Naturschutzring DNR (Germany)
- DKA – Dreikönigsaktion (Austria)
- Dutch Foodprint Group (The Netherlands)
- Ecologistas en Acción (Spain)
- ECOMUNIDADES, Red Ecologista Autónoma de la Cuenca de México
- Ejabatlas team (Spain)
- Elburg Vliegwijzer, lid van Samenw Actiegroepen TL (The Netherlands)
- EnvJustice team (Spain)
- Fellow Travellers (UK)
- fern (Belgium)
- FIAN – Food First Information and Action Network (Austria)
- Finance & Trade Watch (Austria)
- Flyglarm Arlanda (Sweden)
- Forest Observatory (Morocco)
- Forum Civique Européen (Austria, Switzerland, France, Germany)
- Forum Ökologie & Papier (Germany)
- Foundation Living with the Earth (The Netherlands)
- France Nature Environnement (France)
- Frente Amplio No Partidista en contra del Nuevo Aeropuerto y otros Megaproyectos en la Cuenca del Valle de México
- Friends of the Earth Australia
- Friends of the Earth International

- GAAM Global Anti-Aerotropolis Movement (UK/Thailand)
- Gegenstrom Berlin (Germany)
- GLOBAL 2000 (Friends of the Earth Austria)
- Global Forest Coalition (international)
- Groene Locomotief (Belgium)
- Grow Heathrow (UK)
- Hoog over Zwolle (The Netherlands)
- Initiative Psychologie im Umweltschutz e.V. (Germany)
- Kesatuan Nelayan Tradisional Indonesia (Indonesia Traditional Fisherfolk Union)
- Klankbordgroep Schiphol/A1(A6) Gooise Meren (The Netherlands)
- Klima*Kollektiv (Germany)
- Koalition Luftverkehr Umwelt und Gesundheit (Switzerland)
- Konzeptwerk Neue Ökonomie (Germany)
- Labor für Kunst und nachhaltige Bildung (Germany)
- LAG Ökologische Plattform NRW bei DIE LINKE (Germany)
- LIDECS (Mexico)
- Liegveld Lelystad (The Netherlands)
- Leave it in the Ground Initiative – Lingo (Germany)
- Linkswende jetzt (Austria)
- MA Programme in Social Entrepreneurship, Goldsmiths, University of London (UK)
- Milieuendefensie Leiden e.o. (The Netherlands)
- National Federation of Small Fisherfolk Organizations in the Philippines (PAMALAKAYA-Pilipinas)
- netzwerk n e.V. (Germany)
- Netzwerk Ökосоzialismus (Germany)
- No Badgerys Creek Airport (Australia)
- No Jets Santa Monica Airport (USA)
- No 3rd Runway Coalition (UK)
- NOAH Friends of the Earth Denmark
- Northern Forests Defence (Turkey)
- ÖBV-Via Campesina Austria
- Organisation Mondiale pour la Protection de l'Environnement OMPE (France)
- Oregon Aviation Watch (USA)
- Oui au train de nuit (France)
- Paguyuban Warga Penolak Penggusuran Kulon-Progo (PWPP KP)
- Periskop (Austria)
- Plane Stupid (UK)
- Platform Vliegoverlast Amsterdam (The Netherlands)
- Rådet for Bæredygtig Trafik (Denmark)
- Re:Common (Italy)
- Reclaim the Power (UK)
- REDD-Monitor (international)
- Regenwald-Institut e.V. (Germany)

- Research & Degrowth France
- Research & Degrowth Spain
- Residents Against Western Sydney Airport Inc. (RAWSA)
- Rising Tide UK
- Robin Wood (Germany)
- Satukata Institute (Indonesia)
- Say No to Expansion of Aviation (The Netherlands)
- Schokofahrt (Germany)
- SchipholWatch (The Netherlands)
- Sky Justice National Network (USA)
- Stichting Tuinstad Buitenveldert (The Netherlands)
- Stop Expansion of Aviation (The Netherlands)
- Stop Stansted Expansion (UK)
- Stop de Wantoestanden in de Luchtvaartsector (The Netherlands)
- SW-EssexFight-the-Flights (UK)
- System Change, not Climate Change! (Austria)
- TaCa – Agir pour le Climat (France)
- The Climate Mobilization Montgomery Co Md chapter (USA)
- The Corner House (UK)
- TNI – Transnational Institute (The Netherlands)
- Tourism Investigation & Monitoring Team (Thailand)
- Trade Unions for Energy Democracy (USA)
- transform Magazin (Germany)
- Treibhauseffekt.de (Germany)
- UCU trade union branch, Queen Alexandra College (UK)
- ÖBV-Via Campesina Austria
- Vote No Heathrow (UK)
- Welthaus Innsbruck (Austria)
- Werkgroep Duurzaamheid van de Raad van Kerken Oude-IJsselstreek (The Netherlands)
- Werkgroep Voetafdruk Nederland (The Netherlands)
- Zomer Zonder Vliegen (Belgium)