



REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATIONS
MAJURO, MARSHALL ISLANDS

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Marshall Islands signals its intention to join a new scheme to reduce aviation emissions; urges others to urgently follow its lead

Despite being responsible for a tiny fraction of global emissions, the Republic of the Marshall Islands has signaled its intention to voluntarily join a new global market-based measure to reduce emissions from international aviation, and has urged others to urgently follow its lead. The move comes on the eve of this week's Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' meeting in Pohnpei, and ahead of this month's International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Assembly in Montreal which is due to vote on the final design of the proposed measure in an attempt to stabilize emissions from international aviation.

Emissions from international aviation are growing at an alarming rate. While they only represent 2% of global carbon emissions today, they are forecast to quadruple by 2050. ICAO has already agreed on a target to achieve carbon neutral growth from 2020, and this is endorsed by the aviation industry.

While it is currently proposed that the scheme will initially be voluntary, it is crucial that for it to be effective, as many countries as possible must pledge to join the scheme from the beginning. Only those international flights between countries involved with the scheme will be required to offset their emissions. Analysis suggests that the cost of offsetting a typical long-haul international flight covered by the scheme would be no more than a few dollars.

Speaking following a Cabinet meeting in Majuro, the Minister for Transport & Communications, the Honorable Mike Halferty, said:

“Without a robust and effective market-based measure to reduce aviation emissions, it will be impossible for us to stay within the 1.5°C temperature limit we all agreed in Paris. This means all of us need to do our fair share – every country *and* every sector.”

“Provided ICAO adopts an ambitious resolution guaranteeing environmental integrity and ensures there is a mechanism to regularly review and ramp up ambition, the Marshall Islands intends to be involved from the beginning.”

“It is critical others now follow our lead and pledge to join the new scheme from the start, particularly those which can help ensure the greatest coverage in emissions. There is no point simply having a patchwork of ambition. The very survival of our country depends on this.”

The Minister-in-Assistance to the President, the Honorable Mattlan Zackhras, added:

“The ICAO Assembly is just one of three big opportunities we have this year to take a bite out of the current gap in global ambition. The High Ambition Coalition is also working to secure a comprehensive and ambitious amendment to the Montreal Protocol, and to finally begin the process of setting a target to reduce emissions from the international maritime sector as well.”

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