

UN climate science body's report highlights that aviation must accelerate emissions reductions

The IPCC's Special Report on 1.5C highlights that we are not on target to keep global warming to below 2 degrees C much less 1.5C as countries agreed to in the Paris Agreement in 2015. Most notably, the report shows that, while transformational change is happening in the power sector with the rapid expansion of renewable electricity generation capacity, progress in the transportation sector is lagging behind and needs to start its own transformation immediately. This includes the global aviation sector, which encompasses emissions from domestic and international flights.

Some continue to downplay the extent of aviation's climate impact – some 5% of global warming when accounting for both CO₂ and climate effects at altitude. Likewise some claim that the international portion of aviation's emissions was “excluded” from the Paris Agreement and should be addressed by the UN International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). But the report makes clear that cutting emissions from this fast growing sector is essential if we are to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

“This report clears up any doubts some might have had that international aviation emissions are covered by the Paris Agreement,” said Andrew Murphy, aviation and climate expert speaking on behalf of the International Coalition for Sustainable Aviation. “The IPCC makes clear that, without action on this major and growing source of emissions, the goal of limiting a temperature increase to 1.5 degrees C cannot be achieved. The report's finding that efficiency improvements alone aren't enough is a wake-up call to governments to put aviation on a flightpath to decarbonization to ensure the sector plays its part in delivering a zero-carbon future.”

Additional resources:

- International Coalition for Sustainable Aviation and Climate Action Network International. (2018). *Contribution of the global aviation sector to achieving the Paris Agreement Climate Objectives*. Submission to the Talanoa Dialogue. Available [here](#).
- International Coalition for Sustainable Aviation. (2018). *Understanding the CORSIA Package: A critical guide to key provisions in the draft standards and recommended*



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practices and related guidance material for the UN International Civil Aviation Organization's Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSA). Available [here](#).