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## **SUSTAINING AVIATION GROWTH- MEETING THE ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES**

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Commercial aviation has transformed the world over the last 100 years. It plays a key role in economic growth of the world today and has redefined the concept of “neighbor”. This success, however, has been accompanied by concerns about the adverse environmental by-products of aviation - primarily noise and emissions.

While the past few decades have seen major advances in reducing these environmental impacts from aviation, aircraft noise still affects people living near airports, and aircraft emissions are an increasing concern- both locally and globally. Public controversy involving the environmental impact of aircraft and airport operations, as well as increasingly stricter requirements embodied in laws and regulation, often impede capacity growth. These challenges- if not addressed effectively- may severely constrain the ability of the aviation system to meet the world's need for mobility, increased trade/market access, and sustained economic growth.

The U.S. believes to move forward we will have to find the right balance to manage capacity growth in a sound environmental manner. Some key elements to achieve this will be: meeting multiple and interrelated environmental goals; developing metrics and modeling capacity needed to account for the interdependencies and trade-offs between aircraft noise and emissions; taking a “balanced approach” to mitigating environment impacts; nurturing new and innovative policies; fostering better communication with affected communities; and finding common ground for effective approaches across the globe.

Success will require a shared commitment of all stakeholders - air carriers operating quieter and cleaner aircraft, manufacturers integrating new technology, airports providing good planning and local environmental measures, air traffic service providers facilitating abatement procedures, states funding the necessary technology research, and local governments ensuring proper land-use around airports —if aviation is to continue to be able to provide its benefits to the world economy and its citizens.