



Summit of the Future Action Days Side Event

Youth Empowerment and Development in Civil Aviation

08:00, 20 September 2024, Virtual

Organized by: The General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in collaboration with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA)

Event Overview: The virtual side event, “Youth Development in the Civil Aviation Sector,” held during the Summit of the Future Action Days on 20 September 2024, was organized by the General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) in collaboration with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA). This event aimed to foster dialogue on the challenges and opportunities for youth engagement in civil aviation and to explore pathways to develop and empower young aviation professionals.

Key Recommendations:

1. Establishment of Structured Youth Development Programs:

Launch targeted training and mentorship programs for young professionals aged 25-30, focusing on practical skills and industry-specific knowledge. GACA, in collaboration with ICAO and IATA, will initiate programs in partnership with leading institutions such as Prince Sultan University, Cranfield University and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. This comprehensive framework for youth development in the aviation sector, including career pathways and leadership opportunities, to be implemented globally with ICAO and IATA’s guidance.

2. Promotion of Strategic Partnerships:

Engage with international organizations, industry leaders, and academic institutions to explore collaborative projects aimed at enhancing youth participation and development in civil aviation. Initial discussions have set the stage for potential partnerships that align with the strategic objectives outlined during the event. Thus, to establish a global coalition for youth development in aviation, led by GACA and supported by ICAO and IATA, to coordinate and promote initiatives across member states and ensure sustainable and inclusive growth.

Key Messages:

1. Empowering Youth for the Future of Aviation:

The event underscored the critical role of youth in the sustainable growth and innovation of the aviation sector. Empowering young professionals through education, training, and mentorship is essential to developing a resilient and dynamic workforce that can navigate the challenges of a rapidly evolving industry.

2. Enhanced International Cooperation Efforts:

Strong partnerships between governments, international organizations, industry leaders, and educational institutions are crucial for advancing youth engagement in civil aviation. The discussions highlighted the potential for new collaborations that can drive innovative solutions and create a more sustainable aviation community.

3. Commitment to Sustainable Development:

The aviation sector's commitment to youth development aligns with broader goals of sustainability and inclusiveness. By investing in young professionals, the industry can ensure its long-term growth and contribute to the achievement of the UN's sustainable development agenda.

4. Aviation as a Pathway for Youth Empowerment:

The event highlighted aviation as a powerful vehicle for youth empowerment, offering unique opportunities for career development, leadership, and global engagement. Creating clear pathways for

young professionals in this sector is not only vital for the industry's future but also for the broader goal of empowering youth globally.

The event concluded with a strong commitment from all participants to continue exploring and building partnerships that support the growth and development of young professionals in the aviation sector. These discussions lay the groundwork for future collaborations that can help transform the industry and empower the next generation of aviation leaders.