

## Joint effort to deliver additional environmental benefits during the traffic downturn

**Amsterdam, 9 April 2020: CANSO - The aviation industry is using the downturn in air traffic as a result of COVID-19 to implement additional measures to reduce the environmental impact of aviation. CANSO - the Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation - in association with IATA, A4E, ERA, AIRE, IFATCA and the EUROCONTROL Network Manager, is launching an ambitious environmental initiative to facilitate 'Perfect Flights' while traffic volumes are lower than usual.**

Tanja Grobotek, CANSO Director Europe Affairs explains: "Air navigation service providers (ANSPs) across Europe are still playing a vital role enabling the transportation of urgent medical supplies and food, and the repatriation of individuals, but clearly traffic numbers are much lower than before the pandemic. So CANSO and our partners are using this downtime to facilitate optimum flight paths that will deliver environmental and economic benefits by reducing fuel burn, emissions, noise and fuel costs."

Normally, in order to manage traffic safely and efficiently into and out of busy airspace, ANSPs apply airspace restrictions to maximise capacity, reduce complexity and organise aircraft into specific flows. These restrictions may however contribute to reducing horizontal and/or vertical flight efficiency. In the current low-level traffic scenario, most of these airspace restrictions can be lifted, which enables more direct routes and allows aircraft to fly their optimal vertical profiles. "There is no reason right now why an aircraft should not be flying its 'perfect flight,'" Tanja Grobotek added.

This initiative is testament to CANSO, IATA, A4E ERA, AIRE, IFATCA and the EUROCONTROL Network Manager's commitment to reducing aviation's carbon emissions - both today and in the future.

**ENDS**

### **About CANSO**

The Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation (CANSO) is the global voice of air traffic management worldwide. CANSO Members support almost 90 percent of world air traffic. Members share information and develop new policies, with the ultimate aim of improving air navigation services on the ground and in the air. CANSO represents its Members' views in major regulatory and industry forums, including at ICAO, where it has official Observer status. CANSO has an extensive network of Associate Members drawn from across the aviation industry. For more, visit [canso.org](http://canso.org).

### **CANSO and the environment**

CANSO is the global voice of air traffic management (ATM), an industry that plays a vital role in helping the aviation industry reduce its emissions. New ATM technologies and improved operations and procedures are helping increase capacity, improve efficiency and enhance performance. Together, airlines, airports and the ATM industry are working with States and regulators to improve the sustainability of aviation worldwide.

CANSO supports ANSPs to continuously strive to meet climate targets by implementing new concepts that allow shorter routes and optimise vertical flight efficiency, saving CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, even in high density scenarios. Examples include:

- **Performance-based navigation** (PBN) which allows aircraft to follow optimised routes, saving airlines time, fuel and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and increasing airspace capacity
- **Free route airspace** (FRA), which allows aircraft to plan more efficient, direct routes with stable trajectories, reducing flying time and fuel consumption
- **Flexible use of airspace** (FUA, now Advanced Flexible Use of Airspace or AFUA) in which airspace is no longer designated as either military or civil but is allocated based on current operational requirements
- **Continuous Climb and Continuous Descent Operations** (CCO and CDO) which reduce engine power required to level off at multiple altitudes, saving fuel and reducing emissions.

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