Aviation brings enormous benefits to communities and economies around the globe. It is a key enabler of economic growth, social development and tourism providing connectivity and access to markets. Air transport, currently supporting 56.6 million jobs and over $2.2 trillion of global GDP with a strong track record of fuel efficiency and CO2 emissions savings, is a strategic contributor to sustainable development.

Our goals and achievements to date
As leaders of the aviation industry, we signed a Declaration in 2008 committing ourselves to action on climate change. Since then we have put forward a set of ambitious goals and implemented initiatives to meet them. We are delivering already on our short-term promises for fuel efficiency of 1.5% per annum improvement through to 2020 and are firmly on track to meet our longer term commitments.

Now, we, the undersigned aviation industry companies and organisations, broaden our commitment to advancing and strengthening the interdependent pillars of sustainable development – economic growth, social development and environmental stewardship – at the local, national, regional and global levels. We will continue to:

» provide an air transport sector that is a key socio-economic contributor to the world economy and catalyst for growth, building connectivity to enhance trade, tourism, personal opportunity and mobility to all people everywhere;

» provide high value jobs, innovative partnerships with the communities we serve and investment in skills and training, whilst maintaining a high level of investment in research and development around the world; and

» demonstrate environmental leadership by delivering on our goal to cap net aircraft carbon emissions from 2020 and work to achieve our ambitious goal of a 50% reduction in net carbon emissions by 2050 compared to 2005 levels.

Our request to governments worldwide
As one of the most highly-regulated global sectors, we cannot continue to deliver these benefits alone. We commit to show leadership and work with governments to pursue our common goal of economic prosperity and sustainable development through:

1. continued investment in academic and international collaborative research for the development and implementation of new green technologies and operational practices;

2. urgent action for advancement of a highly-efficient air traffic control capacity;

3. encouraging the use of alternative renewable energy by providing appropriate policies and incentives to facilitate the timely, cost-effective and sustainable development of aviation biofuels;

4. continued development of sustainable airport infrastructure to meet the anticipated future demand for aviation services within the context of the economic, social and environmental needs of society;

5. providing a positive regulatory environment that encourages aviation development as part of a broader government economic growth policy, co-ordinated across national borders; and

6. urging governments to reach agreement at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) for a global framework for reduction of emissions from aircraft operations using technology development, efficient operations and infrastructure, and the use of international multilateral market-based measures to address any remaining emissions gap.

We believe that our commitments to work in partnership with governments, other industries and civil society will deliver an efficient aviation sector, fit to meet the needs and provide the services required by the world economy.

We strongly encourage others to join us in this endeavour.

Signed on Thursday 22 March 2012, at Geneva, Switzerland by: