

MEDIA RELEASE

Air transport supports 7.2 million jobs and \$156 billion in Latin America and the Caribbean economic activity

Geneva, 2 October 2018 – Latin America and the Caribbean are benefitting from air transport connections as over 316 million passengers travel in the region, supporting 7.2 million jobs in aviation and related industries, and 3.3% of the region’s economic activity. These findings are in a new report, *Aviation: Benefits Beyond Borders*, released by the Air Transport Action Group (ATAG) today.

Launching the report at the ATAG Global Sustainable Aviation Summit in Geneva, ATAG’s Executive Director, Michael Gill, said: “Let’s take a step back and think about how advances in air transport have changed the way people and businesses connect with each other – the reach we have today is extraordinary. More people in more parts of the world than ever before are taking advantage of safe, fast and efficient travel.”

“The aviation sector facilitates a substantial level of tourism in Latin America and the Caribbean. Globally, 57% of international tourists travel by air. This stimulates still more economic activity, as tourists spend their money with restaurants, hotels, retailers, tour operators, and other providers of consumer goods and services. In 2016, spending by foreign visitors who flew to Latin America and the Caribbean countries supported an estimated 3.6 million jobs and a \$64.7 billion contribution to GDP.”

“By 2036, aviation in the region is expected to support 11 million jobs and \$353 billion in economic activity. Key to this growth will be sustainable development of air transport, including liberalised agreements on cross-border ownership, infrastructure development, cost-covering tax arrangements that do not subsidise other sectors and recruitment and training of aviation-related labour force.

Luis Felipe de Oliveira, Executive Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Air Transport Association commented: “Latin America and the Caribbean is one of the regions with greatest growth potential: a growing population that every day demands more and better services, that needs to be connected and that is still flying much less than Europeans and Americas. Air transport connects people, families, business, and is an important engine that drives the economic and social development of our nations”.

Airports Council International Latin America-Caribbean Director General, Javier Martinez Botacio, said: “*Aviation: Benefits Beyond Borders* confirms that airports and the aviation community are essential to the economic development of the communities they serve. The continuous growth of air transport system brings challenges to all stakeholders. ACI-LAC members will continue to collaboratively work to promote infrastructure development”.

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Javier Vanegas Director Latin America and Caribbean Affairs of the Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation, said: “Increasing air transport demand is boosting economies in the region, and the air traffic management (ATM) industry plays a key role in managing this growth safely and efficiently. CANSO and its Members and industry partners are implementing performance-based navigation, collaborative decision-making, air traffic flow management (ATFM) and other measures to improve the efficiency and capacity of airspace”.

Globally, the air transport sector 65.5 million jobs and \$2.7 trillion in economic activity, including over 10 million women and men working directly for the industry itself. Aviation carries 35% of world trade by value, but less than 1% by volume and 57% of world tourists travel to their destinations by air.

The report, which can be downloaded at www.aviationbenefits.org, was prepared by ATAG along with other aviation industry associations and builds on extensive research by Oxford Economics.

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- The Air Transport Action Group represents the entire aviation sector: airlines, airports, air traffic management organisations and the makers of aircraft and engines. It coordinates common industry positions on the sustainable future of air transport. www.atag.org