

RESOLUTION #5
Support and assistance for small, emerging and regional airports

The ACI World General Assembly,

Noting that a significant portion of ACI member airports is small⁴, emerging⁵, or regional airports.

Considering that estimates suggest that as many as 67% of the world's airports operate at a net loss and that 98% of the loss-making airports handle fewer than one million passengers per annum⁶.

Recognising the important role these members play within the ACI membership and that they may have specific needs, and can benefit from specific or tailored support, programmes and services.

Recognising the importance that small, emerging and regional airports play in ensuring local and global connectivity, cohesion and territorial equality, as well as social and economic development, and potential for growth of their individual regions.

Noting the support these airports provides for increased social and economic benefits to neighbouring communities by developing their local supply chain and tourism or business activities.

Considering that small airports are integral parts of, and often fully integrated into, the fibre of their local communities and have an important role in developing strong community engagement with, and employment for, local populations.

Recognising the important role small, emerging and regional airports have in developing their local tourism industry through actions and collaborative initiatives to attract investments, create carbon-free itineraries for environmentally conscious travellers, and fostering multi-organisation cooperative projects that bring benefits to the whole ecosystem.

Noting the opportunity small, emerging, and regional airports have in diversifying the tourism markets in their regions to reduce the impact on already overcrowded destinations by creating demand and shifting the focus to lesser-known destinations.

⁴ Small airport are considered to be an airport with 5 million or less passengers per annum

⁵ Airports in emerging nations or emerging and developing markets

⁶ Data from ACI World 2019 Airport Economics Survey.

Recognizing that smaller airports generate positive externalities, but may often operate at a financial loss thereby needing some form of subsidy either from governments or from larger airports within the same airport network or group.

Understanding that in the case of airport networks, there is a need to ensure flexibility in determining the most appropriate charging system for recovering costs, generating returns for shareholders, and ensuring sustainable operations of the smaller airports in the networks.

Noting the role that that small, emerging and regional airports play in feeding traffic into hub airports for onward journeys to other major national and international destinations, while generating traffic that ensures the sustainability of larger airports within the network.

Resolves that the General Assembly:

- a) Calls on governments, tourism and economic promotion agencies, and others to collaborate with and assist small, emerging, and regional airports in their capital and human resource development plans.
- b) Calls on governments and industry to support small, emerging and regional airports' transition to or development of the use of renewable energy and required infrastructure for achieving the industry's commitment to Net Zero CO₂ by 2050 and the recently agreed ICAO Long-Term Aspirational Goal.
- c) Calls on ICAO, governments, and other competent regional / international organisations to develop appropriate and proportionate regulatory frameworks, in particular for aviation security, that are commensurate to the actual risk and technical and operational requirements at small, emerging and regional airports.
- d) Asks ACI to continue to ensure the consideration of the specific needs and expectations of small, emerging and regional airports in its global and regional advocacy and policy development efforts, to promote the development of regulatory frameworks that are fit for purpose and proportionate to the needs of all airports.
- e) Asks ACI to continue to foster the establishment of appropriately scaled and tailored programmes and services to support and ensure the continued growth and sustainable development of small, emerging and regional airports within the ACI membership.
- f) Asks that ACI continue to work to ensure the appropriate integration of small, emerging and regional airports within the ACI community and, when possible, to support development and sustainability initiatives via the ACI Fund for Developing Nations.

END