



**Global Action Week during UN aviation conference (ICAO):
“Stay Grounded. Aviation Growth Cancelled Due to Climate
Change!”
September 27 to October 8 in [Mexico](#), [Austria](#), the [U.K.](#),
[France](#), [Turkey](#) and [Montreal, Canada](#).**

The aviation industry is the fastest growing source of greenhouse gas emissions globally and one of the most polluting sectors. By 2050, carbon emissions are set to [quadruple, on current trends](#). Hundreds of airports are being built or extended. While still less than 10 % of global population have ever even boarded an aeroplane, others are bearing the costs: native communities losing their livelihood and biodiversity, locals suffering from noise and health problems, and people in the Global South already dying as a result of climate change.

Air traffic needs to shrink, not grow

Resistance against airport and aviation expansion is growing all over the world. Nevertheless, the aviation industry and governments are deciding right now in the conference of the ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organisation) on how to avoid their responsibility to address climate change: Their plan is unlimited growth, combined with discredited offsets. So they claim they can reach “carbon-neutral growth” by paying others in the Global South to reduce them. Offsets lead to more problems than they solve. They are a license to pollute. They increase emissions, often lead to violations of human rights, put the climate mitigation burden on the shoulders of people in the Global South, and distract from real solutions. Emissions need to be cut at the source. Further information [here](#).

Airport actions around the world

Local affected people, action groups and networks from around the world, with assistance of the [Global Anti-Aerotropolis Movement](#) (GAAM), the [Tourism Investigation & Monitoring Team](#) (tim-team) and Austria-based '[System Change, Not Climate Change!](#)' have organized a [Global Action Week: Stay Grounded. Aviation Growth Cancelled Due to Climate Change](#)'. During the ICAO conference, actions will take place in Austria, Mexico, the U.K., Canada, Turkey and links are being made with the famous squatted land “la ZAD” in France. A video documenting the different actions will be available before the end of the ICAO conference here: <http://systemchange-not-climatechange.at/airport-action-days/>

The coordinating campaign groups also express their solidarity and support for other local struggles, particularly those in the Global South, that have problems getting their voices heard or face oppression from authorities. Some hotspots of people's resistance against harmful airport projects are currently: [Taoyuan](#) in Taiwan, [Hong Kong](#), [Navi Mumbai](#), [Mopa](#) (Goa), [Aranmula](#) (Kerala) and [Bhogapuram](#) in India, [Ekiti](#) in Nigeria, [Jeju Island](#) in South Korea, [Kulon Progo](#) and [Sukamulya](#) in Indonesia, and the [Kilimanjaro area](#) in Tanzania.

[\[Mexico\] Resistance against new Mexico City International airport](#)

The native communities living on the shores of Texcoco Lake outside Mexico City have experienced extreme state repression for daring to resist the construction of a new six-runway airport on their land. Their courage and firmness, with the solidarity and support of NGOs, indigenous communities and people from both within and outside Mexico, managed to stop the original plans in 2002. Now the project has been revived and [the communities and towns across the Valley of Mexico have coordinated to resist it](#). For the Global Action Week a number of

events are planned from September 29 to October 1st including public meetings, an academic forum and a visit around the affected area guided by ejidatarios (affected farmers). A photo exhibition, scheduled for September 29 at San Gregorio Atlapulco-Xochimilco, Mexico City, had to be cancelled due to heavy rainfalls and floods on September 25 that affected 600 households in the area. Local farmers emphasized that such events will increase due to climate change.

On September 30th the academic and community forum „In defence of life and heritage of Texcoco Lake“ will take place at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). This event can be followed live (in Spanish) from 10:30 am (CDT) onwards at [this link](#).

“The state is modifying laws. With the help of political parties and money they are buying consciences and dividing the original population, they are giving away our land to opposing groups related to them, that infiltrate us to facilitate the submission of large towns and the dispossession of our territory. And they are repressively attacking us again with the use of public force, against those who, despite this dirty war, continue resisting.” Inhabitant of affected area

“Today the communities and towns across the Valley of Mexico have coordinated and we again call to save the life of our towns, of Mexico City and Texcoco Lake, their natural wealth, identity, historical heritage and cultural legacy, and to avoid loss of food production, temperature increase, the water and environmental collapse and extermination. Let’s defend Texcoco Lake, sacred territory, heart and root of all Mexicans!” Coordinadora de Pueblos y Organizaciones del Oriente del Estado de México en Defensa de la Tierra, el Agua y su Cultura

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[\[UK\] Flashmob and critical mass bike block against London airport expansion](#)

In the UK, after years of delay, the controversial announcement of a new runway at a London airport is expected this October, making a mockery of the UK’s legally binding commitments for action on climate change. On Saturday, 1st of October, “Reclaim the Power”, a grassroots network for taking direct action on environmental, economic and social justice issues, is organising a day of action against airport expansion with a family-friendly flashmob, a ‘critical mass’ bike ride and smaller creative actions. Themes of the day will be amongst others the affluent minority who are driving the so-called ‘need’ for aviation expansion, and the hundreds of thousands of people who are already suffering from the effects of climate change, and who are paying the price of this luxury lifestyle with their lives.

„Clearly, more planes means more catastrophic climate change. It’s time to fight back. New runways have been defeated by people power before, and they can be defeated again. With politicians divided, local communities furious and desperate PR campaigns for both sites trying to sway the debate – NOW is the time to act.“ Reclaim the Power, UK

“The Black Lives Matter protest that led to a shutdown of London City Airport earlier in September has already made the link between climate justice and aviation. It is the wealthy minority of frequent flyers who are driving the aviation industry and the desire for more flights. Whilst a small elite worldwide is able to fly those who will suffer most from the consequences of climate change might never board a plane.” Reclaim the Power, UK

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photos will be uploaded here: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/reclaimthepower2015/>

Twitter: [@reclaimthepower](https://twitter.com/reclaimthepower)

[\[Austria\] First ever Austrian Climate Camp + Action Day against the Vienna airport expansion](#)

The third runway at Vienna Airport would be Austria's worst climate-wrecking infrastructure project, turning Vienna into a central airport hub. 'System Change, not Climate Change!' an Austrian climate justice group therefore calls for a day of action against further airport expansion on October 1st. A bicycle demonstration will drive from the Vienna city centre right to the airport. There, the bike block will be joined by local citizen groups – fighting the new runway for more than a decade. Around the action day, 'System Change, not Climate Change!' has organised [the first climate camp in Austria](#) from September 29 – October 2. Located close to the airport, the camp will provide a space for workshops, discussion and networking on climate justice and sustainable transport.

„We cannot afford to invest in infrastructure that will foster dangerous climate change and threaten the fulfilment of the Paris Agreement! In addition, the third runway would seal hundreds of hectares of arable land, where food could be grown instead of being imported by airplanes!” Mira, active at 'System Change, not Climate Change!' Austria

„We need systemic changes in our mobility system: Replace short distance flights with trains, which are much more environmentally friendly. Stop subsidizing aviation, finally put a tax on kerosene.“ Lena, active at 'System Change, not Climate Change!' Austria

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[\[Canada\] Calls against aviation growth and false climate solutions in front of ICAO Assembly](#)

The People's Coalition for Responsible Civil Aviation, a group of concerned citizens in Montreal, made their point clear as the ICAO's 39th Assembly started on September 27: To keep in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement real change is needed right now. That the plans for a so-called “carbon-neutral growth” through offsets will not be a real solution to tackle climate change will be one of the major points of the manifestation and leaflet-distribution organized in Montreal. The People's Coalition for Responsible Civil Aviation distributed flyers to delegates in front of the ICAO Headquarter and held a press conference together with Patrick Bonin, Climate and Energy Campaigner, Greenpeace Canada.

“Rather than expanding or building hundreds of new or bigger airports, and rather than planning false “green” growth strategies, aviation needs to be reduced - and so do the overall number of flights.” Shaen Johnston, People's Coalition for Responsible Civil Aviation

"It's a very dangerous lie to present aviation as sustainable or carbon-neutral - this distracts from real necessary solutions. Offsets provide the aviation industry with a license to grow. It is the best example of greenwashing, and the worst thing that can happen to the climate." Shaen Johnston, People's Coalition for Responsible Civil Aviation

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[\[Turkey\] Northern Forest Defence fights deforestation and mining for Istanbul's new airport](#)

Work has already started on Istanbul's third airport, which is expected to [destroy a staggering](#)

[76km² of farmland, forests and lakes](#). It's being celebrated as the biggest in the world by politicians but strongly opposed by a coalition called the Northern Forest Defence (NFD) a movement that advocates for the protection of the ecologically interconnected and diverse area extending from Sapanca to Strandzha Mountains with its focus on northern Istanbul. A mining project to provide granite for the new Airport will start on Monday, September 26 in the middle of the northern forest. Opposing this, NFD held a press statement on the same day in front of one of the companies who build the new Istanbul Airport. Approximately 50 people and 200 police officers attended. Further actions against deforestation are planned throughout the week.

„There is no road for the animals, for us, no forest you know what I mean? We are losing what we have in our hands now. Forests are running out. Stockbreeding is dead in our village. Why do we torture the forest so much, we oppress the animals?“ Aydın Dayılar, shepherd from Yeniköy

„If we lose this forest, don't expect any rain, anymore. Don't expect rain. Don't expect it at any time. The worst famine will arrive then. The forest produces oxygen when the time comes, this forest attracts rain. We yearn for the forest!“ Aydın Dayılar, shepherd from Yeniköy
Quotes see this video: <https://vimeo.com/123657571>

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Detailed report about the project (English): http://www.kuzeyormanlari.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/3rd_airport_project.pdf

[France] Notre-Dame-des-Landes: Defend the ZAD – a Call for International Solidarity

For over 50 years, farmers and locals have resisted the building of a new airport for the French city of Nantes (which by the way already has one). Radicals from around the world, local farmers and villagers, citizen groups, trade unionists and naturalists, refugees and runaways, squatters and climate justice activists and many others, are organising to protect the 4000 acres of land against the airport and its world. Government officials have coined this place “a territory lost to the republic”. Its occupants have named it: la zad (zone a défendre) zone to defend.

Now, the entire zone is due for evictions to start the construction of this absurd airport. Prime minister Valls has promised a “Rendez Vous” this October to evict everyone who is living, working, building and farming on the zone. Source: <http://zad.nadir.org/spip.php?article4024>

Further quotes from the zad webpage (<http://zad.nadir.org/spip.php?article4024>) :

„On October 8th, tens of thousands of people will gather on the zad to demonstrate that the determination of the movement is as strong as ever. Honouring farmers struggles from the past, we will come with wooden walking batons and leave them on the zone, as a sign of the commitment to come back and pick them up again if necessary. We will also raise a barn, built by dozens of carpenters during the summer, which will be used as a base, should evictions happen.“

„We are calling on all international groups and movements to either come to the zone on October 8th or show their solidarity with the zad through actions directed at the French government or multinational Vinci in their own towns and cities on that day. The airport will never be built. Life on the zad will keep on flourishing!“

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Texcoco Lake, close to Mexico City, threatened by a proposed six-runway airport



A previous flashmob at Heathrow Airport in London



Previous forest defence demonstration in Turkey



Previous blockade at Notre-Dames-des-Landes, France