

Carole Couchman, IFALPA Senior Technical and Regional Officer, recaps IFALPA's activities at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

## IFALPA @ ICAO

### SEPTEMBER 2018

September was a busy month with several meetings of various Panels and Committees.

#### LEGAL COMMITTEE SESSION

The Legal Committee session met and discussed several items of interest to IFALPA which include setting up a working group to address International Legal Aspects of Unmanned (pilotless) Aircraft operations and integration into Civil Aviation. In recognition of the growing threat of cyber attacks, the committee will also consider the adequacy of the existing international air law instruments in addressing cyber threats.

There were also initial discussions concerning Commercial Space but it has not been agreed to add it to their work programme yet.

#### METP/4

The 4th Meeting of the ICAO Meteorology Panel brought together 60 Members and advisors. The Panel has a public website that offers comprehensive documentation on items under discussion:

<https://www.icao.int/airnavigation/METP/Pages/Public-Documents.aspx>

Highlights of the meeting were information on the retirement of traditional alphanumeric code for weather (TAF, METAR), and IWXXM introduction. A major upgrade to the World Area Forecast System was presented, which will introduce more accurate wind, temperature, and hazardous weather forecasts from 2020 onwards. IFALPA concerns on the release of nuclear matter as well as provision of satellite pictures of volcanic ash were addressed.

#### FALP

The Facilitation Panel met during September. Their formal Panel meetings fall under the responsibility of the Air Transport Bureau. It was a full agenda and tackled some sensitive political issues which made for challenging discussions at times. The extension of the existing background check requirement for crew member certificates to crew identity cards went through without any difficulties.

There were papers on the topic of human trafficking which remain challenging despite everyone trying to reach unanimous conclusion as to how to resolve the issue. This topic will require further working groups to propose a solution that all States can adhere to. The recommendations from this Panel will go forward to the Air Transport Committee before reaching the ICAO Council.

### **ATMOPSP**

The Air Traffic Management Operations Panel held its 5th Panel Meeting at the ICAO HQ, 10-14 September. The issue of phraseology of SID/STARs was debated, showing that confusion still exists, especially around speed control. The new wake turbulence separation scheme RECAT implementation guidelines were prepared at the meeting.

IFALPA presented a paper on the half degree waypoint depiction in the NAT outlining the problem with the presentation of the waypoints to the flight crew. Radio Communication Failure procedures were also addressed, this issue will be taken onboard by the ATMOPS Panel.

### **IFPP**

The Instrument Flight Procedures Panel held their full Panel Meeting in September. At this meeting the Panel finalised many amendments to the Annex 15, Annex 4, PANS-OPS, and the Flight Procedures Manual, which culminates over two years of work developing these amendments. The Panel has produced several amendments for helicopter operations and further work on PBN approaches and departures. These finalised proposals will be forwarded to the Air Navigation Commission before being processed as amendments to the ICAO documents.