IFALPA

Year in Review
2023/2024

The Global Voice of Pilots

5 Global Regions
120,000 Pilots
74 Member Associations
# Year In Review 2023/2024

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It is my pleasure to open my first IFALPA Conference as President this year. After many years of working with the Federation, I am proud and honored to have received your support in leading it to new heights.

Reflecting on the past year, I am immensely grateful to our Member Associations, our experts, our dedicated staff, and my esteemed colleagues on the Board who have helped shape the strategic direction of the Federation.

IFALPA, as the representative body of airline pilots, holds a distinguished position and is one of the very few organizations with an observer seat at the ICAO Council, the highest governing body in international aviation regulation. What sets us apart is that we all contribute to enhancing safety, security, and the working conditions of our profession in our spare time. We are volunteers, and we should take pride in that fact.

With this year’s review, we aim to provide you with insight into the work accomplished over the past 12 months and the transformative changes we intend to implement. While it is impossible to mention every initiative, it is important for us to highlight some of our key achievements. I hope you find the information valuable and engaging.

Your unwavering commitment to each other and to the Federation fills me with confidence as we continue to navigate the uncertainties that have marked our industry in recent years. Together, we remain steadfast in advancing towards our shared vision for the future. I eagerly anticipate the remarkable progress we will achieve together in the coming year.
| First Row          | Capt. Amornvaj (Ben) Mansumitchai - President  
|                   | Capt. Juan Carlos Lozano - Deputy President   |
| Second Row        | Capt. Ron Hay - EVP Administration, Membership, & Finance (AMF)  
|                   | Capt. Uwe Harter - EVP Technical & Safety Standards (TSS)         |
|                   | Capt. Al Gaspari - EVP Professional & Government Affairs (PGA)     |
|                   | Capt. Daniel Bianco - EVP South America (SAM)                      |
| Third Row         | Capt. Souhaie Dallei - EVP Africa & Middle East (AFI/MID)          |
|                   | Capt. Jaffar Hassan - EVP Asia & Pacific (APAC)                     |
|                   | Capt. Rod Lypchuk - EVP Caribbean & North America (CAR/NAM)         |
|                   | Capt. Paul Reuter - EVP Europe (EUR)                                |
IFALPA Staff

First Row
Céline Canu - Managing Director
Gordon Margison - Technical Director
Capt. Brian Shury - Professional & Government Affairs Director

Second Row
Capt. Arnaud du Bédat - Senior Technical Officer
Capt. Priya Doobaree - Technical Officer & Representative to ICAO (ANC)
Sebastián Currás Barrios - Senior Professional & Government Affairs Officer
Ana Zachovay - Head of Administration

Third Row
Arleen McFarlane - Administration, Travel & Events Specialist
Tina Laurin - Administration & Accounting Coordinator
Husnia Adel - Communications Specialist (IT, Member Communications)
Emily Bitting - Senior Communications Specialist (Publications, PR)
Reflecting on IFALPA’s Achievements and Progress

On 9-12 May 2024 the IFALPA Executive Board convenes in Mexico City for its 78th annual Conference, gathering with representatives from Member Associations to deliberate on crucial decisions for the Federation and highlight key activities and campaigns. This year marks the initiation of a journey characterized by incremental change, focusing on enhancements in administration, membership, financial operations, and the refinement of strategic direction. Efforts have also been directed towards advancing technical initiatives and strengthening relationships with stakeholders, including heightened representation at ICAO and dedicated support for Member Associations on industrial matters. These initiatives underscore the commitment to adaptability and serving the needs of members and the aviation industry at large.

Amidst these developments, the commitment to promoting global aviation safety and advocacy for pilots remains unwavering. Celebrating its 76th anniversary as the Global Voice of Pilots, IFALPA continues its mission to offer representation, services, and support to its members and the broader aviation community. The collaborative IFALPA-ALPA-ECA campaign, entitled Safety Starts With 2 was launched to raise awareness regarding the potential consequences of Reduced Crew Operations and Extended Minimum Crew Operations. This campaign exemplifies the dedication to advancing the safety and the sustainability of the pilot profession.

By leveraging global resources and forging new strategic partnerships, IFALPA endeavors to solidify its position as the preeminent global representative organization for pilots, advocating tirelessly for safety in air transport. IFALPA strives to position airline pilots at the forefront of discussions, recognizing their expertise and perspectives as indispensable elements of a comprehensive positive safety culture. This report provides insights into the structural changes and strategic direction of the Federation, along with tangible examples of recent advancements within the profession.
New Flight Path: Céline Canu assumes leadership role as IFALPA’s Managing Director

The Federation experienced notable changes at the Director level of the Secretariat this year, bidding farewell to the long-serving Managing Director, Christoph Schewe, after a decade of dedicated service. Christoph has made invaluable contributions to the Federation, and the organization expresses gratitude for his unwavering commitment. Best wishes are extended to him as he embarks on his journey beyond IFALPA.

Ms. Céline Canu assumed the role of Managing Director in January 2024. Céline brings over 18 years of extensive experience in air transport policy at both the European and global levels to her new position. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated effective leadership skills, successfully guiding teams toward achieving common objectives. Her wealth of experience in the air transport sector and proven track record in managerial roles make her a valuable asset to IFALPA as it continues to advocate for the interests of pilots worldwide.

IFALPA President, Cpt Amornvaj (Ben) Mansumitchai, expressed his full support: “I am delighted to welcome Céline Canu as the Managing Director of IFALPA. Having known her for many years, I am certain that her experience within the global aviation community, together with her vision and exceptional people skills, will play a pivotal role in working collaboratively with both the executive board and staff to achieve the Federation’s goals. She is the right person to help bring IFALPA to the next level.”
Elevating Flight Safety: Gordon Margison assumes role of Technical Director at IFALPA

Another notable development on the organizational chart is the appointment of Mr. Gordon Margison to the role of Technical Director. With seven years of experience at IFALPA, Gordon brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to his new position. Renowned for his exceptional organizational skills and strategic vision, Gordon enjoys the full support of the board as he embarks on this important role. Gordon officially assumed his new responsibilities in March 2024, affirming,

“It is an honor to be entrusted by the Federation with the role of Technical Director. Together, the pilot community provides a strong and clear voice for aviation safety and efficiency. My commitment is to build on our success and ensure that the pilot perspective is heard in an ever-changing aviation industry. I am joined in this challenge by a strong team of professionals and pilot volunteers. I am continually inspired by the dedication shown by these individuals.”

A key priority for Margison is to consolidate his team and recruit a new Technical Officer. This pivotal role will make a substantial contribution to the Federation’s ongoing efforts in advocating for aviation safety.
Office Renovation: Enhancing IFALPA workspace at ICAO

IFALPA is delighted to announce that renovations of its ICAO offices will begin very soon. These improvements will maximize the workspace and enhance accommodations for international visitors including IFALPA experts and representatives. With a primary focus on cultivating a modern and inviting atmosphere, the renovation aims to optimize the regular office space for comfort and cater to various activities such as coffee gatherings, safety team briefings, and impromptu discussions, all essential for fostering collaboration and camaraderie. Expected to finish by the end of the year, the Federation looks forward to welcoming you there!

Modernizing IFALPA’s Constitution and Bylaws: An Historic Update

The Administration and Finance Working Group (AMFWG) has initiated the long-awaited update to IFALPA’s constitution and bylaws, a task not undertaken since 1959. This initiative aims to modernize the governing documents, addressing significant historical milestones such as the Federation’s relocation from the UK to Montreal. Additionally, it will incorporate updates regarding electronic communications, dedication to gender equality, and alignment of work at the Federation with representation at ICAO. These revised documents will be presented for approval by the Conference.

Strategic Transition: Strengthening Financial Operations in Canada

Another administrative development, showcasing IFALPA’s behind-the-scenes efforts, is the successful transfer of all financial and accounting service providers to Canadian companies. While this process is still under review due to ongoing updates and compliance requirements for certain services, it represents a significant step forward. The transition will establish a stronger and more enduring presence for us in the country, further solidifying our Canadian headquarters.
The Circular IFALPA concept was introduced during the Presidents and Chief Delegates’ meeting at the 77th IFALPA Conference in Montreal in 2023. The concept aims to establish structures that foster stronger alignment between the priorities of IFALPA MAs and expert groups, leveraging available resources more effectively.

This initiative calls upon experts at IFALPA to provide enhanced support, enabling MAs to address their identified priorities more efficiently. To enact this structure, regional EVPs and VPs are entrusted with the responsibility of collecting priorities from MAs in their respective regions and amalgamating common themes. Simultaneously, EVPs responsible for IFALPA Committees and Working Groups are responsible for collecting priorities from the expert groups.

Following this process, the Executive Board will identify priorities that the Federation will address with available resources, assigning them to the appropriate Committee(s) and/or Working Group(s) for action. Additionally, these assigned groups will develop implementation guidance tailored to MAs, aiding them in addressing their identified priorities alongside their regular outputs.
In February 2024, IFALPA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) to work together on aviation safety training and competency development – to help equip aviation professionals to manage safety challenges and raise aviation safety standards. IFALPA President Cpt Mansumitchai said, “IFALPA is honored to commence this collaborative journey with CAAS, focused on enhancing aviation safety training and competency development. Through our combined expertise and resources, we strive to provide pilots worldwide with the outstanding training they need to effectively tackle safety challenges. This partnership serves as a testament to our unwavering dedication to cultivating a positive safety culture within the aviation community, while highlighting the importance of partnerships between aviation authorities and pilots’ associations in advancing safety standards globally. Singapore’s recognized status as a hub of expertise for aviation further underscores the significance of this collaboration.” IFALPA is eager to act on this new strategic partnership, which will aid in advocating for the pilots’ perspective to regulators and other key aviation stakeholders.

On 22 March 2024, in conjunction with the APAC Regional Meeting in Bangkok, IFALPA President Cpt Mansumitchai also led the Federation’s first official meeting with the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand. The two organizations discussed a shared mission of aviation safety and specific aviation topics including runway safety, fatigue management, and peer support. They agreed to continue to explore potential areas of cooperation.
Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar re-appointed as ICAO Secretary General

IFALPA congratulated Juan Carlos Salazar on his reappointment as ICAO Secretary General. Salazar’s leadership has been pivotal in advancing global aviation. With his second term, IFALPA reaffirms collaboration with ICAO under his guidance. As the aviation world faces myriad challenges, including post-pandemic recovery, Salazar’s continued strategic direction ensures a focus on safety, security, and sustainability. IFALPA pledges its full support for ICAO’s endeavors, under his direction, to construct a resilient aviation future, inclusive of social and labor sustainability.

Mr. Junrong Liang Appointed as President of ICAO Air Navigation Commission

In the spirit of fostering collaboration and promoting excellence within the aviation industry, IFALPA extended heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Junrong Liang on his appointment by the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to serve as President of the ICAO Air Navigation Commission (ANC) for a one-year term.

IFALPA offered warm wishes for success and collaboration during his tenure at the helm of the ANC. IFALPA anticipates that Mr. Liang’s leadership will bring fruitful advancements and strengthen cooperation within the aviation community.
Commitment to Gender Equality

IFALPA continues its ongoing commitment to promoting gender equality in the global aviation community. In the past year, the Federation has joined with several other international aviation and labor organizations to underscore its commitment to enhancing the role of women in aviation. In July 2023 IFALPA published a joint statement with IFATCA and the ITF Condemning all forms of Workplace Harassment and Violence.

Aviation Orgs Unite for Fourth Year

IFALPA joined hands with IFATCA, IFAIMA, IFISA, and IFATSEA for the fourth consecutive year to issue a statement advocating for Gender Equality in the aviation industry, aligning with the UN theme, Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress. Additionally, on International Women’s Day 2024, the Female Pilots Working Group (FPWG) launched their Instagram account.

ICAO Global Aviation Gender Summit

At the ICAO Global Aviation Gender Summit in Madrid from July 5-8, 2023, Cpt Priya Doobaree, IFALPA Representative to ICAO and Technical Officer, along with Deputy President Juan Carlos Lozano, led a delegation from IFALPA’s FPWG. Discussions centered on the crucial role of gender equality, diversity, and fostering an inclusive work environment in achieving sustainable development and addressing the pressing labor challenges faced by the aviation industry today.

The summit emphasized the urgent need for collective action and change across the global aviation community. While progress has been made, it was acknowledged that advancements have been slow and incremental. It was stressed that supporting ICAO’s initiatives to promote gender equality in aviation is paramount. Addressing these issues through the framework of ICAO gender-based resolutions and initiatives was also highlighted as crucial for meaningful progress.
Safeguarding Aviation Safety: Highlighting the Risks of eMCO and SiPO Concepts

Two concepts, extended Minimum Crew Operations (eMCO) and Single Pilot Operations (SiPO), are currently being considered for implementation in the near and mid-term future. Both concepts would reduce the current number of required pilots present on the flight deck during operations to a single pilot and raise great concern due to significant new risks with unknown consequences. It is imperative that any future changes to safety standards improves upon and does not degrade the safety and security level in any area.

Where eMCO are concerned, the concept lacks both maturity and statistical proof of increased safety with the proposed enabling technology. Proponents of eMCO have suggested this concept will address problems around pilot fatigue by providing more opportunities for pilots to rest during flight. Pilot fatigue management is a much wider concept than providing pilots more opportunities to rest during the flight.

Adequate pilot fatigue management starts with a science-based fatigue risk management system (FRMS) established by the operator in collaboration with the pilot group. With a fully functional and properly established FRMS, the operator will have the data to better understand how fatigue is impacting the crews and take the necessary measures to address it.

Lack of crew interaction and coordination would create new hazards in pilot training that need to be carefully evaluated before any kind of reduction in crew composition is seriously considered. Further development and increased reliance on automation should have the goal of enhancing flight safety, the focus of the past century of aviation.

It is essential to fully address these risks and safety shortfalls before the industry accepts changes to the international safety standards, which have built the safest transportation system in history. For this reason IFALPA has joined forces with ECA and ALPA to raise awareness on the topic and advocate for thorough evaluation prior to any regulatory amendments.
Safety Starts With 2: Global Pilots Unite

The Joint Campaign on RCO with ECA and ALPA International was launched in March 2023, with a first joint statement on RCO, Global Pilots Unite to Keep Two Pilots on the Flight Deck, and continued its momentum into IFALPA’s Conference in Montreal, which featured a pre-opening press conference with the Presidents of the three organizations.

RCO and eMCO were hot topics throughout Conference, forming a large part of the GPS Programming, and featuring a panel of the three Presidents, as well as discussion panels on technical issues, strategy, communications, MAs campaigns and engagement plans around RCO. A line of promotional products was also launched, including bag tags, stickers, notebooks, and talking point cards, etc.
IFALPA, ECA, and ALPA-I Launch www.safetystartswith2.com Website

A key initiative was the launch of the www.safetystartswith2.com website, featuring foundational documents and information relating to RCO from all three organizations.

Efforts to address RCO, eMCO, and SiPO necessitate coordination at global and regional levels as well as among IFALPA’s technical and Professional and Government Affairs (PGA) committees and working groups. This issue permeates every aspect of the Federation’s operations and has been highlighted in the reports of nearly every IFALPA representative and elected official over the past year.

Planning and strategy work continues on all levels from the formation of an IFALPA Presidential WG on RCO, to two major RCO Task Force meetings between IFALPA, ALPA-I, and ECA.

Inspired by the Global Campaign, several IFALPA Member Associations have launched their own initiatives targeting their specific regions and countries. IFALPA has also spread the word by presenting at a number of fora including the Aerospace Medical Association, the Latin American and Caribbean Air Transport Association, eMCO virtual Consultation Group meeting, ICAO etc.
“Every aspect of flight safety is deliberately designed for a team with shared responsibilities working together... Removing one pilot introduces unnecessary safety risks...”

eMCO: A Threat to Commercial Aviation Safety, ALPA-I, ECA, IFALPA 2023

In the same ballroom where the historic Chicago Convention was agreed upon in 1944, ALPA International opened its Air Safety Forum, featuring a panel on RCO. IFALPA Technical Director Gordon Margison briefed the gathered pilot leaders on developments around RCO at ICAO. Notably, the discussions at the 41st Assembly around papers for and against development of standards for eMCO, and IFALPA’s successful efforts to direct the focus of ICAO to more pressing safety concerns. He also provided an overview of how the line pilot viewpoint is heard at ICAO. The panel featured ALPA-I President Cpt Jason Ambrosi, ALPA-I RCO SME Cpt Bill Secord, ECA Deputy President and IFALPA RVP Europe Cpt Paul Reuter, Craig Bombern, Chief Pilot of Boeing, and Gordon Marigson, IFALPA Technical Director.

“Will increased automation and technology truly enhance industry resilience, safety, and efficiency, or will it leave us more vulnerable than ever?”

Two Pilots, One Priority: Elevating Flight Safety, IFALPA 2024
World Pilots’ Day: Global Pilots spread the word #SafetyStartsWith2

Joint efforts of IFALPA, ECA, and ALPA-I continue with a campaign leading up to World Pilots’ Day, 26 April 2024.

On World Pilots’ Day 2024, the global pilot community highlighted the importance of two pilots on the flight deck. Led by IFALPA, ECA, and ALPA, the campaign raised awareness among pilots and aviation stakeholders about the necessity of maintaining a dual-pilot system for safe flight operations.

As part of the Safety Starts With 2 campaign, pilots were encouraged to share photos illustrating the teamwork and safety of having two pilots on board, using the hashtags #SafetyStartsWith2 and #WorldPilotsDay, and tagging IFALPA, ECA, and ALPA-I to spread the message globally.

The campaign stressed responsible posting, ensuring pilots followed company guidelines and IFALPA protocols when sharing photos from the flight deck.

The engagement was unprecedented. All organizations received photos from pilots worldwide and pilots created their own content, engaged with Campaign materials, and encouraged each other to get involved.

Member Associations around the world engaged in their own #SafetyStartsWith2 events and actions, ranging from parties to peaceful demonstrations, and everything in between.
Advancing Labour Standards in Aviation: IFALPA and ITF Forge Path Forward at Technical Meeting

IFALPA and the ITF have secured significant steps forward in the goal to advancing labour standards at a technical meeting in 2023 at the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva. The meeting brought together government officials from ILO member countries and representatives of employers and workers to examine labor issues in the aviation industry. The goal was to discuss opportunities and challenges in occupational safety and health and the promotion of good jobs to shape the post-pandemic recovery of a sustainable aviation industry. The ITF and IFALPA worked closely together, their delegations ensuring a unified, expert voice on aviation workers’ priorities.

In the wake of this important event, members of the ICAO council recognized the imperative of beginning a discussion at the Council level on the issue of social sustainability and how that should be expressed at ICAO, particularly with respect to the ILO – ICAO agreement signed two years ago.

Building on this acknowledgment, IFALPA, the ILO the ITF, and ACI have been invited to conduct an Informal Briefing for the ICAO Council. With the assistance of Ambassador Laurent Pic from France IFALPA, the ILO, the ITF, and ACI will present to the Council on 11 June 2024. We hope that this will be the beginning of a journey to establish a framework and processes that addresses the social impact of air transport liberalization on aviation workers.

“We are committed to working with employers & government to rebuild aviation into an economically, socially & environmentally sustainable industry.”
IFALPA continues to develop their Professional Development and Training programmes, offering new and updated educational sessions each year. The Executive Board supported the development and launch of IFALPA Positive Safety Culture training courses with a focus on prioritizing support for MAs with limited resources. In 2023, IFALPA experts offered the course in concert with the AFI/MID Regional Meeting in Mauritius, featuring presentations from IATA, ICAO, Boeing, and Airbus. Other international aviation stakeholders will also continue to get involved in this growing initiative.

Advocacy Training

The Federation worked valuable training sessions into all Regional Meetings this year, providing more tailored programmes where required. The Professional and Government Affairs team offered an informal, yet well-organized programme during the CAR/NAM Meeting in Trinidad this year. The Finding Influence and Creating Leverage event offered a comprehensive two-day session on advocacy and negotiations training. This initial experience could serve as the foundation for the development of a more expansive training programme.
Negotiations Seminar

The more established and very popular IFALPA Negotiations Seminar was also offered by our PGA experts this year in Lima, Peru during the SAM Regional meeting.

Esteemed within the international piloting community, it caters to both recently elected pilot representatives and seasoned professionals aiming to enhance their negotiations skills. Over the course of two days, participants engage in instruction and exercises focusing on negotiations and consensus decision-making, culminating in a third day dedicated to real-time simulated negotiations with a strike deadline. This programme has seen numerous former attendees go on to hold leadership roles within IFALPA MAs.
Fatigue Management Course

The IFALPA Fatigue Management Course was offered three times this year (Singapore, Luxembourg, and Tokyo). Intended for anyone involved in the management of fatigue in aviation operations, the course is offered in addition to the basic FM training for line pilots generally provided by the operator.

“I successfully completed the IFALPA Fatigue Management Course. I want to thank IFALPA for their effort to organize and hold such courses. It was great. I learned a lot and I’m sure I will be able to use the knowledge in my union’s work in future.”

“The trainers contributed to a motivating and interesting environment that made things easy and smooth for all of us... It gave me the opportunity to refresh knowledge previously acquired, and to learn new approaches to some themes and learn some new ones. I’m grateful for the opportunity that IFALPA and APPLA gave me, and I’m now interested in further developing my knowledge and expertise in Fatigue.”
A follow-up to the Accident and Incident Investigation Training, a one-day renewal course was also offered this year in Bali, featuring refreshers on the role of the IFALPA investigator, new techniques, and practical examples from real-life case studies.

Runway Safety Team Course

Also engaging several local Portuguese stakeholders, IFALPA held one Runway Safety Team Course in 2023, bringing together pilots, air traffic controllers, and representatives from airport, operator, and regulator, united to strengthen runway safety at Portuguese airports.

The Federation expresses gratitude for the support and participation of numerous players within the global aviation community. It anticipates increasing pilot training and capacity while furthering organizational relationships.
Advancing Aviation Safety in the Regions: Highlights from the 2024 APAC Workshop

The 2024 APAC Regional Meeting in Bangkok, hosted by THALPA, was a platform for insightful discussions and valuable workshops. The event began with a Safety Seminar focusing on key aviation safety topics like Runway Incursion/Excursion Prevention, Global Air Crew Operations, Training, Aircrew Emergency Support, and Regional Safety Assessment & Safety Culture Leadership.

Participants engaged in meaningful conversations, sharing their experience and perspectives on aviation safety. The subsequent day featured an interactive workshop dedicated to exploring Reduced Crew Operations, providing practical insights into operational efficiency.

Additionally, Regional Representatives delivered comprehensive reports, offering an overview of current trends and challenges across the region. Distinguished guests from prominent organizations including Boeing, Changi Airport Group (Singapore), AGS Airports UK, Hawaii State Airports, and the Asia Pacific Centre for Aviation Safety, along with representatives from the Flight Safety Foundation, contributed their expertise, enhancing the dialogue with diverse insights and innovative approaches.
Navigating Effective Lobbying: ECA Expert Training Course Returns to Vienna, March 2024

The European Cockpit Association offered their ECA Expert Training Course again in March 2024 in Vienna. Facilitated by IFALPA Deputy President Cpt Juan Carlos Lozano and IFALPA EVP Europe Cpt Paul Reuter, this course introduces pilots to association work, effective advocacy and lobbying techniques, government rulemaking, and much more. An initiative in which IFALPA strongly encourages participation, several IFALPA Staff, Elected Officers, and volunteer representatives have attended the programme with excellent results. The organization looks forward to seeing more training opportunities of this nature offered at the global level and within each region.
As ICAO and its member states decided to phase out the requirement for oceanic clearance over the NAT (discontinuation of Oceanic Clearance processes within Shanwick, Bodo, Santa Maria, Gander, and Reykjavik OCAs), IFALPA got involved in the ICAO project team in charge of drafting the guidance material for States and operators. Stakeholders contributed to the safety case and provided detail and information that showed a thorough understanding of change management and dedication to safety. To achieve this, IFALPA and IATA completed a review of NAT Doc 007, Chapter 8, Flight Operations and Navigation Procedures in anticipation of the Oceanic Clearance Removal, and a full update of the NAT OPS Bulletins.

These amendments were published in January 2024, as part of the information package on OCR. To complement this work, IFALPA, IATA, and some ANSP including NATS UK have also developed an educational video available HERE and to be presented at conference. A big thanks to Cpt Rodriguez and Cpt Hurst, who have each served in these groups as IFALPA NAT RVPs.
Preserving the IATA In-flight Broadcast Procedure (IFBP): Ensuring Airspace Safety in African Regions

The IFBP currently spans 11 FIRs across the African continent. Pilots operating under the IFBP protocol are mandated to monitor two frequencies, including the standard ATS frequency and 126.9 MHz, facilitating the transmission of blind updates on their position at regular intervals.

In some companies the procedure mandates that some MEL Items pertinent to traffic avoidance should not be accepted departing home base but instead the use of TCAS in TA/RA mode should be mandatory. Additionally, pilots’ reports should be comprehensive, providing enough detail for other aircraft to determine their location and evaluate any potential risk. This includes information such as the FIR name, flight level, direction, and intended route.

Some states may not be transparent about the actual proficiency of their ATC systems. In such instances, IFBP becomes a critical tool for pilots- the only available method for broadcasting intentions and coordinating potential conflict resolutions or weather deviations.

There is a significant amount of north-south air traffic over Cairo, Khartoum, and Jeddah, particularly during Hajj flights, resulting in crowded airspace and a heightened risk of mid-air collisions. The implementation of IFBP is crucial in mitigating this risk.

Sustaining the IFBP is paramount to safeguarding air travel in African regions, necessitating continued collaboration and advocacy efforts among stakeholders to ensure its retention and effective implementation. IFALPA will continue to work closely with IATA to ensure that the IFBP procedure is maintained and effectively implemented, thus preserving crucial safety measures for airlines operating in African regions.
Social Media: Balancing Personal and Professional Boundaries for Pilots

The widespread use of social media in contemporary culture has blurred the lines between our professional and private lives. Despite the seemingly innocuous nature of sharing a status or a brief comment, actions and words on social platforms can have significant consequences. In its 2023 Position Paper, IFALPA expressed deep concern about the potential safety and security risks posed by pilots who may inadvertently jeopardize their own aviation careers, as well as those of their peers, through their online behavior. While this issue is not new, the rapid dissemination of information through social media is unparalleled in its speed and reach. Therefore, thoughtful and responsible use of these tools is crucial.

Protecting Cockpit Recordings: IFALPA’s Stance on Safety and Privacy

The absence of defined terms for “cockpit voice recordings” and “airborne image recordings” in ICAO Annex 13 on Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation, leaves it up to individual States to determine which onboard recordings fall under the purview of this Annex and which do not.

In December 2023, IFALPA released a Position Paper articulating its stance that these terms should encompass ANY recording made in the cockpit, regardless of how it is captured, rather than solely recordings generated by systems or devices installed for accident/incident investigation purposes.

IFALPA strongly opposes the unauthorized use and potential misuse of cockpit recordings, particularly in light of mounting pressure from certain regulators and lobby groups advocating for the installation of cockpit image recorders. Our focus is on safeguarding sensitive cockpit data, ensuring its utilization is strictly for enhancing safety measures and not for punitive or non-safety related objectives.
Addressing GNSS Signal Manipulation Threats

In December 2023, IFALPA addressed the growing safety concern surrounding the potential manipulation of GNSS signals, posing a serious threat to aircraft navigation systems in a Briefing Leaflet. The organization emphasized the importance of collaboration among all aviation stakeholders – including pilots, air traffic controllers, and regulatory authorities – to raise awareness, enhance training, and implement proactive measures to protect the integrity of navigation signals and ensure air travel safety.

IFALPA’s communication, delved into the differences between jamming and spoofing scenarios, highlighting associated risks and providing recommended actions and mitigation measures. The organization is committed to monitoring developments in this area closely and will continue to provide updates as necessary.

As safety stands as IFALPA’s top priority, the organization urges the aviation community to remain vigilant and proactive in addressing this emerging threat. IFALPA advocates for future systems in civil aviation to adopt a more robust architecture incorporating state-of-the-art cybersecurity measures. Together, stakeholders are encouraged to safeguard the integrity of navigation signals and uphold the safety of air travel.

In October 2023, IFALPA took proactive measures in response to the dynamic geopolitical landscape, aiming to support its MAs while emphasizing the importance of adhering to their respective company guidelines. As part of these efforts, the organization updated and re-issued the IFALPA Position Paper on Flights Into and Over Conflict Zones.

Recent events underscored the swift and unpredictable nature of changes in conflict zones worldwide, raising concerns about potential risks to civil aviation, including collateral damage or targeted attacks. Therefore, IFALPA emphasizes the necessity for comprehensive threat and risk assessments for flights into and over these zones, ensuring that flight crews are promptly provided with relevant and up-to-date information.

According to ICAO regulations, it is the responsibility of Member States to close any airspace over their territory in which the safety and security of air traffic cannot be guaranteed.

Unfortunately, Member States do not adhere to this obligation in many cases. IFALPA will continue to address these deficiencies.
Advancing Sustainable Aviation: The Pilot’s Role in Green ATM Operations

During the September 2023 Climate Working Group meeting in Madrid, IFALPA and SEPLA hosted a specialized workshop led by IFALPA Climate WG Chair, Cpt Robert Brons, on the Role of the Pilot in Green ATM Operations. The session featured presentations from SESAR, EUROCONTROL, CANSO, INTRA, ENAIRE and several IFALPA experts, with a focus on brainstorming ATM improvements to achieve sustainable aviation goals.

The workshop aimed to define the pilot’s role in future green ATM, bringing together various operational stakeholders was a clear success. Objectives included optimizing flights environmentally, enabling user-preferred routes and flexibility, promoting information-sharing initiatives, integrating tactical (cockpit) and strategic (ATM) goals, and advocating for performance-based navigation.

When addressing the audience Cpt Pascual Alvarez del Castillo Sosa, IFALPA ATS Committee Vice-Chair, explained: “Air Traffic Management (ATM) and improved operations offer the highest potential for reducing CO2 and related emissions in the short to medium term, through improvements in the performance of flights across all phases. Our role as pilot and professional pilot association is to assist in a sustainable future aviation and contribute to ICAO global strategy towards a net-zero carbon future. IFALPA does not operate in isolation but instead contribute to the work as structured by ICAO notably the Global Air Navigation Plan (GDNP) and the Aviation System Block Upgrades (ASBU)”

ICAO Air Navigation World Singapore
“ATM Procedure for Today”

After the Montreal gathering, another notable event took place in Singapore. While the August occasion focused on the future of air navigation, the ICAO Air Navigation World Singapore event in October 2023, themed “ATM Procedure for Today,” emphasized present operations. This event aimed to promote global ATM implementation through concentrated knowledge sharing of established and proven ATM procedures in a practical manner.

At the event, IFALPA’s ATS Committee Chair, Captain Paul Vissers, presented the pilot’s perspective on Datalink.
ICAO Air Navigation World 
“Shaping the Skies of Tomorrow”

In August 2023, at ICAO’s Air Navigation World event in Montreal themed “Shaping the Skies of Tomorrow,” IFALPA Experts made significant contributions across various panels.

IFALPA’s Deputy President, Cpt Juan Carlos Lozano, delivered a presentation titled “Modern Approaches to Safety – Learning from What Goes Well,” stressing the importance of fostering a Positive Safety Culture within management and creating an environment of trust and psychological safety for employees.

Dr. Cpt Antti Tuori, Vice-Chair of IFALPA’s HUPER Committee, provided insights on “Pilot Age Limitations,” highlighting the complexity of the issue by stating, “We simply do not have the data to determine that all age limits should be raised. It’s not just a technical matter but also a social and industrial one.”

Representing IFALPA, Cpt Lauri Soini addressed two significant topics. Firstly, on Meteorological advancements, he conveyed pilots’ appreciation for future developments in weather forecasts and real-time information delivery to enhance safety and operational efficiency. Secondly, on NOTAMs, he emphasized the necessity for a system reset to ensure pilots receive accurate and timely information.
IFALPA Engagement at ICAO’s CAAF/3 Conference in Dubai: Advancing the production of Sustainable Aviation Fuels

In November 2023, IFALPA Deputy President, Cpt Juan Carlos Lozano, and Climate Working Group Vice Chair, Cpt Adam Brinckman, participated in the third ICAO Conference on Aviation Alternative Fuels (CAAF/3) held in Dubai. The conference aimed to review the 2050 ICAO Vision for Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF), encompassing Lower Carbon Aviation Fuels (LCAF) and other cleaner energy sources for aviation. Its objective was to define an ICAO global framework aligned with the No Country Left Behind (NCLB) initiative while considering national circumstances and capabilities. This event was closely associated with COP28, which convened the following week.
A Year of Essential Technical Publications and Releases

Since its 77th Conference in 2023, IFALPA has proudly released 17 position papers covering a diverse range of topics, including Fatigue Management, Preflight Checks, Weather Radar, Cabin Fumes, Flotation Devices, and Dangerous Goods on RPAS, among others. These position papers serve as crucial tools for the Federation to address emerging issues or topics and advocate its stance to legislators and other aviation stakeholders.

When more detailed and specific operational information needs to be shared, IFALPA drafts Briefing Leaflets (BLs). This year, IFALPA published six BLs on topics ranging from Cabin Fumes to Pilot Mental Health.

For urgent updates on safety and security matters that need to be swiftly communicated to our MAs, IFALPA issues Safety Bulletins (SABs). Six SABs were released this year, including a joint bulletin with IFATCA on Unlawful Communication Interference within the Mogadishu FIR.

In addition to our technical publications, IFALPA also issues Statements, Editorials, and Press Releases, as required. Seven releases were issued publicly this year, some in collaboration with other international aviation stakeholders.

17 Position Papers
6 Briefing Leaflets
6 Safety Bulletins
7 Special Releases
Originally developed at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic to address the unique needs of MAs, Member Consults have since become a permanent fixture within IFALPA’s services. Providing individualized guidance and support from experienced Experts, these consultations offer crucial assistance to smaller MAs navigating disputes with their employers, while also aiding larger MAs in managing complex industrial conflicts.

Over the past year, the majority of Consult calls have resulted in targeted support letters, while others necessitated additional assistance such as webinars and seminars covering diverse topics like FTL regulations, financial management, and SMS implementation. Ongoing consults with several MAs reflect the sustained engagement and support provided by IFALPA, ensuring continuing advice and discussions to address evolving challenges. In 2023 alone, IFALPA provided in-depth expert support to 8 MAs. Feedback from participating MAs underscores the effectiveness of these consults:

“The support and guidance from the IFALPA team during our negotiations in this period was fundamental... Without Federation support and services, we would not have had the same results protecting our pilots. Negotiations with transnational companies are complex and require organization and unity from both a national and international level. Only IFALPA can provide us with that unity. For this reason, it is essential to unite around our Federation, keeping it strong and active.”
IFALPA Mutual Assistance: Coordinating Pilot Unity and Global Response Efforts

Throughout the past year, IFALPA issued 8 formal Requests for Mutual Assistance, reflecting the Federation’s commitment to supporting its MAs in times of dispute with airlines. These requests aim to provide a diverse range of assistance to MAs, with IFALPA facilitating coordination between individual Associations.

Member Associations seeking Mutual Assistance are encouraged to reach out to IFALPA Headquarters and the Professional & Government Affairs Officer (PGAO) at their earliest convenience. Additionally, Associations intending to pursue Mutual Assistance as a joint action by multiple MAs should initiate contact with the specific Associations from which they seek support, while also keeping IFALPA informed of all developments throughout the process.