

IFALPA @ICAO

Bringing frontline expertise
to the global discussion



Featuring Capt. Priya Doobaree
Technical Officer & Representative to ICAO

What is ICAO?

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is the UN agency that establishes the regulatory frameworks to support air transport operations. It notably produces and publishes Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs), forming part of the ICAO Annexes that shape every aspect of international civil aviation from aircraft operations to aviation security, airspace management, and environmental impact. These SARPs, once adopted, are incorporated by ICAO's 193 member states into national and regional aviation regulations. In short: what ICAO decides, States should implement.

Where IFALPA Fits In

IFALPA represents the voice of professional pilots at ICAO as a recognized international non-governmental organization (NGO). Through its permanent industry observer status at the Air Navigation Commission, IFALPA has a privileged presence at ICAO. The Federation's expert pilots also participate in a wide range of ICAO panels, study groups, and working groups that develop and revise aviation standards.

IFALPA does not simply advocate from the sidelines. The Federation provides highly experienced pilot subject-matter experts at all levels of ICAO's technical deliberations. These pilots contribute to working groups on topics such as air traffic management, training and licensing, safety management, flight operations, and remotely piloted aircraft systems, injecting operational realism and flight deck insight into policy debates.

IFALPA at ICAO: Elevating the Voice of Pilots in Global Aviation Standards

In the realm of international aviation regulation and standards setting, IFALPA plays a vital yet often-unrecognized role. Through its active engagement with ICAO, IFALPA brings the frontline operational insight of professional pilots into decision-making fora (working groups, panels discussions, Air Navigation Commission and Council). By ensuring their voices are heard and their contributions reflected in evolving policies and regulations, IFALPA helps to shape more efficient, safe, and resilient air transport operations.



The Role of IFALPA's Representative to ICAO

Based at ICAO Headquarters in Montreal, IFALPA's representative ensures continuous engagement with the organization's evolving technical and policy agenda. This role involves monitoring ICAO developments, advising IFALPA leadership and technical committees, and fostering relationships with ICAO Secretariat, national delegations, and other stakeholders, ensuring that the professional pilot voice is present, informed, and influential.

Captain Priya Doobaree, IFALPA's Representative to ICAO, brings both operational experience and diplomatic skill to this demanding role. A seasoned airline pilot with over 15,000 hours, she is a long-time member of the Air Line Pilots' Association of Mauritius and holds the distinction of being the first female Captain in Mauritius. She is also the first woman to serve as IFALPA's official Representative to ICAO, marking a significant step forward in representation within the Federation and the broader aviation community.

Priya's background as a line pilot and union representative provides her with a deep understanding of both flight operations and the policy issues affecting pilots around the world. Her work at ICAO includes active participation in working groups, analysis of evolving standards, and regular liaison with national aviation authorities and other international organizations.

"It's essential that we're involved in the discussions early" she notes, emphasizing the importance of contributing during the early stages of ICAO's standard-setting process. "If we wait until draft SARPs (Standards and Recommended Practices) are sent out for comment, we miss the opportunity to weigh in strategically".

Through Priya's presence at ICAO in Montreal, and at fora around the world, IFALPA ensures that the operational realities, safety priorities, and professional insights of the pilot community are consistently represented in ICAO's global decision-making.

How It Works: Panels, Study Groups, and Beyond

ICAO's technical work happens primarily through specialized panels and study groups that focus on distinct areas of aviation. These groups are where technical experts, including those from IFALPA, contribute their knowledge to the development of aviation standards. IFALPA's technical representatives serve as subject-matter experts within these groups, ensuring that pilot perspectives on operational practices, safety, and human factors are factored into the discussions.

One such area of focus is air traffic management, where the Federation's experts work with ICAO to define procedures that ensure safety while maintaining operational efficiency in busy airspace. Another area is human performance, where pilots provide critical insights into the cognitive and physical aspects of flight duties, ensuring that new regulations are designed with the reality of flight deck operations in mind.

Why It Matters for Member Associations

IFALPA's work at ICAO has direct, tangible impact on the day-to-day operations and pilots' experience in civil aviation. By advocating for policies that prioritize safety, practical applicability in real flight operations, and pilot welfare, IFALPA ensures that the voice of the pilot remains central in global aviation decisions. Member Associations, which represent their member pilots, can take comfort knowing that IFALPA is working constantly to influence the standards that govern their profession.

Through its engagement with ICAO, IFALPA not only protects the interests of pilots but also contributes to the broader goal of global aviation safety and efficiency. The Federation's expertise, represented by leaders like Captain Priya Doobaree, will continue to be a guiding force in the development of aviation policies that prioritize safety, professionalism, and operational integrity.



IFALPA Delegates at the 14th ICAO Air Navigation Conference, left to right:

GNSS Interference Subject Matter Expert Cpt Niklas Ahrens, Air Traffic Services (ATS) Committee Chair Cpt Paul Vissers, Technical Officer & Representative to ICAO Cpt Priya Doobaree, Executive Vice-President Technical & Safety Standards (EVP TSS) Cpt Stacey Jackson, President Cpt Ron Hay, and Technical Director Mr. Gordon Margison.