



**Fifteenth Meeting on the Improvement of Air Traffic Services over the
South Atlantic (SAT 15)
(Lisbon, Portugal, 19-21 May 2010)**

Agenda Item 1: Air Traffic Management

ATC INCIDENTS IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

Working Paper presented by **IATA**

SUMMARY

The frequency of ATS Incidents/Air miss reports in the region is a serious flight safety concern for the airlines. Identification of factors which contribute to ATS problems or degrade the safety margin, and development of corrective measures, are urgently required. The Civil Aviation Authorities are requested to establish the highest priority to the elimination of this problem, and assist ICAO in coordination and implementation of solutions.

Background

The airlines continue to experience ATS related incidents in the region and have directed IATA to step up its efforts to obtain the support of ICAO and the Civil Aviation Authorities towards identification of the problem areas and development of concrete actions at the regional level, with the single objective of reducing the frequency of ATS incidents, large height deviations (LHDs) and airmiss situations and improving the level of flight safety.

Discussion

The timely reporting of air safety reports (ASR) is fundamental to the achievement of higher safety standards in air traffic control. Unfortunately, few airlines regularly submit a report, which leads to a limited ability to assess the threat regionally and therefore globally. IATA believes that urgent action must be taken to improve this situation.

The EUR-SAM Corridor in the South Atlantic has experienced a significant increase in the number of large height deviations (LHD), ATC coordination errors and communication failures over the past years.

IATA has called for airlines to assist the South Atlantic Monitoring Agency (SATMA) and ATC Authorities in expediting the investigation of these incidents by ensuring that the following steps are followed:

- The airline concerned shall prepare a written report of the incident as soon as possible and send it to the affected ATC authority and SATMA.
 - Copies of the report to be sent by the airline to the IATA Regional Office, and to the ICAO Regional Office.
 - It is essential to the follow-up process that airlines forward the results of the investigation received from the Authorities to IATA.
- Attached is a copy of the IATA memo sent to all airlines operating in the South Atlantic region.

ACTION BY THE MEETING

The meeting is invited to:

- Recognize ATS incidents/LHDs/airmisses as an area that requires immediate attention.
- Direct the State's ATS authority to acknowledge, review, analyse airline ATC incident/airmiss reports, and disseminate details to ICAO and IATA.
- Expedite implementation of regional ATS improvement recommendations.