



ICAO



3RD GLOBAL RS00 AND RAI0 FORUM FOR AVIATION SAFETY

29 - 30 September 2026 | Georgetown, Guyana

Hosted by



SPEAKER BIOS



Day 1 – 29 September, 2026

Session 1 Benefits of Regional Cooperation

Christopher Barks - Moderator

Regional Director, North American, Central American and Caribbean Regional Office,
ICAO

Mr. Christopher Barks is the Regional Director of ICAO's North American, Central American and Caribbean (NACC) Regional Office in Mexico City, where he leads efforts to enhance aviation safety, security, efficiency, and sustainability across 22 Member States and 19 overseas territories. He assumed the role in July 2023 after a distinguished career with the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), including serving as Director of Global Strategy and Mission Support and Manager for ICAO and Global Affairs. He also led FAA activities in the Western Hemisphere and served as Senior Representative in Brussels and Northern Europe. Mr. Barks joined the FAA in 1997 and has extensive experience in international aviation policy and crisis response. He holds graduate and undergraduate degrees in international, European, and German studies, is fluent in Spanish, and is a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society.

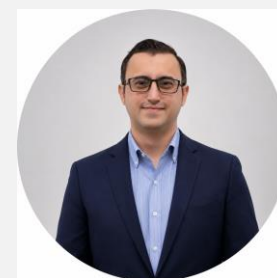


Elvin Lacayo

AIG Specialist, Regional Office for the Investigation of Aviation Accidents and Incidents
(GRIAA)

Mr. Elvin Lacayo works as an AIG Specialist at COCESNA/GRIAA. For the past nine years, he has been part of the team dedicated to the development of GRIAA, identifying solutions to strengthen regional cooperation among Member States in the application of Annex 13. Over the last five years, he has provided assistance to Central American States in establishing and implementing their accident investigation systems under the critical elements of AIG. He has participated in several ICAO USOAP CMA audits, supporting States in their preparation for these assessments.

Mr. Lacayo has also contributed to SSP establishment and has conducted evaluations for SMS acceptance within the industry. He holds a degree in Business Administration, along with postgraduate qualifications in Quality Management Systems (QMS) and Project Management. In addition, he holds a Private Pilot License and has successfully passed the theoretical examinations for the Commercial Pilot and Instrument Flight Rating at the Civil Aviation Authority.





Musayeroh Barrie

Director General, Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA), Sierra Leone

Madam Musayeroh Barrie is the Director General of the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA), appointed in August 2023 as Sierra Leone's first female Director General of Civil Aviation and one of the youngest globally.

She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology, an MBA, a Diploma in Strategic Management and Leadership (CMI, UK), and is a Certified Aviation Security Professional Manager (AVSEC PM). Prior to her appointment, she served for over a decade as Country Director for Westminster, leading aviation security operations at Freetown International Airport.

Under her leadership, SLCAA achieved major milestones, including the approval of Sierra Leone's first Air Operator Certificate since 2008, reopening of the national aircraft registry, support for Air Sierra Leone's return, and establishment of the Consumer Protection Division. She is also a strong advocate for gender equality and youth empowerment.

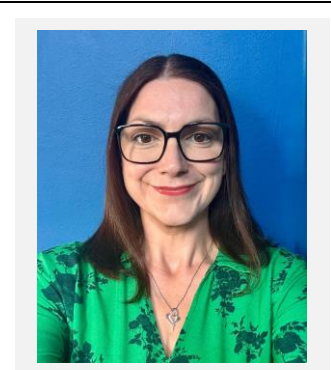


Fiona Hau

Head of Aviation Safety, ASIS Division, Department for Transport, United Kingdom

Fiona Hau is Head of Aviation Safety at the UK Department for Transport, where she leads the UK's aviation safety portfolio and oversees the implementation of the UK's State Safety Programme. With over a decade of experience in government, Fiona has held a range of strategic, operational and policy roles across aviation safety and security, working closely with ministers and senior leaders to shape the UK's approach to aviation oversight and risk management.

She is particularly passionate about advancing global aviation safety through collaboration, capacity building and the sharing of expertise between States. Fiona is a strong supporter of ICAO's "No Country Left Behind" initiative and believes that improving effective implementation across all regions is essential to achieving a safer, more resilient and more connected global aviation system.





Session 2

Key RSOO/RAIOs developments

Serkan Simitcioglu - Moderator

Deputy Director, Monitoring, Oversight and Coordination (MOC), ICAO

Serkan Simitcioglu serves as Deputy Director, Monitoring, Oversight and Coordination in the Air Navigation Bureau at ICAO. Serkan is an aviation professional with extensive experience in international oversight systems, audit and monitoring programmes, regulatory engagement, and standards development in a multinational environment. In his current role, Serkan contributes to the management and evolution of ICAO's continuous monitoring and oversight activities, including the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme – Continuous Monitoring Approach and the RSOO/RAIO Assessment Programme (RRAP), and supports coordinated monitoring, analysis, and implementation support for States.

Prior to joining ICAO, Serkan spent more than fourteen years at the International Air Transport Association (IATA), where he held senior leadership roles in quality assurance, standards development, and audit oversight. From 2014 until early 2026, he served as Head of the IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) Programme, leading its global operation and strategic evolution, overseeing airline registration, auditor management, regulatory engagement, and the strategic transformation of IOSA, including its transition to a risk-based oversight model and the insourcing of programme delivery.



Dawn Flanagan

Chief, Regional Safety Cooperation Unit (RSCU), ICAO

Ms. Dawn Flanagan is Chief of the Regional Safety Cooperation Unit in ICAO's Air Navigation Bureau, a position she assumed in late 2024. She brings nearly 30 years of experience in international civil aviation, dedicated to strengthening regional cooperation, enhancing institutional capacity, and supporting sustainable aviation development.

Ms. Flanagan began her career with the United States Federal Aviation Administration, where she managed technical assistance and aviation cooperation initiatives across the Caribbean and supported the establishment of regional safety oversight organizations. As an FAA Fellow seconded to ICAO's Technical Cooperation Bureau, she worked closely with donors, partners, and Member States to develop and implement programs that strengthened aviation safety, institutional effectiveness and regional collaboration. Since joining ICAO, she has led strategic initiatives fostering partnerships, mobilizing resources, and advancing regional cooperation mechanisms, helping Member States address aviation challenges and build sustainable capacity. She holds degrees from American University and Johns Hopkins University.





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Paul Lukanga

Director Technical, East African Community, Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency (CASSOA)

Paul Lukanga is an aviation professional and licensed Aircraft Engineer with nearly two decades of experience leading teams in engineering, flight operations, and regulatory oversight.**

He holds a Master's degree in Aerospace Management from Toulouse Business School in France and has worked across Africa, Europe, and the United States.

He is qualified and trained on a wide range of aircraft, including CRJs, Boeing 737s, Airbus A330s, MD-80s, and Bell helicopters.

Paul also has strong regulatory experience, having managed flight safety standards teams at the Uganda Civil Aviation Authority and contributed to USOAP audit preparations in 2023.

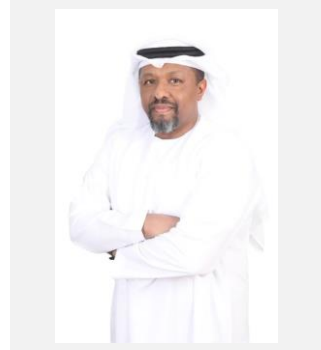
He is currently serving as Director Technical at CASSOA, supporting eight Partner States in harmonising civil aviation standards. He is also leading a project to review and establish an independent Regional AIG unit in East Africa to enhance AIG activities and improve compliance across the region.



Capt. Khalifa Yousif Aljazi

Senior Manager, Air Accident Investigation, GCAA UAE

Captain Khalifa Aljazi is the Senior Manager – Air Accident Investigation at the UAE General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA), leading the Air Accident Investigation Sector and overseeing the independent investigation of aircraft accidents and serious incidents in accordance with ICAO Annex 13 and the UAE Civil Aviation Regulations. With over 30 years of aviation experience, he has served as a Captain on the Boeing 777 and Airbus A320, A330, and A340 aircraft, in addition to holding managerial positions at Etihad Airways. His expertise includes aircraft accident investigation, safety intelligence, safety recommendations, aviation safety management, and international safety cooperation. Khalifa represents the UAE, contributing to global investigation standards and regional collaboration. He holds an Advanced Master in Airline Operations and Management from ENAC, an IATA Diploma in Airline Operations Management, specialized aircraft accident investigation training, and has completed the AI Executive Program at the Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence





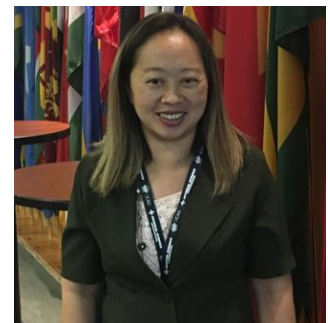
Session 3

Delegation of tasks and functions

Wimen Fong Leung

Aviation Security Supervisor, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Costa Rica

Legal Advisor with more than 15 years of experience in aeronautical law. As a former ICAO consultant for the Regional Cooperation and Technical Planning Unit, I provide legal technical assistance to regional safety oversight organizations and Member States, reviewed and performed legal analysis on Doc 9734 Part B. As a former regional legal advisor for the Central American RSOO ACSA, I performed legal analysis, revisions and elaborate regional treaties such as GRIAA, AIG, SMS-SSP. I also organized regional meetings, seminars on aeronautical law/regional community law and participated in ICAO Working Groups such as RPAS and GASOS. I was also a member of the first Legal Ad Hoc for ICAO's GASOS Programme and also a panelist on different forums organized by ICAO and international universities. Currently, I am security supervisor for the two main airports in Costa Rica and also an air law professor in my free time.



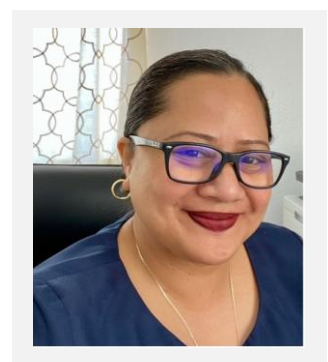
Dr. Vinolia Salesi

Director of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Infrastructure, Tonga

Dr. Vinolia K. Salesi serves as the Director of Civil Aviation within the Ministry of Infrastructure, Tonga. With nearly 20 years of experience in the aviation sector, she has dedicated her career to strengthening the civil aviation regulatory framework in Tonga.

Dr Salesi became Tonga's first female Director of Civil Aviation in 2016, following her role as Acting Director beginning in 2014. She is also the first PhD holder in Aviation Management in the Pacific region, marking a significant milestone in advancing aviation leadership across the region.

Her leadership extends beyond Tonga through her active advocacy for aviation security and regulatory development across the Pacific. She currently serves as Co-Deputy Chair of the Pacific Aviation Safety Office (PASO), contributing to regional collaboration and safety enhancement.





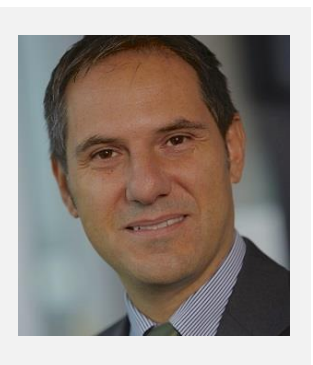
Lorenzo Pellegrini

Section Manager, North America, Europe and Middle East, European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)

Lorenzo Pellegrini is Section Manager for International Cooperation at the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), where he leads the Agency's institutional engagement and technical cooperation across North America, Europe, and the Middle East. He oversees EU-funded aviation cooperation projects and coordinates EASA's engagement with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), supporting global aviation safety and international regulatory collaboration.

With over 26 years of experience in civil aviation, Lorenzo has extensive expertise in continuing airworthiness, maintenance oversight, quality, safety management systems, and aircraft accident investigation. His career spans the airline industry, the Italian Accident Investigation Board, and EASA, where he has held technical and leadership positions, including Airworthiness Inspector and Section Manager for Maintenance Organisation Oversight.

Lorenzo holds a Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering from La Sapienza University of Rome and continues to maintain his technical qualifications as an EASA Airworthiness Inspector, uniquely combining leadership with active regulatory expertise.



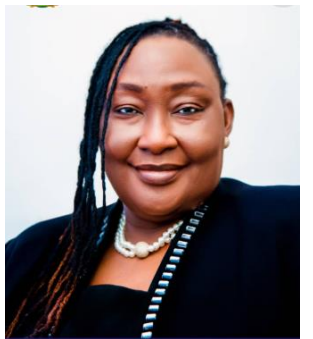
Mary Tufano Eche

Director Legal Services, NCAA Nigeria

Mary Tufano-Eche is an aviation lawyer and expert with over two decades of experience in civil aviation law, policy development and governance. She is Director of Legal Services and Company Secretary at the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), providing legal advice, overseeing compliance and enforcement, and managing litigation.

She holds an LL.M from the University of Jos and was called to the Nigerian Bar in 1989 after obtaining her LL.B (Hons) from the University of Maiduguri. She has training in air law, aviation management, safety oversight, compliance, legislative drafting and dispute resolution.

Mary served over a decade as Regional Legal Adviser to BAGASOO and briefly as Acting Executive Director. She contributed to model aviation legislation, regulatory harmonisation, ICAO USOAP preparation and regional safety oversight initiatives. She served with AFCAC legal experts and chairs the BAG Committee of Legal Experts Working Group. She is a certified arbitrator, mediation advocate, and mentor.





Day 2 – 30 September 2026

Session 4

Dialogue on attracting and retaining an inclusive and equitable workforce

Kabo Phutietsile

Executive Director, SADC Aviation Safety Organization (SASO)

Mr. Kabo Joseph Phutietsile is the Executive Director of the SADC Aviation Safety Organisation (SASO). With over 31 years of experience in aviation, engineering, safety oversight, and leadership across the Southern African Development Community (SADC), he has played a pivotal role in advancing regional aviation standards.

Since joining SASO in July 2021, he has overseen the organisation's administration and its transition from an interim entity to its full operationalisation. His leadership and expertise have contributed to measurable improvements in aviation safety compliance across the region. Previously, Mr. Phutietsile served as Director of Airport Engineering and Maintenance at the Civil Aviation Authority of Botswana and as Acting Chief Executive Officer from 2018 until his appointment to SASO.

He holds an MBA from De Montfort University (UK) and a BSc in Aviation Technology from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University (USA), complemented by advanced management and change leadership certifications.



Gabriel Gutiérrez Serrato

Programme Assistant, North American, Central American and Caribbean Regional Office, ICAO

Gabriel Gutiérrez Serrato is an experienced professional with a multidisciplinary background in international affairs, diplomacy, strategic management, regional cooperation, and aviation development. Since joining the ICAO North American, Central American and Caribbean (NACC) Regional Office in 2013, he has supported a wide range of initiatives related to aviation implementation, capacity-building, stakeholder engagement, and regional coordination, while also collaborating with the Strategic Implementation Team at ICAO Headquarters. Previously, he worked with the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, contributing to strategic planning and diplomatic training programmes. He has also supported regional efforts to address aviation workforce retention challenges since the 2025 NACC/DCA Meeting in the Dominican Republic. His academic credentials include graduate studies in Strategic Management, Refugee Protection and Forced Migration Studies, and Literature, and degrees in International Affairs and Law, reflecting expertise that spans policy, governance, organizational development, and international cooperation.





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Session 5

Best Practices for Legal and Funding Models

Farid Zizi

Director, France Aviation Civile Services (FRACS), France

Farid Zizi is Administrator and Executive Director of France Aviation Civile Services (FRACS), managing numerous projects supporting the development of civil aviation worldwide. He has been the leader of EASA/ICAO supported study on the operationalisation of RSOOs/RAIOs in AFI region.

Farid has been President of the ICAO Air Navigation Commission from 2014 to 2016. Nominated by France in 2010 to the Air Navigation Commission, he has been, among other activities, in charge of coordinating ANC preparation and follow-up on the 12th Air Navigation Conference which lead to 4th edition of the GANP. He managed during his time the MH 370 crisis and is at the origin of Global Aeronautical Distress Safety System.

Graduated from Ecole Polytechnique in Paris and ENAC in Toulouse as Civil Aviation Engineer, he holds a PPL Licence and was also trained as Air Traffic Controller as well as ATSEP.





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Session 6

Partnerships with industry

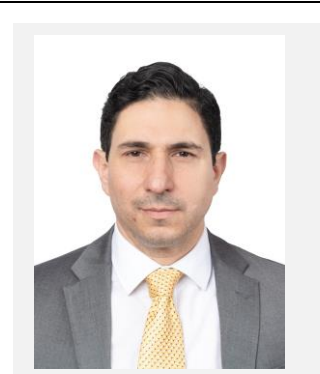
Luis Fernando Fiallos - Moderator

Regional Director, South American (SAM) Office, ICAO

Ecuadorian and Canadian aviation law expert who assumed the role of Regional Director of the ICAO SAM Office on 1 July 2026. Prior to this appointment, he served as Senior Legal Counsel at IATA in Montreal and Secretary of the Industry Litigation Working Group.

His career spans diplomacy, international aviation organizations, and aviation law practice. At Ecuador's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he served as Permanent Representative to the Civil Aviation Council, leading bilateral air services negotiations with the United States, Canada, Qatar, and Malaysia. He also held diplomatic posts in Los Angeles, Ottawa, and Doha, and worked as a Legal Expert on an ICAO technical cooperation project in Angola.

Dr. Fiallos has advised Latin American airlines on regulatory compliance, commercial agreements, financing, and dispute resolution. He holds a Ph.D. in International Air Law from Leiden University and is the author of several publications.



Bertrand de Lacombe

Vice President, Regulatory and External Engagement, Airbus

Bertrand de Lacombe has built a distinguished 30-year career in the transport sector, specialising in European and international affairs.

He began his career at PSA Peugeot Citroën before joining the French national railways (SNCF), where he spent eight years managing regional rail operations and European affairs. In 2007, he transitioned to the public sector as Diplomatic Advisor to the French Minister of Transport, subsequently serving as Transport Counselor at the Permanent Representation of France to the European Union in Brussels (2009–2013).

He then joined Aéroports de Paris as Director of Public Affairs before moving to the French Civil Aviation Authority (DGAC) in 2015, where he served as Director of International Cooperation and later as Director of European and International Affairs. Between 2023 and 2024, he was seconded to the European Commission's DG MOVE, focusing on international air transport agreements.

Bertrand joined Airbus in October 2024.





Michel Aziaka

Head of Compliance, Liat Air

Michel Aziaka is the Head of Compliance at Liat Air in Antigua and Barbuda. He specializes in aviation safety management, regulatory compliance, security oversight, and quality assurance. Michel ensures alignment with ICAO, ECCAA, and international aviation requirements while overseeing safety management activities and supporting continuous improvement of operational systems. He has extensive experience in regulatory compliance, quality assurance, safety oversight. Working closely with operational and executive teams, Michel strengthens organizational performance by embedding measurable compliance outcomes and fostering a culture of safety and accountability.





Session 7

Developing common and/or harmonized frameworks and tools

Anita Adjei Nmashie - Moderator

Representative of Ghana on the Council of ICAO

Ms. Anita Adjei-Nmashie is a distinguished Ghanaian aviation professional with over 35 years of extensive experience. She commenced her career in 1991 as the sole female Air Traffic Controller at the Ghana Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) and subsequently became Ghana's first female Aviation Safety Inspector in 2000.

In 2004, she assumed the role of Aerodrome Safety and Standards Manager and made substantial contributions to the certification process of Ghana's main international airport. In 2018, she was promoted to the position of Deputy Director of Safety Regulation, where she was entrusted with overseeing vital aspects of aviation safety.

In 2019, Ms. Adjei-Nmashie was appointed Ghana's representative to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal. She holds degrees in Public Administration and Occupational Health, along with qualifications in aviation-related fields. Her distinguished career inspires women and aspiring aviation professionals in Ghana and internationally.



Valeria Ramos

Flight Operations Expert, South American Regional Safety Oversight Cooperation System (SRVSOP), ICAO

Ms. Valeria Ramos is a seasoned aviation professional with over 7,500 flight hours and extensive experience as a commercial airline captain, flight instructor, and simulator trainer on aircrafts such as the B737, B767 and CRJ 900. She also has a degree in Telecommunications Engineering. Currently serving as a Flight Operations Expert at the SRVSOP Technical Committee, she plays a key role in developing Latin American Aeronautical Regulations and supporting civil aviation authorities across the region. Her career includes leadership roles in certification and oversight of air service operators, backed by a strong foundation in aeronautical instruction and regulatory compliance. Valeria is passionate about aviation, outdoor activities, and continuous professional development.





Louis Bakienon

Executive Secretary, African and Malagasy Civil Aviation Authorities (AAMAC), Chad

Mr. Louis Bakienon has served as Executive Secretary of AAMAC since 2023. AAMAC, headquartered in N'Djamena, is the RSOO responsible for Air Navigation Services for eighteen States across West, Central, and Southern Africa, including the Indian Ocean.

Mr. Bakienon is a specialist in Air Traffic Management operations, with additional expertise in Search and Rescue and Accident and Incident Investigation. Before joining AAMAC, he was Director of Operations at ASECNA, overseeing the provision of Air Navigation Services across nineteen States and serving as a member of ASECNA's high-level expert team. He led major regional initiatives, including ASECNA's ANGAS SBAS programme, adopted by ICAO and endorsed by the African Union.

He holds a master's degree in Civil Aviation Engineering from EAMAC (1989) and a master's degree in Finance, Business and Administration from Paris Dauphine, along with several postgraduate qualifications in ATM, GNSS, AIG, and SAR.



Tyronmoore Jose Lam

Head of Regulatory Oversight and Support Services, Pacific Aviation Safety Office (PASO)

Tyronmoore Jose Lam is the Head of Regulatory Oversight Support Services at the Pacific Aviation Safety Office (PASO), with more than 25 years' experience in aviation. He is a qualified Aerodrome and Approach Air Traffic Controller, with expertise across air traffic services, airport operations and management, safety auditing and regulatory oversight. In his current role, Tyron coordinates the delivery of regulatory oversight support services to PASO Member States and leads the development and engagement of PASO's regional Pool of Inspectors. He also supports improvements to inspector credentialling, performance frameworks, technical procedures and tools that strengthen oversight capability across the region. Having worked at both national and regional levels, Tyron brings a practical understanding of the challenges faced by Pacific States and the importance of common, harmonised approaches that are practical, sustainable and responsive to regional needs.



Krzysztof Kedzierski

International Cooperation Officer, European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)

Krzysztof Kędzierski, Polish and German national, throughout his career has held progressively more responsible roles, including section manager at the Polish CAA, English proficiency rater, NCMC of Poland and CMC of EASA and project manager of technical assistance projects implemented by EASA. In 2017 he led the preparations for the USOAP-CMA audit of EASA, resulting in 97.41% of EI. For four years he worked at the ICAO secretariat in Montreal as RSOO coordination officer, contributing to development and promotion of RSOOs worldwide, in particular in Africa, as well as the GASOS/RRAP programme and supporting two ICAO Assemblies as technical officer of the secretariat. He currently manages a technical assistance project for the European neighbourhood countries and represents EASA at various ICAO meetings.





Jose Muy

Flight Operations Specialist, COCESNA

José Muy is an airline captain and flight operations specialist from Guatemala City, with more than 28 years of experience in aviation, safety oversight, regulatory compliance, and professional training. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Technology and Resource Management and a postgraduate qualification in Human Resources Administration, complemented by academic and military aviation studies. He has accumulated over 11,400 flight hours and extensive command experience on Airbus A330, Boeing 737 NG/MAX, and ATR 42/72 aircraft, supported by qualifications as SFI, TRI, and TRE. His international airline career includes service with TACA Airlines, Kingfisher Airlines, Oman Air, and Aracet Airlines. He also served as a Flight Operations Inspector with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation of Guatemala, supporting ICAO USOAP CMA activities and inspector training. Since 2024, he has worked with ACSA within the RSOO framework, contributing to regional safety oversight, technical cooperation, operational approvals, SMS, UPRT, GRF, and aviation oversight





Forum Wrap-Up and Conclusions

Michele Merkle

Director, Air Navigation Bureau, ICAO

Michele Merkle is serving as the Director of the Air Navigation Bureau at ICAO since July 2023. Michele has over 35 years experience working to improve the safety, capacity and efficiency of the global aviation system, providing systems engineering and human factors expertise in the development, evaluation and implementation of aviation systems and advanced concepts. She has held a number of executive and managerial positions at the United States' Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) where she was responsible for modernizing the United States' Air Traffic Management System and integrating new entrants. She holds a Master's Degree in Industrial Engineering and Operations Research.

At ICAO, Michele is responsible for delivery of safety and air navigation strategic outcomes, integrating security and environmental requirements into developing ICAO SARPs and PANS. She brought about a culture of innovation at the FAA and is working at ICAO to help Member States and industry stakeholders tackle complex aviation challenges, help ICAO achieve greater operational efficiencies, and achieve One ICAO.



Rodrigo Priego

Head of International Cooperation, European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)

Rodrigo Priego is a Spanish Aeronautical Engineer with more than 26 years of experience in aviation. He has worked for The Boeing Company in the United States and for Airbus in Spain carrying out responsibilities in avionics systems design both for commercial and military airplanes.

In May 2009, he joined EASA and became responsible for the creation of the first European Aviation Safety Plan (EPAS).

At EASA, he has held several leadership positions including acting as Head of the Strategy and Programmes Department as well heading the Initial Airworthiness Standards section in EASA's Certification Directorate.

In June 2024 he took on new responsibilities as Head of EASA's International Cooperation Department, thus being responsible for the implementation of agreements with non-EU States, cooperation with ICAO as well as for the implementation of a wide portfolio of technical cooperation projects across the world.

