



**WORKING PAPER**

RASG-PA/15 — WP/17  
09/01/26

**Fifteenth Meeting of the Regional Aviation Safety Group – Pan America (RASG-PA/15) and Fifth RASG-PA–GREPECAS Joint Meeting (RASG-PA–GREPECAS/5)**  
Mexico City, Mexico, 2 to 4 March 2026

**Agenda Item 7: Cross-Cutting and Emerging Safety Issues**

**IDENTIFICATION OF CROSS-CUTTING AND EMERGING SAFETY TOPICS IN THE PAN AMERICAN REGION**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This Working Paper provides an overview of cross-cutting and emerging safety topics in the Pan American Region, informed by recent PA-RAST discussions. It highlights key themes raised by States and industry stakeholders, including areas of alignment with existing High-Risk Categories and cross-cutting safety topics that span multiple operational domains. The paper complements existing status-based reporting by supporting forward-looking reflection on evolving safety challenges within the RASG-PA framework.

<b>Action:</b>	As presented in Section 9.
<i>Strategic Goals 2026–2050:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every flight is safe and secure</li> </ul>
<i>References:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RASG-PA Procedural Handbook, Fifth Edition, Rev. 1</li> <li>• RASG-PA ESC/39 Report</li> <li>• RASG-PA Executive Steering Committee (ESC/40) Summary of Discussions</li> <li>• RASG-PA 2025 Annual Safety Report</li> <li>• PA-RAST/69 Meeting Report</li> </ul>

**1. Introduction**

1.1 Under Agenda Item 7, the RASG-PA is invited to discuss cross-cutting and emerging potential safety topics affecting the Pan American Region, based on information derived from accident and incident investigations, safety data-sharing programmes, analytical initiatives and expert judgement.

1.2 This agenda item complements Agenda Item 6, which provides a status report on the implementation of existing Safety Improvement Projects and initiatives. While Agenda Item 6 reflects what has been done, Agenda Item 7 supports a forward-looking discussion on how the regional safety landscape is evolving and where additional attention may be required.

1.3 In this context, this Working Paper presents a structured overview of cross-cutting and emerging aviation safety topics, informed by recent PA-RAST discussions. In line with the PA-RAST's role as the technical arm of the RASG-PA, this overview is intended solely to support discussion under Agenda Item 7 and does not imply prioritization, endorsement, or initiation of actions, which remain subject to consideration and direction by the RASG-PA and the Executive Steering Committee (ESC).

## **2. Background and Rationale**

2.1 The Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP) provides a stable framework through its High-Risk Categories of occurrences, which continue to guide regional and national safety planning. However, safety risks evolve over time due to changes in operational environments, workforce dynamics, technology, traffic growth and external factors.

2.2 Beyond the traditional categorization of risks, cross-cutting and emerging safety topics often manifest across multiple domains, cutting across accident categories and requiring integrated and coordinated responses.

2.3 Recognizing this, the PA-RAST periodically discusses not only data-driven safety trends, but also qualitative insights from States and industry stakeholders, as a means to enhance situational awareness and support strategic discussions within the RASG-PA.

## **3. Input from PA-RAST/69 Discussions**

3.1 During the PA-RAST/69 meeting, participants engaged in a structured discussion aimed at identifying their perceived top aviation safety priorities. This exercise sought to capture a broad range of perspectives from States, industry and international organizations represented in the Team.

3.2 Participants were invited to identify their main safety concerns, with the objective of:

- identifying common themes across stakeholders;
- assessing alignment with existing High-Risk Categories;
- highlighting potential cross-cutting or emerging safety topics that may warrant further attention.

3.3 The inputs of this discussion are reflected in the PA-RAST/69 meeting report and serve as qualitative input to the analysis presented in this Working Paper.

## **4. Overview of Cross-Cutting and Emerging Safety Topics**

### **4.1 Alignment with Existing High-Risk Categories**

4.1.1 Several safety priorities identified during PA-RAST discussions remain closely aligned with the established High-Risk Categories, reinforcing their continued relevance for the region.

4.1.2 In some cases, the discussions highlighted shifts in emphasis or evolving operational contexts, suggesting the need to continuously adapt mitigation strategies rather than redefine risk categories.

### **4.2 Cross-Cutting Safety Themes**

4.2.1 In addition to category-specific risks, a number of transversal themes were identified that cut across multiple operational areas, including organizational, human and systemic factors.

4.2.2 These themes are not confined to a single type of occurrence, but influence safety performance across multiple domains and may amplify existing risks if not adequately addressed.

### **4.3 Emerging Safety Considerations**

4.3.1 Participants also highlighted topics that are perceived as increasing in relevance due to changes in the operating environment, including evolving workforce profiles, increased operational complexity and external pressures on aviation systems.

4.3.2 While some of these considerations are already partially addressed through existing initiatives, others may benefit from further discussion or integration into future safety planning activities.

## **5. Relationship with Existing RASG-PA and PA-RAST Activities**

5.1 Many of the cross-cutting and emerging topics highlighted are already indirectly addressed through existing RASG-PA mechanisms, including Safety Improvement Projects, Collaborative Safety Teams, Safety Advisories, Safety Days and the Safety Partners Programme.

5.2 The discussion of these topics does not imply gaps in the current work programme, but rather highlights opportunities to strengthen coherence, coordination and integration across activities.

## **6. Key Observations**

6.1 The PA-RAST discussions confirm a strong degree of alignment between stakeholder perceptions and the core safety priorities already addressed within the RASG-PA framework.

6.2 At the same time, the discussions underscore the growing importance of cross-cutting and systemic factors that influence safety outcomes across multiple risk areas.

6.3 These observations support the value of maintaining a balanced approach that combines data-driven analysis with structured qualitative input from regional stakeholders.

## **7. Way Forward**

7.1 The cross-cutting and emerging aviation safety topics highlighted in this Working Paper may be used as input for future RASG-PA and PA-RAST discussions, including:

- refinement of strategic focus areas;
- thematic discussions in PA-RAST meetings or Safety Days;
- consideration in future work programme reviews, as appropriate.

7.2 It is proposed that the cross-cutting and emerging aviation safety topics presented in this Working Paper be used to:

- inform future PA-RAST discussions on safety data review, emerging risks and systemic safety challenges;
- support thematic exchanges in PA-RAST meetings, Safety Days or other collaborative forums, as appropriate; and
- contribute, as relevant, to future reviews of the RASG-PA Work Programme and related strategic discussions, without prejudging the establishment of new projects or initiatives.

## **8. Conclusion**

8.1 This Working Paper provides a forward-looking overview of cross-cutting and emerging safety topics in the Pan American Region, informed by recent PA-RAST discussions.

8.2 It supports Agenda Item 7 by fostering strategic reflection and reinforcing the RASG-PA's proactive approach to regional aviation safety.

**9. Suggested Actions**

9.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) note the overview of cross-cutting and emerging aviation safety topics presented in this Working Paper;
- b) acknowledge the value of these considerations as complementary input to existing data-driven safety analyses and ongoing activities;
- c) agree that these considerations be used to inform future PA-RAST discussions and, as appropriate, future strategic reflections within the RASG-PA framework; and
- d) invite the identification of additional cross-cutting or emerging aviation safety topics that may warrant future assessment by the PA-RAST, based on operational experience, recent events, or evolving safety concerns in the Pan American Region.