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Message from the Regional Director

I am pleased to present the first edition of the newsletter of the ICAO South American Regional Office. We want this to become a regular channel through which States, aviation authorities, regional and international organizations, industry and other stakeholders can learn about the Office's daily work.

Through this publication, we seek both to share information and to give greater visibility to the activities we undertake together with States and stakeholders in regional civil aviation. Many of the results presented here stem from cooperation, technical exchanges and the continuing commitment of our aviation community. This edition brings together some of the main events and activities carried out during July and August 2026, including technical assistance, capacity building, regional cooperation and progress in strategic areas for increasingly safe, efficient, resilient and sustainable aviation. These two months also coincide with my first months at the helm of this South American Regional Office. They have been marked by major events that significantly affected aviation in our region. While these situations posed challenges, they also demonstrated the resilience of South American aviation and, in particular, the ability of its stakeholders to cooperate, coordinate their efforts and help restore normal operations promptly. These experiences highlight the value of regional collaboration and the importance of a civil aviation system prepared to respond collectively to exceptional circumstances.

We hope this newsletter will strengthen awareness of the Regional Office's work and, above all, bring closer together those who contribute every day, in different fields, to the development of civil aviation in South America.

This newsletter will be better with your participation. We invite you to send news from your administrations and comments on this first issue to ICAOSAM@icao.int

I wish you an enjoyable read.







ICAO SAM team on a technical visit to Venezuela - August 2026

Venezuela and ICAO cooperate to strengthen civil aviation resilience

Following the earthquakes of 24 June 2026, Venezuela mobilized its national capabilities to address the needs of the civil aviation sector. In support of these efforts, the ICAO South American Regional Office provided technical assistance in coordination with the National Civil Aviation Institute (INAC), contributing to damage assessments and recovery planning for the aviation system.

From 27 July to 1 August, a multidisciplinary SAM Office team worked with INAC to assess impacts on air navigation services, airport infrastructure and support systems. This cooperation drew on the information and technical capabilities of national institutions, under the leadership of the Government of Venezuela.

During August, this joint work consolidated the available information and advanced the identification of recovery priorities. The contribution forms part of the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA), led by the Government of Venezuela under the harmonized methodology of the United Nations, European Union and World Bank, with the participation of CAF - Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean and other national and international stakeholders. ICAO contributes its specialized civil aviation expertise.

The assessment also helped outline a recovery strategy incorporating the principles of Build Back Better and disaster risk reduction. This approach supports the restoration of affected services and infrastructure while strengthening their seismic resilience and reducing their vulnerability to future events.

Complementing national efforts, on 10 August ICAO met with the FAA, ACI-LAC, IATA and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to exchange information and coordinate possible technical and financial assistance. This coordination seeks to facilitate international support aligned with the country's priorities and avoid duplication. The results will support the Government of Venezuela in reconstruction priorities, strengthening civil aviation's ability to maintain connectivity, support emergency response and contribute to country’s sustainable development.

ICAO supports Uruguay in developing its national SAF roadmap



Uruguay is advancing itsNational Roadmap for Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF), with ICAO support to define the conditions needed to develop this market in the country.

During August, ICAO held coordination meetings with Uruguay's Ministry of Transport and Public Works (MTOP), which leads the national SAF team, to identify areas of support for the process and define the next activities.

As a result, a webinar was agreed for 15 and 16 September, focusing on ICAO's SAF framework, States' good practices in establishing technical dialogue among multiple stakeholders, and the main elements needed to create an enabling environment for these fuels.

The agreed programme includes the legislative framework, feedstock sustainability and certification, the perspectives of the aviation industry, airlines and airport operators, and exchanges of experience among SAM States in developing SAF feasibility studies.

These activities seek to provide technical inputs to the national process and facilitate to coordinated participation by the stakeholders involved in the transition to lower-emission aviation fuels.

As a next step, an in-person workshop is planned for the first quarter of 2027 to continue supporting the roadmap and advance the definition of concrete implementation measures.

SAM procedure designers agree on measures to strengthen quality assurance for PBN procedures

From 1 to 3 July 2026, the South American Regional Office held the virtual GESEA/SG2/5 meeting on PANS-OPS, bringing together flight procedure designers from SAM States, airline representatives and the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

Discussions focused on performance-based navigation (PBN), which combines onboard avionics with global navigation satellite system (GNSS) signals to design more precise arrival, departure and approach procedures. Participants also addressed Continuous Climb and Descent Operations (CCO/CDO), and the challenges administrations face in securing procedure designers and the necessary softhare tools.

Studies also began on procedures aligned with the Minimum Operational Network (MON) concept, which seeks to maintain air navigation continuity in the event of GNSS signal interference.

Participants reviewed regional implementation, identified priority actions and agreed on measures to strengthen flight procedure quality assurance in accordance with ICAO Doc 8168. Topics included design standards, periodic reviews every five years, data integrity and operational safety.

The meeting also strengthened regional cooperation and established a coordinated work programme to support more harmonized PBN procedure implementation, contributing to safer, more efficient and modern air navigation in the SAM Region.

34th SAM Implementation Group Meeting agrees on El Niño preparedness and regional air navigation modernization

Representatives of civil aviation authorities, air navigation service providers, international organizations and industry met in Lima from 24 to 28 August 2026 for the 34th SAM Implementation Group Meeting (SAM/IG/34), focusing on modernization, interoperability and resilience of the regional air navigation system.

The meeting reviewed progress in airspace optimization, air traffic management (ATM), communications, navigation and surveillance (CNS) systems, and regional performance, supporting the SAM Regional Strategy 2035 in alignment with global and regional air navigation plans.

Technical discussions covered Free Route Airspace, regional and cross-border Air Traffic Flow Management (ATFM), Flight and Flow Information for a Collaborative Environment (FF-ICE), ATS surveillance and regional performance indicators. Participants also examined System-Wide Information Management (SWIM), performance-based communication and surveillance, and new pilot-controller communication technologies.

Among the main agreements, participants defined measures to strengthen operational preparedness for the potential effects of El Niño and improve coordination among ATFM units, Area Control Centres (ACC) and meteorological services. They also prioritized reviews of CNS contingency and resilience plans. For Free Route Operations (FRTO), they agreed to develop a regional roadmap for Flexible Use of Airspace (FUA), national guidance for FRTO implementation, and support material on direct routes and floating waypoints. In CNS, participants endorsed actions to consolidate the SAM ADS-B Roadmap 2026-2036, establish a regional programme for AMHS evolution and governance, strengthen GNSS resilience through MON/RON concepts, and develop a regional CNS/ATM framework supporting 10 NM longitudinal separation in the SAM Region. These agreements provide a common work agenda to improve system capacity, efficiency and interoperability while strengthening preparedness for contingencies and future challenges.

SAM aviation authorities take the first steps towards a regional human resources forum

Representatives of SAM civil aviation authorities launched a new regional cooperation platform on 4 August, dedicated to human resources management and development in civil aviation under the SAM Regional Human Resources Programme 2026-2028. The first virtual session brought together 12 representatives of aviation authorities from Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Suriname. A representative of France also participated as an observer, sharing international experience and perspectives. She will speak at the programme's next in-person meeting.

The forum will allow States to exchange experience, identify common workforce challenges and explore coordinated responses in areas such as planning, capacity building and talent management in the aviation sector. The initiative also seeks to facilitate cooperation among human resources departments and sustain implementation of the regional programme over the next three years. Work will continue from 27 to 29 October 2026 in Lima at an in-person meeting, where participants will define priority actions and develop cooperation mechanisms to support the programme through 2028.

With ICAO support, SAM and NACC States agree on a common mechanism for reporting aerodrome performance

Representatives of Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay met in Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 7 August 2026 to harmonize criteria for applying and regionally consolidating aerodrome performance indicators. The RLA/06/901 workshop combined theoretical and practical sessions on seven Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP) key performance indicators (KPIs) relevant to aerodromes, with additional attention to KPI01 and KPI14 under GREPECAS Project B2. One of the main results was agreement to use the existing regional consolidation mechanism under the GREPECAS GADHOC Task Force to collect and consolidate aerodrome information.

This decision will make use of established structures, simplify reporting processes and avoid creating parallel tools. The workshop also clarified the expected contribution of Aerodromes and Ground Aids (AGA) to regional performance monitoring, including declared aerodrome capacity, the validity and justification of any capacity adjustments, and the operational context needed to interpret the results. A common methodology and consolidation mechanism will produce more consistent, comparable information across States, facilitating airport performance monitoring and its incorporation into regional air navigation planning.

SRVSOP completes two key milestones for regional airworthiness harmonization

The Regional Safety Oversight Cooperation System (SRVSOP) achieved two important advances in developing technical material to strengthen and harmonize airworthiness oversight among participating States. The first milestone was the completion and publication, on 30 May 2026, of CA AIR LAR 21-001, which provides harmonized guidance to support the application of the Latin American Aeronautical Regulations (LAR) on airworthiness. This was followed in July by completion of the technical review cycle for Part III of the Multinational Inspector Manual (MIA), another reference tool supporting more consistent application of oversight procedures across the region. Both products resulted from SRVSOP's work between March and July 2026. They help consolidate a more uniform regional oversight framework, providing common criteria for inspectors and authorities in member States. With these advances, SRVSOP continues to strengthen regional technical cooperation and promote consistent LAR implementation, supporting increasingly effective and harmonized national safety oversight systems.

SRVSOP strengthens regional capacity for risk-based aerodrome oversight

From 1 July to 9 August 2026, SRVSOP delivered a new edition of the Basic Aerodrome Oversight Management Course, focusing on risk-based oversight. Delivered online and asynchronously through Moodle, the 20-hour course brought together 35 AGA specialists from 10 SRVSOP member States: Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. The course addressed oversight practices aligned with the LAR AGA regulatory framework, emphasizing risk-based approaches to guide oversight activities and help aviation authorities prioritize their resources. A total of 31 participants successfully completed the training.



NACC/SAM workshop examines economic oversight of airport and air navigation services charges

From 10 to 12 August 2026, ICAO's South American Regional Office (SAM), in collaboration with the North American, Central American and Caribbean Regional Office (NACC), organized the NACC/SAM Workshop on Economic Oversight of Airport and Air Navigation Services Charges in Mexico City.

The workshop brought together 55 representatives of civil aviation authorities, airlines, airport operators and air navigation service providers. It provided a valuable opportunity for States and industry stakeholders to exchange experience and good practices, strengthening regional dialogue on the economic and operational frameworks underpinning sustainable air transport development.

Discussions focused on Article 15 of the Chicago Convention, ICAO's Policies on Charges for Airports and Air Navigation Services (Doc 9082), and other ICAO guidance. Participants examined how transparent, non-discriminatory, cost-related charging systems can contribute to infrastructure modernization while preserving affordability, connectivity and the financial sustainability of airports and air navigation services. Technical sessions, with contributions from IATA, ACI-LAC and CANSO, addressed cost allocation methodologies, the treatment of non-aeronautical revenues, financial justification and the calculation of charges for different users. The programme also highlighted the importance of specialized regulatory knowledge and structured consultation among regulators, service providers, airlines and users.



Panel discussions also examined how predictable charging frameworks can stimulate investment, facilitate new routes and strengthen connectivity across the Pan-American region. Experts clarified the distinction between aviation taxes and user charges levied to recover the costs of providing airport and air navigation services.

The workshop reaffirmed the value of regional cooperation and peer exchanges in strengthening economic oversight. It also encouraged States to participate actively in the Seventh Worldwide Air Transport Conference (ATConf/7), contributing regional perspectives to the global air transport policy agenda.

ICAO SAM and the Andean Community advance new air transport integration initiatives

On 19 August, ICAO, the General Secretariat of the Andean Community (SGCAN) and EUROFRONT agreed on the framework for a Regional Workshop on API/PNR systems, scheduled for 24 to 26 November 2026 at the Andean Community General Secretariat in Lima. The activity forms part of a regional initiative to strengthen information exchange and analysis among Andean countries. The proposal gained further momentum on 26 August when it was presented at the XXVIII Extraordinary Meeting of the Andean Committee of Aeronautical Authorities (CAAA), broadening awareness and discussion among member States' civil aviation authorities. At their September meeting, ICAO and the Andean Community also identified other regional mechanisms that could support greater integration. These include SRVSOP, whose Latin American Aeronautical Regulations(LAR) provide a reference framework for technical harmonization, respecting each State's sovereign decision on their adoption. The parties also identified opportunities to exchange experience on recognizing equivalent aviation security measures, including One-Stop Security (OSS), which can simplify processes and facilitate passenger flows when equivalent security levels exist. As a next step, both institutions agreed to advance a specific work plan under their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), aligning these initiatives with their respective mandates and drawing on technical cooperation opportunities planned for the coming months. ICAO and the Andean Community agreed that greater air transport integration should ultimately deliver concrete benefits for passengers.