

**INVESTIGATE THE COSTS AND MERITS OF UTILIZING PREMIUM  
ECONOMY CLASS AIR TRAVEL FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD AND OFFICERS  
THAT INVOLVES A FLIGHT TIME OF OVER 7 HOURS.**

Presented by FIC/CAC

**SUMMARY**

*This working paper investigates the possibility for Directors to consider introducing premium economy-class tickets considering its multifaceted benefits to the Executive Board and other officers for flights exceeding seven (7) hours, considering our financial budget and eligibility guidelines.*

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 EB members and other federation officers travel considerable distances to attend meetings and conferences and sometimes represent the federation at short notice. Upon arrival, they immediately engage in meetings that demand their utmost attention and effectiveness. The well-being and comfort of EB members during long-haul flights significantly influence their productivity, creativity, and decision-making abilities.

1.2 Air travel has become the standard mode of transportation for IFATCA, and we must acknowledge the growing importance of ensuring that our executive members and officers are adequately equipped to endure the rigors of long-haul flights.

1.3 While conventional business class flights are common for executive travel in most global associations, this is not true for IFATCA. Some EB members and officers performing tasks have personally covered the additional cost of upgrading their tickets from economy class to premium economy class tickets for a more comfortable journey.

1.4 Introducing a premium economy class for EB and officers will necessitate a financial commitment within IFATCA's limited resources. FIC is tasked with investigating the financial feasibility of this proposal made at the Jamaica conference.

**2 DISCUSSION**

2.1 Depending on the airline the following are considered benefits for the various class options. Premium economy depending on the airline often includes benefits such as larger and more comfortable seats with increased legroom, a

dedicated cabin section with fewer seats for a more personalized experience, enhanced in-flight entertainment systems, improved dining options, and priority check-in and boarding. The cost average for a premium economy class is between 1.3 and 3.0 of the cost of an economy class. In contrast, economy class offers standard seats with limited legroom, basic in-flight entertainment, and standard meal service.

- 2.2 **Associated Benefits:** The benefits associated with an improved travel class are the well-being and productivity of our officers. Long-haul flights can be physically and mentally taxing, especially for our EB members and officers who are expected to perform at their best immediately upon arrival at their destinations. The enhanced legroom, improved seating comfort, and better amenities in premium economy-class cabins demonstrate our commitment to the health and well-being of our executives and officers. An improved travel experience can help mitigate the negative effects of jet lag, enabling EB members to arrive at meetings feeling refreshed, alert, and ready to contribute effectively. A clear positive correlation exists between an improved travel experience and enhanced performance.
- 2.3 **Financial Implications:** The price difference between premium economy and economy class tickets can vary widely based on factors such as the airline, route, travel dates, demand, and specific amenities offered within each class. On average, a premium economy class air ticket costs about 1.5 to 3 times that of an economy class ticket.
- 2.4 IAM Part 2, Chapter 5, paragraph 3.1.1, Meetings of the Executive Board (EB), stipulate that **The EB must meet at least twice a year, other than conferences, and at such other times as may be deemed necessary by the President and Chief Executive Officer or by a majority vote of the voting members of the Executive Board. In addition, the EB also participates in meetings on behalf of the federation.**
- 2.5 IFATCA's IAM allows for twelve executive board members with diverse geographical locations and unspecified officers and volunteers who undertake equally important tasks on behalf of the federation with travel time exceeding 7 hours to benefit from this policy annually. Shifting to premium-class economy tickets represents an incremental cost compared to standard economy-class travel.
- 2.6 A shift to a premium economy class air ticket will translate to at least a minimum of a 30% increase in travel expenses. This situation is viewed by FIC and CAC as problematic and very difficult to handle with our current financial resources.
- 2.7 It can be inferred from 2.5 that the absence of information regarding the frequency of meetings per year by these executives and officers is notable. Establishing a budget will be challenging, particularly given IFATCA's current financial state, where our annual expenditures have consistently exceeded income during certain periods.
- 2.8 Other areas of concern include abuse and transparency, the definition of flight time (7 hours), fair application, and eligibility can be subjected to debate in its application providing discretionary issues.

### **3 CONCLUSION**

**3.1** Establishing a policy to provide premium economy-class tickets for a non-stop flight exceeding seven (7) hours for officers would greatly enhance IFATCA's reputation and improve the well-being and performance of our officers by alleviating the fatigue associated with long-haul flights, but this can harm the federation's finances.

**3.2** The definition of a flight exceeding 7 hours can be eluding, raising concerns about eligibility, transparency, and fair application.

**3.3** There are challenges associated with an unspecified number of eligibilities, and the federation also faces difficulties in obtaining a comprehensive balanced budget from its income.

### **4 RECOMMENDATION**

**4.1** it is recommended that the consideration of Premium Economy Class for Executive Board members and officers with flights over 7 hours be postponed until budget improves, for now, efforts should be directed toward optimizing existing travel arrangements, exploring cost-effective alternatives, and ensuring responsible budget management.

### **5 REFERENCES**

5.1 IFATCA IAM 2022

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