

**Report of the EVP AFM**

Presented by Fateh Bekhti

**SUMMARY**

This report covers the activities of the EVP AFM from the last conference in Jamaica 2023 until annual conference Singapore 2024

**1. Political Unrest in AFM Region:**

- 1.1 The AFM region has been experiencing political unrest, particularly through military coups, resulting in consequences for the region and the closure of numerous FIRs.
- 1.2 The Libya FIR remains closed for international traffic since 2011.
- 1.3 The Sudan FIR was closed following a military coup, causing significant disruption, particularly affecting air traffic between the Middle East and Africa.
- 1.4 Closure of the Niamey FIR occurred after a military coup, prompting the launch of an ICAO AFI CCT group to coordinate efforts in minimizing traffic disruption and sharing information.
- 1.5 Attended several ICAO MID CCT and ICAI AFI CCT meetings on behalf of IFATCA to share information and concerns from our members.
- 1.6 Coordinated with neighboring Member Associations (MAs) to gather information on traffic disruption and its impact on air traffic controllers (ATCOs).
- 1.7 Attended coordination meetings with the Algerian Organization Committee (OC).
- 1.8 Despite the OC's efforts to host IFATCA members in Algiers, the meeting was canceled due to lack of support from management. An ad hoc AFM EB meeting was hosted to discuss the plan B and start preparation for the eAFM regional meeting.
- 1.9 Following concerns raised, NATCA Nigeria volunteered to host the regional meeting in Abuja.
- 1.10 I delegated coordination tasks to the RVP of the Western region, who successfully managed

## **2. ICAO Meetings and Coordination Efforts:**

- 2.1 Attended several ICAO MID CCT and ICAO AFI CCT meetings on behalf of IFATCA to share information and concerns from our members after the closures of many FIRs.
- 2.2 Coordinated with neighboring Member Associations (MAs) to gather information on traffic disruption and its impact on daily air traffic operations .
- 2.3 Attended coordination meetings with the Algerian Organization Committee (OC) for the preparation of the 34<sup>th</sup> AFM regional meeting.
- 2.4 Despite the OC's efforts to host IFATCA members in Algiers, the meeting was canceled due to lack of support from management.
- 2.5 An ad hoc AFM EB meeting was hosted to discuss the plan B and start preparation for the eAFM regional meeting.
- 2.6 Following concerns raised, NATCA Nigeria volunteered to host the regional meeting in Abuja.
- 2.7 I delegated coordination tasks to the RVP of the Western region, who successfully managed the preparation of the meeting .

## **3. Leadership Change**

- 3.1 RVP North Africa, Djamel Ait Abdelmalek, resigned from his position following the cancellation of the AFM meeting in Algeria and requested to act as an IFATCA representative when needed.
- 3.2 Nabil Touazi was proposed by Djamel Ait Abdelmalek and was unanimously approved by the AFM EB to act as the new RVP North Africa until the next election at regional meeting in Egypt 2024 .

## **4. TOC and PLC organization in AFM region**

- 4.1 There was a request from TOC and PLC to conduct their meetings in the AFM region. Coordination efforts were made with the ICAO MID office and United ATS, who generously offered to host the meetings in their facility and provide assistance. However, due to the critical situation in the Middle East the meetings were canceled and relocated to Bulgaria,
- 4.2 The regional meeting held in Abuja was deemed a success, demonstrating effective collaboration and coordination efforts.
- 4.3 The 34th IFATCA-AFM Regional Meeting took place from 6th to 8th December 2023 in Abuja, Nigeria, hosted by the Nigerian Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) at the NAF Conference Centre, under the theme: "Shaping the Future: Trends and Insights on ATC Training for Tomorrow."
- 4.4 During the regional meeting, a new group was formed under the AFM Women Support Group to champion gender inclusion, empower, and advance women in aviation, further enriching our commitment to diversity and equality in the region. The

plan is to host a webinar in the next 8th March and invite all the stakeholders in the region to foster cooperation and coordination under this initiative.

- 4.5 Egypt's presentation on hosting the next regional meeting in Cairo in 2024 was endorsed.
- 4.6 The Regional Vice President (RVP) of the Western Region participated in the ICAO and AFCAC meetings held in Nairobi. Serving as a representative of the federation, the RVP contributed to discussions and engagements pertinent to the region's aviation landscape. This participation underscored the federation's commitment to actively engage in regional initiatives aimed at enhancing aviation safety, efficiency, and collaboration.

## **5. Success of regional meeting**

- 5.1 The regional meeting held in Abuja was deemed a success, demonstrating effective collaboration and coordination efforts.
- 5.2 The 34th IFATCA-AFM Regional Meeting took place from 6th to 8th December 2023 in Abuja, Nigeria, hosted by the Nigerian Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) at the NAF Conference Centre, under the theme: "Shaping the Future: Trends and Insights on ATC Training for Tomorrow."
- 5.3 During the regional meeting, a new group was formed under the AFM Women Support Group to champion gender inclusion, empower, and advance women in aviation, further enriching our commitment to diversity and equality in the region. The plan is to host a webinar for the 8th March and invite all stakeholders in the region to foster cooperation and coordination under this initiative.
- 5.4 Egypt's presentation on hosting the next regional meeting in Cairo in 2024 was endorsed.
- 5.5 The Regional Vice President (RVP) of the Western Region participated in the ICAO and AFCAC meetings held in Nairobi from 7-8 February . Serving as a representative of the federation, the RVP contributed to discussions and engagements pertinent to the region's aviation plans. This participation underscored the federation's commitment to actively engage in regional initiatives aimed at enhancing aviation safety, efficiency, and collaboration.

## **6. Mentoring of RVPs and Succession Preparation**

- 6.1 Since the establishment of the AFM Executive Board (AFM EB), I have actively conducted mentoring sessions for my fellow RVPs, investing the past two years in nurturing and preparing this team for succession.
- 6.2 Through extensive sharing of acquired knowledge and experience, I have empowered them with insights gained from international meetings and engagements. I am sure more sessions will be needed and coaching would be required for anyone taking the position of the EVP AFM and I will be glad to assist as much as I can for this one.
- 6.3 Many RVPs were pivotal in organizing the regional meeting and were entrusted with chairing virtual and AFM EB meetings, showcasing their growth and readiness.

## **7. Composition of the IFATCA AFM region team**

- 7.1 The AFM Board for the region consists of the Executive Vice President (EVP), four Regional Vice Presidents (RVPs) representing the four sub-regions, and the Chair of the Professional and Technical Committee (PTC).
- 7.2 Representation for AFM Committees and Women Support Group: The PTC and the Comms Committees are composed of eight members, with two members representing each sub-region, ensuring a diverse representation of technical expertise across the AFM region.
- 7.3 Additionally, the newly created Women Support Group are appointed, with two female representatives from each sub-region, alongside the chair. This initiative aims to promote gender inclusion and empower women in aviation across the AFM region

## **8. Conclusion**

- 8.1 As I conclude this training phase for my team, I pledge continued support to the AFM board in the future.
- 8.2 Regrettably, due to unavoidable circumstances I must resign from my position after the annual conference. However, I express gratitude for the collaborative work with the board and member associations in our region and beyond.
- 8.3 IFATCA holds a special place as my second family, and I commit to remaining involved and supporting colleagues in the AFM region as well as the IFATCA EB.
- 8.4 I extend sincere thanks to my wife for her continuous support throughout all these years to my home association SNPCA for their unwavering support, especially Djamel. Many thanks to Tatiana, JF, Duncan, and for all the EB members for their support and friendship.

## **9 Recommendations**

- 9.1 It is recommended that this report be accepted as information.

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