**PARAGUAY**

**SUBJECT**: Concerns regarding operational and safety deficiencies at Silvio Pettirossi International Airport (AISP)

**MAIN ISSUES IDENTIFIED**:

* + Equipment failures: Passenger buses, telescopic bridges, GPUs, and baggage conveyors.
  + Ground services: Inadequate staffing, poor work schedule, lack of training, and insufficient personal protective equipment.
  + Airport infrastructure: bathrooms and offices, leaking roofs, exposed electrical wiring, and Baggage handling.
  + Aviation Security (AVSEC) concerns: Perimeter security: insufficient X-ray machines, and restricted areas access.
  + Cargo: Deficient infrastructure, and inconsistent customs controls.

**ALTA ACTIONS**

On August 21 and 22, ALTA was in Asunción, Paraguay, for a series of meetings with the local civil aviation authority and airlines operating in the country. The agenda focused on the challenges faced by Paraguayan civil aviation, particularly those at Silvio Pettirossi International Airport (AISP), and how ALTA could support efforts to address these issues.

ALTA met with the following authorities and airline representatives:

* National Directorate of Civil Aviation (DINAC): Don Nelson Mendoza, President; Abg. José Luis Chávez, Director of Aeronautics; and CTA Rubén Aguilar Ojeda, Director of Airports.
* Copa Airlines: Emilio Dellepiane Gómez, Regional Airport Manager for South America; and Alejandro Waysburt, Assistant Airport Manager.
* JetSMART: Jorge Fragnaud, Airport Manager.
* LATAM: Carlos Heuduck, Safety Manager.
* Paranair: Jaime Cassola, CEO; and José María Jara, Head of Quality and Safety.

ALTA highlighted the benefits of working in a collaborative environment and offered its support in establishing a Collaborative Safety Team (CST) in Paraguay to develop a concrete plan for addressing these challenges with effective solutions. The proposal was well received by all parties.

The President of DINAC appointed the Director of Aeronautics to follow up on discussions with ALTA.

On Sep 2, ALTA met virtually the Board of Representatives of International Airlines in Paraguay (JURCAIP), Olavi Linkola, in order to involve him in the work as well.

In September, ALTA discussed the matter with the Safety Implementation Officer from ICAO SAM and the Aerodromes and Ground Aids Specialist from the Regional Safety Oversight Cooperation System (SRVSOP). During this meeting, ALTA was informed that DINAC had requested SRVSOP's assistance in certifying AISP to comply with ICAO Annex 14 Volume I requirements.

The certification of aerodromes at the international level is governed by Annex 14 (Standards and Recommended Practices – SARPs for aerodromes) and Document 9981 (PANS-Aerodromes: detailed operational procedures for aerodrome operators to ensure the safety of operations). For SRVSOP, the applicable regulation is the Latin American Aeronautical Regulation (LAR) 139 – Aerodrome Certification / Requirements for Aerodrome Operators.

This certification process includes the implementation of a Runway Safety Team (RST), which serves as a specific forum for discussing runway safety issues and can contribute to the establishment of collaborative discussion platforms.

In October, the Brazilian National Civil Aviation Agency (ANAC Brasil) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Directorate of Civil Aeronautics (DINAC - Paraguay) aimed at enhancing aviation safety measures. Both organizations committed to strengthening international technical cooperation and exchanging best practices on operational safety, aviation security, and facilitation.

Subsequently, ALTA met with ANAC and formally requested that the promotion of a CST implementation in Paraguay be included in the agenda stemming from the MoU.

ALTA will closely monitor the progress of this initiative.