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# IFALPA, The Global Voice of Pilots, Opens Conference in Mexico City

## MEXICO CITY – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The 78<sup>th</sup> Conference of the International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA) opened today in Mexico City. Hosted by IFALPA and ASPA de México, the Conference brings together the IFALPA Executive Board and hundreds of pilot leaders representing their national Member Associations from all regions of the world to deliberate on crucial decisions for the Federation and present key activities and campaigns.

Invited to provide a State of the industry, Mr. Christopher Barks, ICAO Regional Director North American, Central American, and Caribbean discussed the history and 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ICAO, problems and issues around the introduction of the concepts of Reduced Crew Operations, (RCO), and Single Pilot Operations (SiPO), new challenges of integration of new UAS+ technologies and stakeholders into shared airspace, and meteorological issues and turbulence in the context of climate change.

Highlighting the importance of IFALPA's strategic partnerships in the world of work, Gilbert F. Hougbo, Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO) addressed the opening plenary underscoring the unprecedented challenges faced by the aviation sector due to the COVID-19 pandemic and highlighting the need for sustainable and just recovery policies. Emphasizing the importance of collaboration between the ILO and ICAO to ensure a green and inclusive future for aviation, Hougbo closed with hopeful words;

***"I would like to welcome you onboard as we aim to cruise at the higher altitude to attain a better social justice for all."***

Cpt Gilberto Lopez Meyer, Senior Vice-President, Corporate Safety and Security for Aeromexico explained; ***"The voice of pilots is essential – we need to reinforce the participation of IFALPA in all international fora... but we must strive for equal levels of safety and security in all regions in the world – not just the more resourced and developed areas. IFALPA has been doing a good job focusing on this and must continue to do so."***

Captain Humberto Gual-Angeles, Secretary General of ASPA de México welcomed the Global Pilot Community to Mexico City and delivered an inspiring speech to the crowd. He underscored the vital importance of international collaboration and the power of pilot solidarity;

***“It is important to recognize that, in an industry as complex and constantly evolving as aviation, unity and collaboration between unions, organizations, and governments is essential to ensure sustainable growth and safe operations.”***

IFALPA President Cpt Amornvaj (Ben) Mansumitchai delivered his State of the Federation address and officially opened the Conference;

***“As I reflect on this past year, it is evident that with these opportunities also comes a significant responsibility to ensure accountability and transparency in all our actions. I am immensely proud of the progress we have made together and remain committed to guiding IFALPA towards continued success in the future.”***

Some of these great achievements are addressed in the [Year in Review](#) report highlighting several significant events and messages championed by the Federation. Thought not exhaustive, it emphasizes the potency and impact of the Global Voice of Pilots on a worldwide scale.

The IFALPA Conference marks a year characterized by steady advancement within the Federation, emphasizing enhancements in administration, membership, financial operations, and the fine-tuning of strategic objectives. Moreover, there have been concentrated efforts to advance technical initiatives and strengthen ties with stakeholders, including increased engagement at ICAO and tailored support for Member Associations on industrial matters.

Amidst these developments, the commitment to promoting global aviation safety and advocacy for pilots remains unwavering. Celebrating its 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary as the Global Voice of Pilots, IFALPA continues its mission to offer representation, services, and support to its members and the broader aviation sector.

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Note to Editors:

The International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations represents more than 120,000 pilots in nearly 100 countries. The mission of IFALPA is to promote the highest level of aviation safety worldwide and to be the global advocate of the piloting profession, providing representation, services, and support to both our members and the aviation industry.

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