



October 31, 2025

As Director – Americas of IFATSEA, I wish to extend our deepest condolences to all those impacted by Hurricane Melissa and the devastation it has wrought across the Caribbean region. The scale of destruction in communities of the Americas is both heartbreaking and a stark reminder of the incredible vulnerabilities that exist in our region’s infrastructure and emergency-systems.

Our hearts go out especially to the families of the many who lost their lives, and to the countless individuals and organizations working around the clock to rescue, shelter and support those displaced and in need. According to official reports, the storm’s toll includes dozens of fatalities and massive damage across islands such as Jamaica and Haiti.

From the perspective of aviation electronics and air traffic safety — a field in which IFATSEA is deeply engaged — the storm underlines the importance of resilient infrastructure, robust contingency planning and strong coordination among national, regional and international stakeholders. Storms of this strength magnify vulnerabilities: communication systems go down, power is lost, equipment is exposed, and the safe operation of air traffic services becomes enormously more difficult.

In the coming days and weeks, our focus must be on supporting immediate humanitarian needs — shelter, power, communications, transportation access — while also looking ahead to longer-term recovery. For IFATSEA this means advocating for the restoration and strengthening of air traffic safety electronics systems in affected areas, ensuring that these critical systems are resilient to extreme weather and that air traffic services can resume and maintain safe operations under challenging conditions.

We affirm our solidarity with the aviation community in the Caribbean and the Americas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michel Gaulin'.

Michel Gaulin  
IFATSEA Regional Director of the Americas

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