

CANSO Person of the Year 2026

Nominee: Micilia Albertus-Verboom, Director General, Dutch Caribbean Air Navigation Service Provider (DC-ANSP)

Description of why they should be nominated:

- Micilia Albertus-Verboom stands as one of the most remarkable leaders in our industry, not merely for the longevity of her service, but for the depth and breadth of her contribution.
- With 19 years at the helm of DC-ANSP, she is the longest-serving CEO/Director General in the world of air navigation service provision, a tenure that far exceeds typical leadership terms and reflects an exceptional commitment to public safety, institutional stability and regional collaboration.
- Under her stewardship DC-ANSP has evolved into a modernising, outward-looking organisation operating in an increasingly dynamic airspace environment.
- While many ANSPs worldwide are only now returning to 2019 traffic levels, passenger throughput at Curaçao's principal airport has doubled compared to pre-COVID levels - a reflection of sustained growth in connectivity and regional importance. Managing that growth safely, efficiently and resiliently has required disciplined oversight and forward-looking investment, all delivered under Micilia's leadership
- In 2025–2026, Micilia has led one of the most ambitious modernisation programmes in DC-ANSP's history. Under her stewardship, DC-ANSP has advanced two major procurement projects: the implementation of a next-generation ATM system and the development of a digital control tower capability, while simultaneously driving the construction of a new integrated facility to house future operations. This is a generational infrastructure upgrade that will secure operational resilience and technological relevance for years to come.
- This transformation has unfolded against a backdrop of geopolitical complexity in the wider Caribbean region. Airspace closures and volatility linked to regional tensions have had operational implications for neighbouring FIRs, including Curaçao. Throughout these challenges, Micilia ensured the continuity and safety of operations within her airspace, balancing risk management, stakeholder coordination and strategic communication with calm authority.

- Her influence extends far beyond her own organisation. As former Chair of CANSO's LAC region and a member of the CANSO Executive Committee, she has helped shape regional and global dialogue on ATM. She is one of the most committed and visible DGs in the ATM community, consistently participating in events, fostering collaboration and generously hosting multiple LAC conferences with 2026 set to be another fantastic event in Curacao.
- Her generosity in creating platforms for knowledge exchange reflects her belief that collective advancement strengthens every ANSP.
- What sets Micilia apart is not just her professional acumen but her personal character. She knows her organisation inside out, engages with every operational detail, and builds trust through genuine, informed presence. She brings people together across ANSPs, regulators, airlines and stakeholders to advance collaborative solutions that strengthen aviation safety and connectivity.
- She is an incredible role model for strong female leaders in our male dominated industry. That alone is worthy of recognition.
- For sustained leadership across these years, for transformational modernisation delivered under pressure, and for her enduring contribution to the global ATM community, Micilia Albertus-Verboom is a truly deserving recipient of CANSO's Person of the Year.