The Work Programme of the Legal Committee – Developments from the 40th Session of the ICAO Assembly

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Developments from the 40th Session of the Assembly

• 40th Session of the ICAO Assembly (24 September to 4 October 2019)
• Legal Commission held three meetings
• Attended by Representatives from 127 Member States and 25 observer delegations
• Adoption of a revised Work Programme for the Legal Committee
Work Programme of the Legal Committee

1) International legal aspects of unmanned (pilotless) aircraft operations and integration into civil aviation;

2) Review of the ICAO Rules for the Settlement of Differences;

3) Processes and procedures for States to fulfil their obligations under Article 12 of the Chicago Convention;

4) Acts or offences of concern to the international aviation community, including cyber threats, that may not be adequately covered by existing air law instruments;

5) Consideration of guidance on conflicts of interest;

6) Promotion of the ratification of international air law instruments;

7) Implementation of Article 21 of the Chicago Convention; and

8) Study of international legal issues relating to global satellite systems and services supporting international air navigation services.
Item 1: International legal aspects of unmanned (pilotless) aircraft operations and integration into civil aviation

- Establishment of a Group on International legal issues related to Pilotless Aircraft
- First meeting: from 7 to 9 April 2020
Item 2: Review of the ICAO Rules for the Settlement of Differences

- Establishment of the Working Group for the Review of the ICAO Rules for the Settlement of Differences (WG RRSD)
- Two meetings in 2019 and two meetings scheduled for 2020
- Preparation of a draft set of Rules for consideration by the 38th Session of the Legal Committee (2021)
Item 4: Acts or offences of concern to the international aviation community, including cyber threats, that may not be adequately covered by existing air law instruments

• New item added to the Work Programme of the Legal Committee (merger of two existing items)
• LEB is supporting the work of the SSGC to review adequacy of international air law instruments
Item 6: Promotion of the ratification of international air law instruments

- First ICAO Treaty Event was held during the 40th Session of the Assembly
  - 17 depositary actions recorded
  - 5 States took the opportunity to make consultations with LEB

- Entry into force on 1 January 2020 of the Montréal Protocol 2014
Civil Aviation Legal Advisers Forum (CALAF)

• Inaugural CALAF held in Singapore in May 2019
• Serves as a platform for legal counsels from CAAs to share with their counterparts
• Adoption of an Assembly Resolution highlighting the role of CAA legal advisers
Thank you.