

**61ST CONFERENCE OF
DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION**

*Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
7 – 11 September 2026*

AGENDA ITEM 9: UPDATES

**RATIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL AIR LAW TREATIES
AND REGISTRATION OF AERONAUTICAL AGREEMENTS**

(Presented by the ICAO Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This discussion paper presents actions taken by ICAO since the 60th Conference of Directors General of Civil Aviation, ICAO Asia and Pacific Region (Sendai, Japan, 28 July - 1 August 2025) towards contributing to the objectives of the Strategic Goal “The International Civil Aviation Convention and other Treaties, Laws and Regulations address all Challenges”, including the promotion of the ratification of international air law treaties. It also provides an overview of the APAC States’ responses to actions taken by ICAO, including depositary actions, since the aforesaid Conference. The paper concludes with proposed future actions to continue to accelerate ratification of international air law treaties and the registration of aeronautical agreements and arrangements with ICAO via WAGMAR.

RATIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL AIR LAW TREATIES AND REGISTRATION OF AERONAUTICAL AGREEMENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 At the 60th Conference of Directors General of Civil Aviation, ICAO Asia and Pacific Region (Sendai, Japan, 28 July – 1 August 2025) (APAC-DGCA/60), the DGCA considered 60/DP/9/04, which reported on actions taken by ICAO with respect to the promotion of the ratification of international air law treaties since APAC-DGCA/59 (Cebu, Philippines, 14 – 18 October 2024). 60/DP/9/04 further provided an overview of the APAC States' responses to actions taken by ICAO, including depositary actions, since APAC-DGCA/59, and concluded with proposed future actions to accelerate ratification of international air law treaties.

1.2 Following consideration of 60/DP/9/04, the Conference adopted Action Item 60/56, in which the Conference encouraged States to: i) become parties on the treaties on Chicago Convention Article 50, Article 56, Montreal Convention, Beijing Convention, Beijing Protocol, and Montreal Protocol¹ and to any other international Air Law Treaties that they have not yet ratified; ii) nominate a Focal Point for the Ratification of International Air Law Treaties, if they have not already done so and to inform the ICAO APAC Regional Office; iii) participate in the third ICAO Treaty Event in September 2025, in the fourth edition of the Civil Aviation Legal Advisers Forum (CALAF) in The Bahamas in 2026, in the ICAO International Air Law Course as well as other similar events for the continuous training and development of their legal advisers with regard to ratification and implementation of international air law instruments and to consider hosting from time to time such events in their States; iv) inform ICAO before 1st September 2025 of their further progress towards the ratification of international air law treaties by updating/using the DGCA tracking matrix set out in Appendix B to this discussion paper; and v) contact the ICAO LEB Treaty Section (treaty@icao.int) for any information or assistance with regard to ratification matters.

2. DISCUSSION

Actions taken to promote the ratification of international air law treaties

2.1 Since APAC-DGCA/60, ICAO has taken the following actions with a view to promoting the ratification of international air law treaties:

- a) Following up Action item 60/56, ICAO discussed and recalled its actions during the different missions and meetings to States and International Organizations.
- b) The 42nd Session of the ICAO Assembly (Montréal, 23 September – 3 October 2025) endorsed action items related to the promotion of treaty ratification, including affirmation that ratification contributes significantly to the advancement of the rule of law consistent with the new Strategic Goal: The International Civil Aviation Convention and other Treaties, Laws and Regulations address all Challenges.

¹ Protocol Relating to an Amendment to the Convention on International Civil Aviation [Article 50 (a)] (Doc 10077) and the Protocol Relating to an Amendment to the Convention on International Civil Aviation [Article 56] (Doc 10076) (Montréal, 2016) (2016 Protocols on Articles 50(a) and 56 of the Chicago Convention); the Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules for International Carriage by Air (Doc 9740) (Montreal, 1999) (Montreal Convention 1999); the Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation (Doc 9960) and the Protocol Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft (Doc 9959) (Beijing, 2010) (Beijing Convention and Protocol 2010); and the Protocol to Amend the Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft (Doc 10034) (Montréal, 2014) (Montréal Protocol 2014).

- c) **Issuance of State letter:** On 11 March 2026, State letter Ref. SN 2 (2026): AP045/26 (TC) was issued by which APAC Member States were reminded of the action items emanating from the Second APAC Ministerial Conference (New Delhi, India, 11 to 12 September 2024) and Action Item 60/56 of APAC-DGCA/60. The action required by the State letter was for States to provide detailed updates on ratification of the six key treaties highlighted at footnote 1 by completing the DGCA Ratification Tracking Matrix Form and to provide the name, title and email address of a focal point to coordinate with ICAO on matters related to the ratification of international air law treaties by completing the online nomination form at <https://forms.office.com/r/tn2x9S34PQ> or QR code provided by 31 March 2026.
- d) **Treaty Event:** The Third ICAO Treaty Event was held on 23 and 24 September 2025 at ICAO Headquarters in the margins of the 42nd Session of the ICAO Assembly, during which ICAO Member States were afforded an opportunity to deposit instruments of ratification to the six key treaties or to any other treaty for which ICAO acts as depositary, or to consult on treaty matters with the Legal Affairs and External Relations Bureau (LEB).
- e) **CALAF/4:** The Fourth Edition of the Civil Aviation Legal Advisers Forum (CALAF) was held in Nassau, The Bahamas from 27 to 29 May 2026. Over 220 aviation legal professionals from 62 States participated in this event, including participants from APAC States.
- f) **Two more Protocols:** Further to the 42nd Session of the ICAO Assembly, in addition to the six treaties mentioned at footnote 1, the Organization is promoting two more Protocols amending the Chicago Convention, i.e., the *Protocol Relating to an Amendment to the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Final Paragraph, Arabic Text)* (Montreal, 1995) and the *Protocol Relating to an Amendment to the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Final Paragraph, Chinese Text)* (Montreal, 1998). These Protocols provide that the text of the *Convention on International Civil Aviation* (Chicago, 1944 – the “Chicago Convention”) in, respectively, the Arabic and Chinese languages, are of equal authenticity to the four other language texts of the Convention. The availability of the Arabic and Chinese authentic texts of the Convention as well as the availability of its 19 Annexes in the Arabic and Chinese languages, promotes safety by increasing accessibility of the texts to a larger portion of the world’s population.

Entry into force of the 2016 Protocols on Articles 50(a) and 56 of the Chicago Convention

2.2 The 2016 Protocols on Articles 50(a) and 56 of the Chicago Convention which, respectively, expand the number of seats on the Council and the Air Navigation Commission (ANC), entered into force on 12 June 2026. Ecuador became the 128th State to ratify both Protocols, reaching the threshold required for their entry into force. Consequently, the Council will expand from 36 to 40 Member States and the ANC from 19 to 21 members. With respect to the expansion of the Council, an Extraordinary Session of the Assembly will be convened on 19 and 20 November 2026 at ICAO Headquarters in Montréal to elect the four additional Council members. A State letter invitation for this Session was issued on 3 July 2026 (Ref.: SA 43/1 – 26/55). A State letter was issued on 13 July 2026 inviting States to nominate candidates for the two additional members on the ANC (Ref.: S 5/3-26/54). The Council will consider the candidates of the nominated ANC members at its 239th Session in November 2026.

Depositary actions by APAC States

2.3 Two depositary actions by APAC States have been recorded by ICAO since APAC-DGCA/60, i.e., ratification of the 2016 Protocols on Articles 50(a) and 56 of the Chicago Convention by Japan on 10 July 2026.

Tracking progress by APAC States towards ratification

2.4 To date, 33 States in the APAC region have provided the names and details of Focal Points within their administration to coordinate with ICAO on matters related to the ratification of international air law treaties. 14 States in the APAC region have ratified the 2016 Protocols on Articles 50(a) and 56 of the Chicago Convention. Furthermore, as there continues to be limited progress on those treaties dealing with new and emerging threats against the safety and security of civil aviation, including cyber attacks (the Beijing Convention and Protocol 2010) and on the issue of unruly and disruptive passengers (Montréal Protocol 2014), this again calls for expedited action by most APAC States. The Montreal Convention 1999 is widely ratified by a majority of States, however it is important that all States join the treaty as it will ensure universal application of the modernized compensation rules for air carrier liability for all travellers. One State in the APAC region has ratified all eight of the key treaties, with two States having ratified six of the treaties.²

Upcoming actions to promote the ratification of international air law treaties

2.5 Appendix G of Assembly Resolution A42-5 encourages Member States to make use of ICAO seminars and workshops. Air Law Treaty Workshops have been held in the APAC (2023), EUR/NAT (2024) and ESAF (2026) Regions which have assisted officials to enhance their understanding of the benefits and requirements associated with treaty ratification. The Fourth Edition of CALAF, held in The Bahamas in May 2026, featured presentations and discussions by legal advisers of civil aviation regulatory bodies on topical legal subjects of interest to the international aviation community including air law treaties. In support of ongoing efforts to promote treaty ratification and implementation, States are encouraged to participate in the following upcoming events:

- a) **40th Session of the Legal Committee:** The next session of the Legal Committee (Montréal, 26-30 October 2026) will review, among other items, progress on treaty ratification and implementation around the world;
- b) **IALC:** The APAC Regional Office or a State in the region will host the delivery of an International Air Law Course in 2027.
- c) **2027 Legal Seminar:** The Republic of Korea will host the ICAO Legal Seminar in 2027 to address topics relating to ICAO's work in the legal field, aviation safety and aviation security and current issues in aviation law and practice; and
- d) **CALAF/5:** Nigeria will host the Fifth ICAO Civil Aviation Legal Advisers Forum in 2027. APAC Member States are encouraged to make use of CALAF for the continuous training and development of their legal advisers regarding the ratification and implementation of international air law instruments.

2.6 **Appendix A** to this paper provides an updated form indicating the status of APAC States with respect to ratification of the eight international air law treaties highlighted above. **Appendix B** contains

² Singapore (8), India and Mongolia (6).

the tracking matrix that was appended to State letter Ref. SN 2 (2026): AP045/26 (TC) of 11 March 2026, which DGCAs/Focal Points are again invited to submit to the Organization to inform of their State's further progress towards ratification of international air law treaties. DGCAs are reminded that the tracking matrix can be filled/updated by the Focal Points whenever a State reaches an important milestone in the ratification process, such as when the ratification proposal is presented to the competent authority or organ for approval, or receives executive and/or legislative approval, and when the ratifying legislation is published or gazetted, as applicable.

Other Actions taken to contribute to the objectives of Strategic Goal: The International Civil Aviation Convention and other Treaties, Laws and Regulations address all Challenges

2.7 Registration of Aeronautical Agreements and Arrangements

2.7.1 Issuance of a State letter: On 27 March 2026, State letter Ref.: SN 2 (2026): AP053/26 (TC) was issued by which APAC States were invited to use the Website of Aeronautical Agreements and Arrangements (WAGMAR), an interactive web-based system which ICAO launched, in September 2020, for the purpose of registering their aeronautical agreements and arrangements. States were also invited to nominate one or two focal points for that purpose. Article 83 of the Chicago Convention requires that all new aeronautical agreements and arrangements shall be registered with the ICAO Council, which shall make them public. By means of Article 83 *bis* (b) of the Chicago Convention, the registration and making public requirements are confirmed to also cover Article 83 *bis* agreements.

2.7.2 Currently the agreements registered under Article 83 are primarily air services and air transport agreements and Article 83 *bis* agreements. The registration of air services agreements supports ICAO's World Air Services Agreements (WASA) database. While Article 83 *bis* agreements provide for the transfer of certain functions and duties normally incumbent on the State of registry to the State of the operator, in the case of lease, charter or interchange of an aircraft or similar arrangements, the transfer of functions and duties does not have effect in respect of other States Parties to the Protocol on Article 83 *bis* unless they have been informed of the transfer. Once Article 83 *bis* agreements are publicly available, all States Parties to the Protocol on Article 83 *bis* have the obligation to recognize the transfer of functions and duties as provided in the agreement.

2.7.3 The web-based WAGMAR enables nominated State focal points to self-register and manage all agreement registrations online, eliminating the need to submit certified true paper copies to ICAO. The system streamlines and accelerates the registration process by automatically notifying the focal point(s) of the other State Party whenever a new agreement is registered or an existing registration is modified. It also enhances legal certainty by providing the option to generate Article 83 *bis* Agreement Summaries, which clearly identify the functions that have been transferred under the agreement. More information regarding the registration of aeronautical agreements and arrangements is contained in the *Rules for Registration with ICAO of Aeronautical Agreements and Arrangements* (Doc 6685-C/767).

2.7.4 To date, 19 States out of 39 in the APAC region have nominated Focal Points for the use of WAGMAR.

3. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

3.1 The Conference is invited to encourage APAC States to:

- a) become parties to the eight treaties highlighted at footnote 1 and paragraph 2.1 (f) of this paper, and to any other international air law treaty that they have not yet ratified;

- b) nominate a Focal Point for the Ratification of International Air Law Treaties, if they have not already done so and to inform the ICAO APAC Regional Office accordingly by completing the online nomination form at <https://forms.office.com/r/tn2x9S34PQ>;
- c) participate in the [40th Session of the Legal Committee](#) in Montréal in October 2026, in the ICAO Legal Seminar to be hosted by the Republic of Korea in 2027, in CALAF/5 in Nigeria in 2027, in the ICAO International Air Law Course, the ICAO Air Law Treaty Workshop as well as other similar events for the continuous training and development of their legal advisers with regard to ratification and implementation of international air law instruments and to consider hosting from time to time such events in their States, **especially with regard to the ICAO Air Law Treaty Workshop**;
- d) inform ICAO by **31 December 2026** of their further progress towards the ratification of international air law treaties by updating/using the DGCA tracking matrix set out in Appendix B to this paper;
- e) contact the ICAO LEB Treaty Section (treaty@icao.int) for any information or assistance with regard to ratification matters; and
- f) in line with Appendix H of Assembly Resolution A42-5, submit their aeronautical agreements and arrangements for registration with ICAO and to make use of WAGMAR for that purpose at the following link: <https://dna.icao.int/WAGMAR>.

APPENDIX A

STATUS OF STATES IN THE APAC REGION WITH RESPECT TO SELECTED INTERNATIONAL AIR LAW TREATIES

(as of 30 July 2026)³

	Article 50 (a) (2016) (132 Parties)	Article 56 (2016) (132 Parties)	Mtl Convention (1999) (145 Parties)	Beijing Convention (2010) (60 Parties)	Beijing Protocol (2010) (60 Parties)	Mtl Protocol (2014) (64 Parties)	Final Paragraph (Arabic Text) 1995) ⁴ (71 Ratifications)	Final Paragraph (Chinese Text) (1998) ⁴ (57 Ratifications)
Afghanistan								
Australia			X				X	X
Bangladesh	X	X	X					
Bhutan								
Brunei Darussalam			X				X	X
Cambodia	X	X	X					
China			X	X	X		X	X
Cook Islands			X					
Democratic People's Republic of Korea							X	X
Fiji			X					
India	X	X	X		X		X	X

³ Yellow highlight indicates new ratifications since APAC-DGCA/60.

⁴ Not in force.

	Article 50 (a) (2016) (132 Parties)	Article 56 (2016) (132 Parties)	Mtl Convention (1999) (145 Parties)	Beijing Convention (2010) (60 Parties)	Beijing Protocol (2010) (60 Parties)	Mtl Protocol (2014) (64 Parties)	Final Paragraph (Arabic Text) 1995)4 (71 Ratifications)	Final Paragraph (Chinese Text) (1998)4 (57 Ratifications)
Indonesia	X	X	X					
Japan	X	X	X					
Kiribati								
Lao People's Democratic Republic								
Malaysia	X	X	X			X		
Maldives			X				X	
Marshall Islands								
Micronesia (Federated States of)								
Mongolia	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Myanmar				X	X			
Naoero								
Nepal			X					
New Zealand	X	X	X				X	X
Pakistan	X	X	X					

	Article 50 (a) (2016) (132 Parties)	Article 56 (2016) (132 Parties)	Mtl Convention (1999) (145 Parties)	Beijing Convention (2010) (60 Parties)	Beijing Protocol (2010) (60 Parties)	Mtl Protocol (2014) (64 Parties)	Final Paragraph (Arabic Text) 1995)4 (71 Ratifications)	Final Paragraph (Chinese Text) (1998)4 (57 Ratifications)
Palau								
Papua New Guinea								
Philippines			X					
Republic of Korea	X	X	X					
Samoa								
Singapore	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Solomon Islands								
Sri Lanka	X	X	X					
Thailand	X	X	X				X	X
Timor-Leste								
Tonga			X					
Tuvalu								
Vanuatu			X				X	X
Viet Nam	X	X	X				X	X

APPENDIX B

RATIFICATION TRACKING MATRIX

[NAME OF THE MEMBER STATE]					
	TREATY PROPOSED BY DGCA TO COMPETENT AUTHORITY FOR RATIFICATION	TREATY SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL TO LEGISLATURE OR OTHER COMPETENT AUTHORITY	AWAITING SUBMISSION OF THE INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION TO THE DEPOSITARY (E.G., ICAO)	TREATY NOT CONSIDERED FOR RATIFICATION	COMMENTS
[NAME OF TREATY]					
[NAME OF TREATY]					
[NAME OF TREATY]					
[...]					

— END —



61ST DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION CONFERENCE ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION (DGCA/61)

Kuala Lumpur, 7–11 September 2026

**INTERNATIONAL
CIVIL AVIATION
ORGANIZATION**



DP/09/03: Ratification of International Air Law Treaties and Registration of Aeronautical Agreements

Sixty-First Conference of Directors General of Civil Aviation
Asia and Pacific Region
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
7 – 11 September 2026

Introduction

3

Working Paper DP/09/03 presents:

Actions taken since APAC/DGCA/60 towards contributing to the Strategic Goal: *The International Civil Aviation Convention and other Treaties, Laws and Regulations* address all Challenges

Overview of the APAC States' responses to actions taken by ICAO, including depositary actions

Future actions to accelerate treaty ratification and aeronautical arrangements registration using WAGMAR

Action Item 60/56 from APAC-DGCA/60

States were encouraged to:

- a) Become parties to the international air law treaties;
- b) Nominate Focal Points for treaty ratification;
- c) Participate in and/or host legal events;
- d) Inform ICAO of their treaty ratification progress with the DGCA tracking matrix; and
- e) Contact ICAO for information or assistance with regard to ratification matters.

Provisions and Benefits of Six Key Treaties

5



Montreal Convention 1999
(air carrier liability): 145 Parties **(24 APAC States)**, Universal application for uniform regime



Beijing Convention 2010 (security and safety): 60 Parties **(4 APAC States)**, deals with new and emerging threats using aircraft, BCN weapons, cyber attacks



Beijing Protocol 2010 (security and safety): 60 Parties **(5 APAC States)**: deals with new forms of unlawful seizure including by any technological means



Montréal Protocol 2014 (unruly and disruptive passengers): 64 Parties **(5 APAC States)**, expands jurisdiction beyond State of registry, and promotes enforcement



2016 Protocol on Art. 50 (a) of the Chicago Convention (increase in the size of Council): 132 Parties **(14 APAC States)**, broader representation in the Council



2016 Protocol on Art. 56 of the Chicago Convention (increase in the size of the ANC): 132 Parties **(14 APAC States)**, broader representation on the ANC

Provisions and Benefits of Two more treaties



Protocol Relating to an Amendment to the Chicago Convention (Final Paragraph, Arabic Text) 1995
 (Arabic language text of the Convention equally authentic to other language texts): 71 ratifications **(11 APAC States)**



Protocol Relating to an Amendment to the Chicago Convention (Final Paragraph, Chinese Text) 1998
 (Chinese language text of the Convention equally authentic to other language texts): 57 ratifications **(10 APAC States)**

2016 Protocols on Articles 50(a) and 56 of the Chicago Convention

7

BOTH PROTOCOLS ENTERED INTO FORCE ON 12 JUNE 2026

- **Council expands from 36 to 40 Members;**
 - Extraordinary Session of the Assembly convened for 19 and 20 November 2026 to elect 4 Members, State letter invitation issued on 3 July 2026
- **Air Navigation Commission expands from 19 to 21 Members,** State letter inviting nominations issued on 13 July 2026

Developments since APAC-DGCA/60

Actions taken to promote ratification

- Following up Action Item 60/56 of APAC-DGCA/60, ICAO discussed and recalled its actions during the different meetings with States and IOs.
- Issuance of State letters promoting the ratification of international air law treaties.

Depositary Actions by APAC States

- Two depositary actions by one APAC State (Japan) have been recorded.

APAC States

- 33 APAC States have nominated Focal Points.
- 1 APAC State has ratified the eight key treaties (Singapore).
- 2 APAC States have ratified six of the key treaties (India, Mongolia).

Upcoming actions to promote the ratification of international air law treaties

Future events

- 40th Session of the Legal Committee (Montréal, 26 – 30 October 2026)
- International Air Law Course in the APAC region in 2027
- Legal Seminar to be held in the Republic of Korea in 2027
- CALAF/5 to be held in Nigeria in 2027

Registration of Aeronautical Agreements and Arrangements

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WAGMAR:

- Self-registration of agreements by State Focal Points
- State Letter SN (2026): AP053/26 (TC) invites APAC States to nominate WAGMAR focal point(s)



Tracking Matrix for Treaty Ratification

[NAME OF THE MEMBER STATE]					
	TREATY PROPOSED BY DGCA TO COMPETENT AUTHORITY FOR RATIFICATION	TREATY SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL TO LEGISLATURE OR OTHER COMPETENT AUTHORITY	AWAITING SUBMISSION OF THE INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION TO THE DEPOSITARY (E.G., ICAO)	TREATY NOT CONSIDERED FOR RATIFICATION	COMMENTS
[NAME OF TREATY]					
[NAME OF TREATY]					
[NAME OF TREATY]					
[...]					

Action by the Conference

The Conference is invited to encourage APAC States to:

- a) become parties to the international air law treaties;
- b) nominate Focal Points for ratification matters;
- c) participate in LC/40 this October, in the Legal Seminar in the Republic of Korea in 2027, in CALAF/5 in Nigeria in 2027, and in other future ICAO legal events for the continuous training and development of their legal advisers; and consider hosting such events in their States;
- d) inform ICAO by **31 December 2026** of their further treaty ratification progress by updating the DGCA tracking matrix;
- e) contact the ICAO LEB Treaty Section (treaty@icao.int, officeleb@icao.int) for information or assistance with regard to ratification matters; and
- f) register aeronautical agreements and arrangements with ICAO through WAGMAR (<https://dna.icao.int/WAGMAR>).

Thank You

