



**INTERNATIONAL
CIVIL AVIATION
ORGANIZATION**



Agenda Item 8

Strengthening States' legislative, institutional and financing frameworks to ensure effective and sustainable State Aviation Authorities

Research and Studies on International Air Law Subjects

Blandine Ferrier, ICAO

EUR/NAT-DGCA/2026
Castellaneta, Italy, 9-10 June 2026



Introduction

Overview of the international air law research and studies conducted by ICAO



Strategic Goal

“The International Civil Aviation Convention and other Treaties, Laws and Regulations address all Challenges”



Current Status of Research and Studies

through the Legal Committee and supported by the Legal Affairs and External Relations Bureau



ARTICLE 12 OF THE CHICAGO CONVENTION



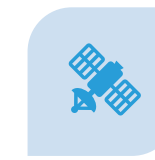
REVIEW OF THE ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXPLOSIVES TECHNICAL COMMISSION UNDER THE MEX CONVENTION



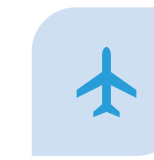
UNMANNED (PILOTLESS) AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS



ACTS OR OFFENCES OF CONCERN TO INTERNATIONAL AVIATION COMMUNITY, INCLUDING CYBER THREATS, THAT MAY NOT BE ADEQUATELY COVERED BY EXISTING AIR LAW INSTRUMENTS



GLOBAL SATELLITE SYSTEMS AND SERVICES SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL AIR NAVIGATION SERVICES



INTERNATIONAL CARRIAGE BY AIR AND DATA PROTECTION LAWS



LEGAL REVIEW OF THE ANALYSIS COMPLETED BY ATRP OF THE APPLICATION OF ARTICLE 15 OF THE CHICAGO CONVENTION

Article 12 compliance

Processes and procedures for States to fulfil their obligations under Article 12 of the Chicago Convention – item 1 of the Work Programme

Article 12 Task Force
established in 2021

2023 legal survey
94 State responses

Final report
expected for 40th
Session of the Legal
Committee in Oct
2026

Unmanned aircraft (pilotless aircraft)

International legal aspects of unmanned (pilotless) aircraft operations and integration into civil aviation – item 3 of the Work Programme



Passenger Data Protection

International Carriage by Air and Data Protection Laws – item 7 of the Work Programme



SSG-DPL
ESTABLISHED IN MARCH 2025



SURVEY IN DECEMBER 2025
95 RESPONSES



FINDINGS
DIVERSE NATIONAL LEGAL
APPROACHES AND IDENTIFIABLE
REGIONAL VARIATIONS



CONCLUSIONS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE
40TH SESSION OF THE LEGAL
COMMITTEE IN OCT 2026

Article 15 Compliance

Legal review of the analysis completed by the Air Transport Regulation Panel (ATRP) of the application of Article 15 of the Chicago Convention – item 8 of the Work Programme

SSG A15 established in early 2026

Review of ATRP drafted guidance material in process

Target completion: 2026

Final report intended for 40th Session of the Legal Committee in Oct 2026

MEX Convention

Review of the Role of the International Explosives Technical Commission under the *Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection* – item 2 of the Work Programme

Objective is to determine the most appropriate way forward for the IETC under the MEX Convention

Advice from a Friend of the Chair Group will support consideration by the 40th Session of the Legal Committee

Legal survey on global satellite systems and services

Study of international legal issues relating to global satellite systems and services supporting international air navigation services – item 6 of the Work Programme

Item added to the Legal Committee Work Programme in 1988

The study leads to the adoption of several ICAO Assembly Resolutions (A32-19, A32-20, A35-3) and a *Statement of ICAO Policy on CNS/ATM Systems Implementation and Operation*

ICAO A42 considered a proposal to continuously monitor the aviation operating landscape

- identify potential risks, including supporting mitigation measures related to CNS/ATM implementation
- identify impacts of increasing space object re-entries
- Identify impacts of higher-altitude operations

Legal Committee to determine whether the proposed elements should be addressed within the scope of this study

Legal survey on cyber threats

Acts or offences of concern to the international aviation community, including cyber threats, that may not be adequately covered by existing air law instruments – item 5 of the Work Programme

Ratification

Beijing Convention and Protocol
2010 deal with cyberattacks
against civil aviation

Implementation

Survey on implementation by
States of international air law
instruments in national legal
frameworks on cyber security

Main takeaways



ICAO IS ACTIVELY UPDATING LEGAL
RESEARCH AND STUDIES ACROSS
PRIORITY AREAS



LEGAL SURVEYS AND STUDY
GROUPS ARE CENTRAL TOOLS



FOCUS AREAS REFLECT
TECHNOLOGICAL, OPERATIONAL,
AND REGULATORY CHANGE



2026 WILL BE A KEY YEAR FOR
REPORTING AND DECISIONS



ICAO

Draft EUR/NAT DGCA Conclusion 2026# / International Air Law Subjects

That the ICAO Regional Director, Europe and North Atlantic, invite EUR/NAT States to:

- a) **Support the work of the ICAO Legal Committee** by providing timely responses to legal surveys on various subjects ; and
- b) **Participate in the 40th Session of the ICAO Legal Committee** (online registration by 9th October 2026 and contributions due by 11th September 2026).



ICAO

Thank You

