International Civil Aviation Organization

LC/40-IP/4
19/10/26
(**Information Paper**)

WORKING PAPER

LEGAL COMMITTEE – 40TH SESSION

(Montréal, 26 – 30 October 2026)

Agenda Item 2 Promotion of the ratification of international air law instruments

OUTCOMES OF THE THIRD ICAO INTERNATIONAL AIR LAW TREATY WORKSHOP (IAL-TW/3)

(Presented by the United Republic of Tanzania)

1. SUMMARY

1.1 This Working Paper presents the outcomes of the Third ICAO International Air Law Treaty Workshop (IAL-TW/3), held in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, from 25 to 27 February 2026.

1.2 The paper highlights the contribution of the workshop to strengthening legal capacity, promoting understanding of international air law instruments, facilitating cooperation among States and supporting national treaty ratification and implementation processes.

1.3 Drawing upon the experience of hosting the workshop, the paper further highlights the benefits of organizing similar workshops across ICAO regions as a practical means of broadening participation, strengthening institutional coordination and advancing the objectives of universal participation in international air law instruments.

2. ACTION BY THE LEGAL COMMITTEE

2.1 The Legal Committee is invited to:

a) note the outcomes of the Third ICAO International Air Law Treaty Workshop held in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, from 25 to 27 February 2026;

b) recognize the contribution of regional international air law treaty workshops to legal capacity-building, inter-agency coordination and the promotion of ratification and implementation of international air law instruments;

c) encourage Member States, particularly those in regions that have not yet hosted such workshops, to consider hosting future editions in cooperation with ICAO; and

d) encourage ICAO to continue facilitating regional legal capacity-building initiatives, subject to available resources, and supporting States in addressing challenges associated with the ratification and implementation of international air law instruments.

3. INTRODUCTION

3.1 The Third ICAO International Air Law Treaty Workshop (IAL-TW/3) was organized by the ICAO Legal Affairs and External Relations Bureau (LEB) and hosted by the United Republic of Tanzania in Dar es Salaam from 25 to 27 February 2026, with the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) serving as the host organization. The workshop formed part of ICAO's continuing efforts to promote wider ratification and effective implementation of international air law instruments and to strengthen the legal capacity of Member States.

3.2 Building upon the inaugural workshop held in Singapore in 2023 and the second workshop held in Paris, France, in 2024, the third edition provided an important opportunity to extend ICAO's international air law capacity-building initiatives to the African region. The initiative supports the objectives of relevant ICAO Assembly resolutions concerning the ratification of international air law instruments, the teaching of air law and the strengthening of legal expertise among Member States.

3.3 The workshop attracted more than 150 participants, including approximately 70 international delegates. Participants represented civil aviation authorities, ministries responsible for transport, justice and foreign affairs, legislative drafting institutions, law enforcement agencies, international organizations, the aviation industry and academia. This broad participation demonstrated the importance of engaging the various institutions involved in treaty ratification and implementation.

3.4 The experience of the United Republic of Tanzania demonstrates that hosting such workshops within ICAO regions provides opportunities not only for knowledge-sharing but also for strengthening national institutional coordination, expanding access to specialized legal expertise and encouraging regional cooperation in advancing international air law objectives.

4. WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

4.1 The workshop programme combined presentations by international experts, practical discussions and interactive sessions designed to enhance participants' understanding of international air law instruments and the legal and institutional processes necessary for their ratification and implementation.

4.2 The programme addressed major international air law instruments, including the Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules for International Carriage by Air (Montréal, 1999), the Beijing 2010 Instruments and the Protocol to Amend the Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft (Montréal, 2014).

4.3 Other sessions examined the evolution of international air law, the role of the ICAO Legal Committee in the development of international legal instruments, treaty ratification procedures, domestic implementation requirements, the application of Article 83 bis of the Convention on International Civil Aviation, the registration of aeronautical agreements and regional air transport liberalization initiatives, including the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM).

4.4 The workshop benefited from the participation of experts and representatives from ICAO, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), the International Air Transport Association (IATA), national governments, academia and the aviation industry. Their contributions provided valuable perspectives on the legal, institutional and operational dimensions of international civil aviation.

4.5 The workshop concluded with an interactive session during which participants exchanged experiences, identified challenges affecting treaty ratification and implementation and discussed possible measures to strengthen future cooperation and capacity-building.

4.6 The United Republic of Tanzania expresses its appreciation to ICAO, the Chairperson of the ICAO Legal Committee, participating experts, organizations and delegates for their valuable contributions to the successful conduct of the workshop.

5. KEY OUTCOMES

5.1 Enhanced understanding of international air law instruments.

5.1.1 The workshop strengthened participants' understanding of the objectives, legal implications and benefits of major international air law instruments, particularly those relating to aviation security, air carrier liability and offences committed on board aircraft. Discussions emphasized the importance of broad participation in international treaties to promote legal certainty, consistency and harmonization in international civil aviation.

5.2 Strengthened knowledge of treaty ratification and implementation processes.

5.2.1 Participants received practical guidance on treaty ratification procedures, ICAO depositary practices, domestic legislative requirements and the institutional arrangements necessary for effective treaty implementation. These discussions enhanced understanding of the processes involved in translating international treaty commitments into applicable national legal frameworks.

5.3 Increased awareness of emerging legal challenges.

5.3.1 Discussions concerning the Beijing 2010 Instruments and other developments in international aviation law highlighted the importance of maintaining legal frameworks capable of responding to evolving threats to civil aviation, including unlawful interference, terrorism and emerging technological risks. The discussions also emphasized the need for States to continuously assess the adequacy of their legal and regulatory frameworks.

5.4 Exchange of experiences and good practices.

5.4.1 The workshop provided a platform for participating States to share experiences concerning treaty ratification, domestication and implementation. Participants discussed common challenges, including institutional coordination, legislative processes, technical capacity and the availability of specialized legal expertise, while exchanging approaches that could assist States in addressing such challenges.

5.5 **Identification of future capacity-building priorities.**

5.5.1 Through the concluding interactive session, participants identified areas requiring continued attention, including strengthening coordination among relevant national institutions, improving access to treaty-related information, enhancing specialized legal training and promoting sustained cooperation between States and ICAO.

5.6 **Strengthened professional and institutional networks.**

5.6.1 The workshop facilitated direct engagement among government legal experts, aviation regulators, international organizations and other stakeholders, creating opportunities for continued professional cooperation and information-sharing on matters relating to international air law.

6. BENEFITS TO HOST STATES AND ICAO REGIONS

6.1 The experience of the United Republic of Tanzania demonstrated that hosting an ICAO International Air Law Treaty Workshop offers benefits extending beyond the immediate exchange of technical knowledge. Such workshops provide host States with an opportunity to convene national institutions whose participation is essential to the ratification and effective implementation of international air law instruments.

6.2 By bringing together representatives from civil aviation authorities, ministries responsible for transport, justice and foreign affairs, legislative drafting institutions, law enforcement agencies and other relevant bodies, the workshops promote a shared understanding of international legal obligations and the respective institutional responsibilities involved in their implementation.

6.3 Hosting these workshops also expands access to specialized international aviation law training for national professionals who may otherwise have limited opportunities to participate in international meetings. This contributes to institutional capacity-building, facilitates direct engagement with international experts and supports the identification of gaps within national legal and administrative frameworks.

6.4 At the regional level, the organization of such workshops improves accessibility to ICAO legal capacity-building initiatives, reduces geographical and financial barriers to participation and enables a wider range of Member States and relevant stakeholders to benefit from specialized expertise.

6.5 Regional workshops further provide opportunities for neighbouring States to exchange experiences, identify common challenges and explore cooperative approaches to treaty ratification and implementation. Such cooperation is particularly valuable where States share similar legal systems, institutional arrangements or implementation challenges.

6.6 The workshops therefore serve as an important complementary mechanism to ICAO's existing efforts to promote ratification and implementation of international air law instruments. By bringing legal capacity-building activities closer to Member States, they contribute to broader participation, stronger institutional engagement and greater regional ownership of international air law objectives.

7. CONCLUSION

7.1 The Third ICAO International Air Law Treaty Workshop demonstrated the value of regional legal capacity-building initiatives in promoting understanding of international air law instruments and supporting States in addressing the legal and institutional challenges associated with their ratification and implementation.

7.2 The experience of the United Republic of Tanzania further highlighted the benefits of hosting such workshops, particularly in strengthening national inter-agency coordination, broadening access to specialized legal expertise and facilitating cooperation among participating States and international organizations.

7.3 Building upon the positive experiences of workshops held in the Asia and Pacific, European and African regions, the United Republic of Tanzania encourages Member States in other ICAO regions to consider hosting future editions of the ICAO International Air Law Treaty Workshop in cooperation with ICAO.

7.4 Continued organization of these workshops, supported by ICAO and interested Member States, would provide a practical means of strengthening legal capacity, encouraging wider participation in international air law instruments and supporting their effective implementation. Such efforts would contribute to the progressive development and harmonization of international air law and reinforce the rule of law in international civil aviation.

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