



ICAO MID

الهيئة العامة للطيران المدني
Civil Aviation Authority
دولة قطر - State of Qatar



DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION-MIDDLE EAST REGION

Eighth Meeting (DGCA-MID/8) **(Doha, Qatar, 26 – 28 October 2026)**

Agenda Item 3: GLOBAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

RATIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL AIR LAW TREATIES AND REGISTRATION OF AERONAUTICAL AGREEMENTS

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This working paper presents actions taken by ICAO since the Seventh Meeting of Directors General of Civil Aviation, Middle East Region (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 19 – 20 May 2024) 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 MID States’ responses to actions taken by ICAO, including depositary actions, since the aforesaid Meeting. 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.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 At the Seventh Meeting of Directors General of Civil Aviation, ICAO Middle East Region (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 19 – 20 May 2024) (DGCA-MID/7), the DGCA considered WP/5, which presented the benefits of certain international air law treaties and urged those States in the MID Region that have not yet ratified those treaties, to do so. To that end, summaries of the provisions and benefits of six international air law instruments were provided, as well as information pertaining to the ratification process and an overview of the resources available for States to assist them with ratification.

1.2 Following consideration of WP/5, the Meeting adopted Conclusion 7/1: that a) States, that have not already done so, were urged to become parties to the international air law treaties highlighted in the Appendix to WP/5¹ and to any other international air law treaties that they have not yet ratified; and b) States were invited to inform ICAO before 31 October 2024 of their progress towards the ratification of international air law treaties by using the DGCA ratification tracking matrix appended to WP/5.

¹ The 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).

1.3 This working paper presents the actions taken by ICAO and MID States since DGCA/MID/7 and concludes with proposed future actions with respect to States' ratification of international air law treaties.

2. DISCUSSION

Actions taken to promote the ratification of international air law treaties

2.1 Since DGCA-MID/7, ICAO has taken the following actions with a view to promoting the ratification of international air law treaties:

- a) Following Conclusion 7/1, ICAO discussed and recalled its actions during the different missions and meetings to and with 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.
- c) **Issuance of State letters:** On 3 July 2024, State letter Ref. ME 5-24/100 was issued by which MID States were reminded of Conclusion 7/1 emanating from DGCA-MID/7. States were invited to take necessary action to implement the provisions of the Conclusion and inform the ICAO MID Office by 31 October 2024 of the progress achieved towards the ratification of international air law treaties by using the attached DGCA ratification tracking matrix. On 3 May 2026, State letter Ref. LE 2/1 – 26/091 was issued by which MID States were invited to give urgent attention to ratification of those international air law treaties to which they are not yet party. This was in light of the endorsement by the 42nd Session of the ICAO Assembly on 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. States were also requested to transmit to the Regional Office before 31 May 2026 the updated ratification matrix as well as the contact details of a Focal Point for ratification matters.
- 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) **International Air Law Course (IALC):** The delivery of an IALC Course session was hosted at the MID Office in Cairo, Egypt from 30 November – 4 December 2025, attended by 16 participants from 11 States.
- f) **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 MID States.
- g) **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 MID States

2.3 Nine depositary actions by MID States have been recorded by ICAO since DGCA-MID/7, i.e., accession by Iraq to the Montréal Protocol 2014 on 23 July 2024, ratification of the 2016 Protocols on Articles 50(a) and 56 of the Chicago Convention by Iraq on 23 January 2025 and by Iran (Islamic Republic of) on 19 June 2026, accession by Iran (Islamic Republic of) to the *Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection*, done at Montreal on 1 March 1991 (MEX Convention 1991) on 30 June 2026, accession by the United Arab Emirates to the Beijing Convention and Beijing Protocol 2010 on 22 May 2025 and accession by Saudi Arabia to the Beijing Convention 2010 on 24 April 2026.

Tracking progress by MID States towards ratification

2.4 To date, nine States in the MID 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. 11 States in the MID 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 MID 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. Three States in the MID region have ratified all eight of the key treaties, with one State having ratified seven and 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),

² Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman (8), United Arab Emirates (7), Qatar and Saudi Arabia (6).

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) **Legal Committee (LC):** The LC will hold its 40th Session in Montréal from 26 to 30 October 2026 and will review, among other items, progress on treaty ratification and implementation around the world. As the DGCA-MID/8 meeting is being held at the same time as LC/40, the MID DGCAs are encouraged to access the LC/40 documentation at [40th Session of the Legal Committee](#);
- b) **IALC:** The MID 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. MID 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 MID States with respect to ratification of the eight international air law treaties highlighted above. **Appendix B** contains the tracking matrix that was appended to State letter Ref. ME 5-24/100 of 3 July 2024 and State letter Ref. LE 2/1 – 26/091 of 3 May 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 3 May 2026, State letter Ref.: LE 2/1 – 26/092 was issued by which MID 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, 10 States out of 15 in the MID region have nominated Focal Points for the use of WAGMAR.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to encourage Member States to:

- a) become parties to the eight treaties highlighted at footnote 1 and paragraph 2.1 (g) 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 MID Regional Office accordingly;
- c) participate 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**. MID DGCA's are encouraged to access the LC/40 documentation at [40th Session of the Legal Committee](#);
- d) inform ICAO by **31 January 2027** 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>.

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APPENDIX A

STATUS OF MID REGION STATES WITH RESPECT
TO SELECTED INTERNATIONAL AIR LAW
INSTRUMENTS
(as of 1 September 2026)³

	Article 50 (a) (2016) (132 Parties)	Article 56 (2016) (132 Parties)	Mtl Convention (1999) (145 Parties)	Beijing Convention (2010) (60 Parties)	Beijing Prot (2010) (60 Parties)	Mtl Prot (2014) (64 Parties)	Final Par. Arabic text (1995) (71 Parties) ⁴	Final Par. Chinese text (1998) (57 Parties) ⁴
Bahrain	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Egypt	X	X	X			X		
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	X	X						
Iraq	X	X				X	X	
Jordan	X	X	X			X	X	
Kuwait	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lebanon			X				X	X
Libya	X	X						
Oman	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Qatar	X	X	X			X	X	X
Saudi Arabia	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Sudan			X					
Syria			X				X	
United Arab Emirates	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Yemen							X	X

³ Yellow highlight indicates new ratifications since DGCA-MID/7.

⁴ Not in force.

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 —