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## **ASSEMBLY — 42ND SESSION**

### **PLENARY**

#### **Agenda Item 8: Statements by delegations of Member States**

#### **STATEMENT BY GEORGIA**

(Presented by Georgia)

President of the Assembly  
President of the ICAO Council  
Secretary-General of ICAO  
Distinguished Delegates and Observers

It is my distinct privilege to stand before this Assembly today. As a dedicated member of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Georgia is committed to advancing global aviation safety and security. Georgia remains a proud supporter of ICAO's commitment to fostering a safe, secure, and prosperous global aviation community. My remarks today will focus on two key achievements in Georgia's aviation sector, as well as a grave violation of international law that requires our collective attention.

#### **Georgia's Commitment to Global Aviation Standards**

Last year, Georgia has successfully undergone ICAO's Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP). The Audit assessed the State's aviation security system against the standards and recommended practices of ICAO Annex 17 and related security measures with high scores, which demonstrates Georgia's commitment to implementing and adhering to ICAO's SARPs. With these results, we are proud to assure the international community of our capability to provide proper aviation security oversight, thereby fostering a culture of continuous improvement and accountability within our civil aviation authority.

Meanwhile, on the 1st of July this year, the Parliament of Georgia issued a resolution on Georgia's accession to the Cape Town Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment and its Aircraft Protocol. This accession is highly significant for our Country, as it will attract investment and enable Georgian airlines to expand their fleets by reducing financing costs. Therefore, Georgia remains committed to become a proud member of the "CTC family".

#### **The Violation of Georgia's Sovereignty and International Law by the Russian Federation**

Despite our unwavering commitment to these principles, Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity are being violated. On February 7, 2025 the Russian Federation conducted the first flight from

Moscow to the airport in Sokhumi located in Georgia's Abkhazia region illegally occupied by the Russian Federation, without the consent of the Government of Georgia. The flight was operated by the Russian airline "UVT Aero" sanctioned by the EU since 2022. The regular flights from the Russian Federation to Sokhumi started in May 2025.

Here, let me remind our distinguished colleagues that the airspace over Georgia's Abkhazia region has been closed since 1993 and no ICAO airport code is assigned to the airport in Sokhumi, as the Government of Georgia is prevented from exercising de facto jurisdiction over Abkhazia region due to the ongoing illegal Russian occupation. Therefore, the Government of Georgia is prevented from conducting the oversight over flight safety and aviation security SARPs of the Chicago Convention at airport in Sokhumi. Moreover, the Law of Georgia on the Occupied Territories prohibits international air and maritime traffic to the occupied regions of Georgia. Therefore, any such unauthorized flights into or over the occupied regions of Georgia constitute a blatant infringement on Georgia's complete and exclusive sovereignty over its airspace and territorial integrity, as well as a violation of fundamental principles and norms of international law, including the United Nations Charter.

Furthermore, these unauthorized flights represent a serious breach of the Convention on International Civil Aviation to which both Georgia and the Russian Federation are parties. The Russian Federation is in breach of Article 1 (Sovereignty) and Article 6 (Scheduled Air Services) of the Chicago Convention, without prejudice to other applicable provisions of the Convention.

On behalf of the Georgian Government, I would like to reiterate our gratitude to ICAO's continuous support to Georgia's complete and exclusive sovereignty over its airspace and territorial integrity, whereas I would also like to urge the ICAO Member States to remain vigilant and take all necessary measures in response to unauthorized flights from the Russian Federation to the Sokhumi airport conducted in violation of Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, in order to prevent unauthorized flights to/from Sokhumi to/from the Russian Federation or any other ICAO member states.

Thank you for your attention.

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