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ASSEMBLY — 42ND SESSION

LEGAL COMMISSION

Agenda Item 28: Work Programme of the Organization in the Legal Field and Consolidated Statement of Continuing ICAO Policies in the Legal Field

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FOURTH EDITION OF THE ICAO CIVIL AVIATION LEGAL ADVISERS FORUM

(Presented by the Bahamas)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper presents arrangements for the fourth edition of the ICAO Civil Aviation Legal Advisers Forum (CALAF/4) organized by the ICAO Legal Affairs and External Relations Bureau (LEB) and hosted by the Commonwealth of The Bahamas from 25 to 27 February 2026 and invites participation by States.

The Assembly is invited to note the proposal in this paper and support the event.

<i>Strategic Goals:</i>	This working paper relates to Strategic Goal - The International Civil Aviation Convention and other Treaties, Laws and Regulations address all Challenges
<i>Financial implications:</i>	N/A
<i>References:</i>	A41-4, Appendix C, <i>Ratification of ICAO international instruments</i> A41-4, Appendix D, <i>Teaching of air law</i> A41-4, Appendix G, <i>Enhancing the capacity and effectiveness of States to implement air law treaties and update national laws and regulations</i> A42-WP/55, <i>Promotion of Ratification of International Air Law Instruments</i>

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The Civil Aviation Legal Advisers Forum (CALAF), launched by ICAO's Legal Affairs and External Relations Bureau (LEB), began in Singapore in May 2019 with over 80 legal advisers from 40 States and one regional organization. Attendance grew significantly at the second forum in Oman (February 2023), which welcomed more than 150 participants from over 60 States and international organizations. The third edition in the United Kingdom (November 2024), maintained this upward trend bringing together 175 legal advisers from 54 States. These forums have become vital platforms for exchanging views on international aviation legal issues and enhancing legal support within States and organizations.

1.2 In welcoming the inaugural edition of CALAF, the 41st Session of the ICAO Assembly (Montréal, 27 September to 7 October 2022), in Resolution A41-4, Appendix G, *Enhancing the capacity and effectiveness of States to implement air law treaties and update national laws and regulations*, invited Member States to support the CALAF initiative and to consider hosting subsequent editions of the Forum as well as to encourage and facilitate their legal advisers to participate in and to contribute to the Forum.

1.3 Accordingly, with a view to support the implementation of the said Assembly Resolution, The Bahamas has agreed to host the fourth edition of this Forum (CALAF/4) organized by LEB from 25 to 27 February 2026, in Nassau, The Bahamas. The event, taking place in the ICAO North American, Central American and Caribbean (NACC) Region, is a new opportunity to enhance the profile of the CALAF, in line with ICAO's vision to develop this forum into the leading global event for air law practitioners and related aviation professionals.

2. ARRANGEMENTS FOR CALAF/4

2.1 Considering the important role that civil aviation legal advisers and air law practitioners play in supporting their States and Organizations to implement air law treaties, to formulate and update national laws and regulations to give effect to international treaty obligations and regulatory requirements, and to contribute to adherence to the rule of law, The Bahamas will host the fourth edition of CALAF, with support from LEB. The Civil Aviation Authority of the Bahamas will undertake the hosting arrangements for the event which will take place in Nassau, The Bahamas.

2.2 The proposed fourth edition of CALAF will facilitate a continuing focus of attention on issues of interest to the international aviation community in the legal field and closer interaction and collaboration among air law professionals, particularly those serving in organizations that regulate civil aviation, through the presentation of issues on a variety of topical legal subjects and include inputs from industry and academia on some issues. These subjects will include aviation regulatory and liability issues.

2.3 The Forum will also feature an exhibition component, offering exhibitors and sponsors the opportunity to showcase their services and connect directly with the international aviation law and regulatory community.

2.4 Participation in the Forum will be open to civil aviation legal advisers and public officials responsible for air law matters who are interested in supporting their State or Organization to respond effectively to new and emerging opportunities, challenges and threats to the development of international civil aviation. Attendance will also be extended to air law professionals in other aviation industry sectors, including international and air law practitioners; industry operators, including airports, airlines, and air navigation service providers; representatives from aircraft manufacturers, maintenance organizations; academic institutions, and other interested parties. Additional information, including the programme, registration, venue, will be posted on the event website and updated regularly at this link: <https://www.icao.int/events/4th-civil-aviation-legal-advisors-forum-calaf4>

2.5 The Bahamas will observe the responsibility of a Member State hosting an ICAO event and will make every effort to hold a successful and fruitful event to benefit participating Member States. Air law practitioners are invited to be part of shaping the future of global air law — to connect, collaborate, and contribute to the leading forum for aviation legal professionals by attending this event.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 With a view to ensure that legal advisers effectively carry out their responsibilities to support their States and organizations in the development and implementation of air law, the planned CALAF will contribute to the continuous update and enhancement of their competencies, capabilities and capacities while promoting closer collaboration between them as well as contributing to the dissemination of knowledge on international air law.

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