



Seminar on Assistance to Aircraft Accident Victims and Their Families (AAAVF)

Supported by the Government of Spain

Mexico City, 19-21 October 2026



DAY 1 - LEGAL FRAMEWORK, LIABILITY & COMPENSATION

9:00 – 9:30	Welcome and opening
	- Opening remarks by ICAO / Donor State - Overview of seminar objectives and expected outcomes
Session I: Global Policy and Legal Obligations	
9:30 – 9:45	Introductory remarks
	- Obligations under Chicago Convention and its Annexes - Key principles: dignity, timely support, and coordinated response
9:45 – 10:45	Panel: Legal framework and State responsibilities
	- Overview of ICAO Policy and Manual on Assistance to Aircraft Accident Victims and their Families (Doc 9998 and 9973) ICAO Resolution A42-15 requirements and implementation - State responsibilities: - State of Occurrence - State of Registry - State of Operator - Requirement to establish Family Assistance Plans (FAPs) - Harmonization of national legislation with ICAO provisions
10:45 – 11:15	Coffee break
11:15 – 12:30	Panel continued: Liability, compensation and insurance (Q&A discussion)
	- Liability system for aircraft operators: - Warsaw Convention (1929) - Montreal Convention (1999) - Advance payments to victims and families - Role of insurers in compensation processes - Legal challenges in multinational accidents
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
Session II: National Legal Frameworks and Implementation	
13:30 – 15:00	National legal gap assessment
	- Montreal Convention (1999): - Two-tier liability system - Strict liability vs fault-based liability - Assess national legislation against ICAO requirements - Identify gaps in: - Family Assistance Plans legislation - Compensation frameworks - Victim rights and support mechanisms - Review alignment with: - Annex 9-13 provisions



	- Montreal Convention obligations
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee break
15:30 – 16:30	Presentations and discussion • Presentation of national/regional findings • Identification of common legal challenges • Discussion on harmonization and best practices

DAY 2 - COMMUNICATION & OPERATIONAL RESPONSE

9:00 – 9:30	Recap and introduction • Summary of Day 1 key outcomes • Introduction to operational and communication challenges
Session III: Crisis Communication and Family Notification	
9:30 – 9:45	Introductory remarks • Importance of timely and accurate communication • Obligations for notifying families • Managing public information
9:45 – 10:45	Panel: Crisis communication and media management • Timely notification of families • Coordination between: - Airlines - Governments - Airports • Media and social media management • Preventing misinformation and speculation
10:45 – 11:15	Coffee break
11:15 – 12:30	Panel continued: Operational response and coordination (Q&A discussion) • Establishment of Family Assistance Centres (FACs) • Coordination of multi-agency response • Recovery, identification and repatriation of victims • Return of personal effects • Cultural and religious considerations
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
Session IV: Simulation Exercise – Accident Response	
13:30 – 15:30	Scenario-based exercise • Aircraft accident scenario • Multi-agency response simulation
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break
15:30 – 16:30	Debrief and lessons learned



	• Identification of operational gaps • Best practices for improvement • Feedback from participants
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DAY 3 – FAMILY ASSISTANCE PLANS & CAPACITY BUILDING

9:00 – 9:30	Recap and introduction • Summary of Day 2 key outcomes • Introduction to FAP development and long-term support
Session V: Developing Effective Family Assistance Plans (FAPs)	
9:30 – 9:45	Introductory remarks • ICAO requirements for FAPs • Importance of preparedness and planning
9:45 – 10:45	Panel: Building and implementing FAPs • Key components of a comprehensive FAP • Roles and responsibilities: - Airlines - Airports - Governments • Integration with national emergency frameworks • Testing and updating FAPs
10:45 – 11:15	Coffee break
11:15 – 12:30	Panel continued: Victim support and human factors (Q&A discussion) • Psychological support for families • Trauma-informed care • Cultural and religious sensitivity • Role of NGOs and family associations • Long-term support and memorialization
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
Session VI: Capacity Building and Compliance	
13:30 – 15:00	Workshop: National action planning • Participants develop National AAAVF action plans including: - Legal reforms - FAP development - Training programmes - Inter-agency coordination mechanisms • Focus on: - EFOD compliance and reporting improvements - Monitoring and evaluation of implementation (USOAP)
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee break
15:30 – 16:00	Closing session and conclusions



- Presentation of key outcomes
- Participant reflections
- Commitments for implementation
- Closing remarks by ICAO

END