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**Fourteenth North American, Central American and Caribbean Directors of Civil Aviation Meeting  
(NACC/DCA/14)**

St. George's, Antigua and Barbuda, 1-5 June 2026

**Agenda Item 9: International Air Law Treaties, Laws and Regulations**

**RATIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL AIR LAW TREATIES**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This paper presents actions taken by ICAO since the Thirteenth North American, Central American and Caribbean Directors of Civil Aviation Meeting (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 4-7 August 2025) 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 NACC States’ responses to actions taken by ICAO, including depositary actions, since the aforesaid meeting. The paper concludes with proposed future actions to accelerate ratification of international air law treaties and registration of aeronautical agreements and arrangements with ICAO via the Website of Aeronautical Agreements and Arrangements (WAGMAR).

<b>Action:</b>	Refer to Section 3.
<b>Strategic Goal:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The International Civil Aviation Convention and other Treaties, Laws and Regulations address all Challenges</li></ul>

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 At the Thirteenth North American, Central American and Caribbean Directors of Civil Aviation Meeting, held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 4-7 August 2025, the DGCA's were informed, in the NACC/DCA/13-WP/03, on actions taken by ICAO with respect to the promotion of the ratification of international air law treaties since the NACC/DCA/12. The paper referred to the benefits of six international air law treaties<sup>1</sup>, which were discussed in working papers of previous NACC/DCA

<sup>1</sup> The six international air law treaties highlighted were: 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).

meetings (NACC/DCA/11, NACC/DCA/12) and invited States that had not yet ratified those treaties to do so.

1.2 Following this information, the NACC/DCA/13 meeting adopted Conclusion 13/09 encouraging States to: a) become parties to the six international air law treaties and to any other international air law treaties that they have not yet ratified; b) nominate a Focal Point for the Ratification of International Air Law Treaties and to inform the ICAO NACC Regional Office accordingly by 19 December 2025; c) participate in the third ICAO Treaty Event in September 2025, in the fourth edition of the Civil Aviation Legal Advisers Forum (CALAF) in The Bahamas in May 2026, in the ICAO International Air Law Course 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; d) inform ICAO by 19 December 2025 of their further progress towards the ratification of international air law treaties by updating/using the DGCA tracking matrix; and e) contact the ICAO LEB Treaty Section for any information or assistance regarding ratification matters at [treaty@icao.int](mailto:treaty@icao.int) or [officeleb@icao.int](mailto:officeleb@icao.int).

## 2. DISCUSSION

### ***Actions taken to promote the ratification of international air law treaties***

2.1 Since the NACC/DCA/13, ICAO has taken the following actions with a view to promoting the ratification of international air law treaties:

- a) Following up Conclusion 09 of the NACC/DCA/13 meeting, ICAO discussed and recalled its actions during the different missions and meetings to States and International Organizations.
- b) **Issuance of a State letter:** On 27 January 2026, State letter Ref.: NT-NL1 – E.OSG.NACC118434 was issued by which NACC 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 (Montréal, 23 September to 3 October 2025) 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 March 2026 the updated ratification matrix as well as the contact details of a Focal Point for ratification matters, if not already done.
- c) The abovementioned State letter promoted two international air law treaties in addition to the six treaties listed at footnote 1, 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).

2.2 ***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. By Assembly Resolution A42-5, Appendix C, States are urged to ratify these Protocols. As of 1 May 2026, 71 States, including 7 NACC States, have ratified the Protocol Relating to an Amendment to the Chicago Convention (Final Paragraph, Arabic text) and 57 States, including five NACC States, have ratified the Protocol Relating to an Amendment to the Chicago Convention (Final Paragraph, Chinese text). These Protocols require 122 and 124 ratifications, respectively, to come into force.

#### ***Depositary actions by NACC States***

2.3 Six depositary actions by one NACC State have been recorded by ICAO since NACC/DCA/13, i.e., ratification of the 2016 Protocols on Articles 50(a) and 56 of the Chicago Convention, the Montreal Convention 1999, the Montréal Protocol 2014, the 1995 Protocol (Final Paragraph, Arabic Text) and the 1998 Protocol (Final Paragraph, Chinese Text) by Saint Lucia on 24 September 2025.

#### ***Tracking progress by NACC States towards ratification***

2.4 To date, eight States out of 22 in the region have nominated Focal Points and/or reported on the internal process for ratification. Four States have ratified the six key treaties highlighted at footnote 1, with one State having also ratified the two treaties highlighted at paragraph 2.2; 14 out of the 22 NACC States have ratified the 2016 Protocols regarding Articles 50(a) and 56 of the Chicago Convention. In light of evolving safety and security challenges, it remains essential to further accelerate the ratification of treaties designed to address emerging threats to civil aviation including cyber-attacks and the growing incidence of unruly and disruptive passengers, specifically the Beijing Convention and Protocol 2010 and the Montréal Protocol 2014. Furthermore, while the Montreal Convention 1999 has broad acceptance, universal ratification remains essential to ensure standardized air carrier liability rules for all travellers.

#### ***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), 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) IALC: The NACC Regional Office will host the delivery of an International Air Law Course during 2026/2027;
- b) LC/40: The next session of the Legal Committee (Montréal, 26-30 October 2026) will review progress on treaty ratification and implementation around the world; and
- 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.

2.6 **Appendix A** to this paper provides an updated form indicating the status of NACC States with respect to ratification of the eight international air law treaties highlighted above. **Appendix B** contains the tracking matrix, which was appended to State letter of 27 January 2026, which DGCA's/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. DGCA's 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 17 February 2026, State letter Ref.: NT-NL1 – E.OSG.NACC118732 was issued by which NACC 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), the registration and making public requirements are confirmed to also cover Article 83 *bis* agreements. Agreements registered under Article 83 are primarily air services and air transport agreements. 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.

2.7.2 To date, 13 States out of 22 in the region have nominated Focal Points for the use of WAGMAR.

### 3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The Meeting is invited to encourage NACC States to:

- a) become parties to the eight treaties highlighted at footnote 1 and paragraph 2.2 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 NACC Regional Office accordingly;
- c) participate in the 40th Session of the Legal Committee in Montréal in October 2026, in the ICAO Legal Seminar to be hosted by the Republic of Korea 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;
- d) inform ICAO by **1 October 2026** 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](mailto: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 STATES IN THE NAM/CAR REGIONS WITH RESPECT TO SELECTED**  
**INTERNATIONAL AIR LAW TREATIES<sup>1</sup>**

*(As of 8 May 2026)*

	Article 50 (a) (2016) <sup>2</sup> (124 Ratifications)	Article 56 (2016) <sup>2</sup> (124 Ratifications)	Mtl Convention (1999) (144 Parties)	Beijing Convention (2010) (57 Parties)	Beijing Protocol (2010) (57 Parties)	Mtl Protocol (2014) (58 Parties)	Final Paragraph (Arabic Text) 1995) (71 Ratifications)	Final Paragraph (Chinese Text) (1998) (57 Ratifications)
<b>Antigua and Barbuda</b>								
<b>Bahamas</b>								
<b>Barbados</b>	X	X	X				X	X
<b>Belize</b>	X	X	X				X	
<b>Canada</b>	X	X	X				X	X
<b>Costa Rica</b>			X					
<b>Cuba</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
<b>Dominica</b>								
<b>Dominican Republic</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X		
<b>El Salvador</b>	X	X	X					
<b>Grenada</b>								

<sup>1</sup> Yellow highlight indicates new ratifications since NACC/DCA/13/2025.

<sup>2</sup> Not in force.

	Article 50 (a) (2016) <sup>2</sup> (124 Ratifications)	Article 56 (2016) <sup>2</sup> (124 Ratifications)	Mtl Convention (1999) (144 Parties)	Beijing Convention (2010) (57 Parties)	Beijing Protocol (2010) (57 Parties)	Mtl Protocol (2014) (58 Parties)	Final Paragraph (Arabic Text) 1995) (71 Ratifications)	Final Paragraph (Chinese Text) (1998) (57 Ratifications)
<b>Guatemala</b>	X	X	X				X	
<b>Haiti</b>								
<b>Honduras</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<b>Jamaica</b>	X	X	X					
<b>Mexico</b>	X	X	X				X	X
<b>Nicaragua</b>	X	X	X					
<b>Saint Kitts and Nevis</b>	X	X		X	X	X		
<b>Saint Lucia</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</b>	X	X	X					
<b>Trinidad and Tobago</b>								
<b>United States</b>			X					

<b>[NAME OF THE MEMBER STATE]</b>					
	<b>TREATY PROPOSED BY DGCA TO COMPETENT AUTHORITY FOR RATIFICATION</b>	<b>TREATY SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL TO LEGISLATURE OR OTHER COMPETENT AUTHORITY</b>	<b>AWAITING SUBMISSION OF THE INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION TO THE DEPOSITARY (E.G., ICAO)</b>	<b>TREATY NOT CONSIDERED FOR RATIFICATION</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>PROTOCOL OF AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 50(a) OF THE CHICAGO CONVENTION 2016 (Not in force)</b>					
<b>PROTOCOL OF AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 56 OF THE CHICAGO CONVENTION 2016 (Not in force)</b>					
<b>MONTREAL CONVENTION 1999</b>					
<b>BEIJING CONVENTION 2010</b>					
<b>BEIJING PROTOCOL 2010</b>					
<b>MONTRÉAL PROTOCOL 2014</b>					
<b>PROTOCOL OF AMENDMENT TO THE CHICAGO CONVENTION, FINAL PARAGRAPH, ARABIC TEXT 1995 (Not in force)</b>					
<b>PROTOCOL OF AMENDMENT TO THE CHICAGO CONVENTION, FINAL PARAGRAPH, CHINESE TEXT 1998 (Not in force)</b>					

<b>[NAME OF THE MEMBER STATE]</b>					
	<b>TREATY PROPOSED BY DGCA TO COMPETENT AUTHORITY FOR RATIFICATION</b>	<b>TREATY SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL TO LEGISLATURE OR OTHER COMPETENT AUTHORITY</b>	<b>AWAITING SUBMISSION OF THE INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION TO THE DEPOSITARY (E.G., ICAO)</b>	<b>TREATY NOT CONSIDERED FOR RATIFICATION</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>OTHER INTERNATIONAL AIR LAW TREATY</b>					
<b>OTHER INTERNATIONAL AIR LAW TREATY</b>					

— END —