1. **Place and Duration**

1.1 The 40th Session of the Legal Committee was held in Montréal from 26 to 30 October 2026. **The Chairperson of the Legal Committee, Ms. Alice Serpa Braga Della Nina (Brazil)**, presided over the Session. After declaring open the Session, **in her introductory remarks, the Chairperson** observed that the Committee's work is grounded in cooperation, in the sharing of knowledge and in the common purpose that unites all by fostering a safe, orderly and sustainable development of international civil aviation, in full respect of the principles of the Chicago Convention. Appreciating the presence of the President of the Council, the Chairperson recognized the imminent strengthening of the Council's membership which reflected the Organization's commitment to advancing ICAO's objectives. She expressed her gratitude to the Secretary General, the Director of the Legal Affairs and External Relations Bureau and to the ICAO Secretariat for their work in supporting the work of the Committee. She conveyed her confidence that the Committee will fulfil its mandate by acting as a steady backbone for ICAO's legal and institutional development. She concluded by stating that the substantive and ambitious agenda reflected the Committee's commitment to responding to the needs of States and the ICAO Council to further the modernization and operational safety of international civil aviation.

2. **Opening Address**

2.1 **The President of the Council, Mr. Toshiyuki Onuma** welcomed all delegates and observers and emphasized that since its establishment in 1947 the Legal Committee has helped in the progressive development and codification of international air law and that its contribution towards such had been both enduring and unparalleled. Remarking that the Committee's work aimed at ensuring that international air law remains responsive to emerging challenges and evolving needs of the global aviation community, he expressed confidence that the Committee will bring to bear its expertise and spirit of cooperation, noting that the Committee has a key opportunity to create significant momentum towards ICAO's 2050 vison, which called for zero fatalities and net-zero carbon emissions.

2.2 Commenting on the broad range of Items on the General Work programme of the Legal Committee, he highlighted, *inter alia*, the Committee's task to review the progress of work on the implementation of Article 12 of the Chicago Convention, the review of the future role of the International Explosives Technical Commission under the MEX Convention and the consideration of legal issues relating to unmanned aircraft operations, including their safe and effective integration into civil aviation.

2.3 Mr. Onuma conveyed to the delegates the significant development in the institutional history of ICAO on account of the entry into force, on 12 June 2026, of the 2016 Protocols amending Articles 50(a) and 56 of the Chicago Convention, increasing the membership of the ICAO Council from 36 to 40 and the Air Navigation Commission from 19 to 21, respectively. The delegates were informed that in this respect an Extraordinary Session of the Assembly will be held in conjunction with the Seventh Air Transport Conference. The President of the Council encouraged all member states to continue in their efforts to promote wider participation in international air law treaties. Observing that the breadth of the agenda reflected the importance of the Committee's work, and, recalling his previous professional association with ICAO's Legal Bureau, Mr. Onuma stated that progress in the development of international air law is ultimately dependent upon the participants' expertise, commitment and spirit of cooperation.

2.4 The President of the Council congratulated the Chairperson on her election and expressed his confidence that the Committee will greatly benefit from her leadership in the days ahead. He also recognized the important contributions by the Rapporteur, the Chairpersons as well as members of the various task forces, study groups and other groups.

2.5 **The Secretary of the Legal Committee, Mr. Michael Gill**, Director of Legal Affairs and External Relations Bureau (LEB), introduced the LEB officers serving this Session of the Committee.

2.6 In relation to the item Review of the Role of the International Explosives Technical Commission under the *Convention on the Marking of Plastics Explosives for the Purposes of Detection*, the Chairperson informed the Committee that she had invited the Rapporteur, Dr. Alejandro Jose Piera Valdes, to present his final report and to answer any questions that the Committee may have in relation to LC/40-WP/2-3. The Committee welcomed this invitation.

3. Agenda and Working Arrangements

3.1 The Committee agreed with the provisional agenda shown in LC/40-WP/1-1. The agenda of the Session as adopted can be found at **Appendix A** to this Report.

3.2 The Secretary of the Committee presented LC/40-WP/1-2, Note on Documentation and Working Arrangements.

3.3 The working papers considered by the Committee are listed by agenda item in **Appendix B** to this Report.

3.4 The action taken by the Committee in respect of each item is reported separately in the Report. The material is arranged according to the numerical sequence of the agenda items considered by the Committee.

4. Meetings

4.1 The Committee held … (…) meetings, all of which were held in open session.

4.2 The Committee was ably and efficiently supported by the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. Michael Gill, Director of the Legal Affairs and External Relations Bureau, by the Deputy Secretaries, Mr. Chunyu Ding, Deputy Director, and Mr. Arie Jakob, Senior Legal Officer, and by the Assistant Secretaries, Mr. Christopher Petras, Mr. Andrew Opolot, Mr. Yaw Nyampong, Ms. Marla Weinstein, Ms. Erika Varga, Mr. Mathieu Vaugeois, Ms. Ralia Oyamine Shuaibu and Ms. Hsien Fei Han. Other officials of the Organization also provided services to the Committee.

5. Representation of States and International Organizations

5.1 … Member States and ... international organizations were represented by … representatives and observers at this Session of the Legal Committee. The names of the representatives and observers appear in **Appendix C** to this Report.

6. **Records of Proceedings**

6.1 The Committee decided that in application of Rule 45 of its Rules of Procedure, the minutes of the 40th Session need not be prepared.