



IN THIS ISSUE

Editorial: ICAO A42 and Decisions Related to USOAP CMA

By Mihail Peytchev,
Programme
Implementation
Officer OSU/MAC

USOAP CMA Community Opens Up for NCMCs

By Mihail Peytchev,
Programme
Implementation
Officer OSU/MAC

New Nomination Manager Module Added to OLF

By Mincheol Shin,
Audit Management
Officer OSU/MAC

News from ICAO ICAO Council Elects a New President

Departures and Arrivals

A warm welcome to
all new team
members.



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By Mihail Peytchev,
Programme Implementation Officer OSU/MAC

Overview of the ICAO 42nd Assembly Session

A42 took place from September 23 to October 3, 2025, in Montreal. It was attended by nearly 3,000 delegates representing a record-breaking 192 Member States who gathered for two weeks of deliberations and decision-making.

With unprecedented engagement and a clear path forward, the 42nd session gave ICAO a strong and critically important mandate to guide global aviation towards a new era of safe, secure, and sustainable international air transport for all.

The Assembly approved the ICAO Budget for the next 2026–2028 triennium and called for the Organization to continue its comprehensive transparency, accountability, and efficiency reforms. Delegates emphasized the importance of providing ICAO with the resources needed to fulfill its ambitious programme.

The Assembly also elected a new Council for the next three years. The following 36 States will form the new ICAO Council:

Part I - States of chief importance in air transport:

Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

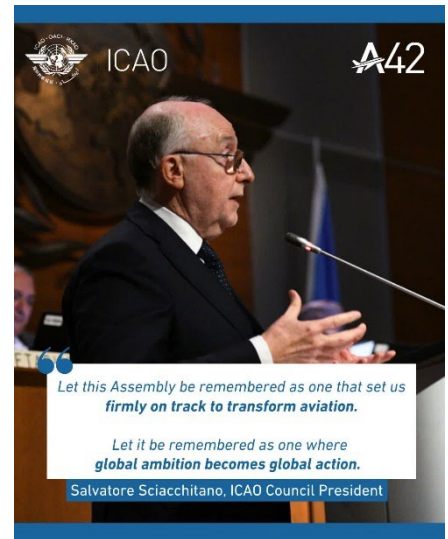
Part II – States which make the largest contribution to the provision of facilities for international civil air navigation:

Argentina, Colombia, Denmark, Egypt, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, and Switzerland.

Part III – States ensuring geographic representation:

Angola, Belize, Cuba, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, and Uruguay.

The Assembly session closed with a clear message to the global community delivered by the ICAO Council President Salvatore Sciacchitano: *“Let this Assembly be remembered as one that set us firmly on track to transform global aviation for generations to come. Let it be remembered as one where global ambition becomes global action.”*



A42 Decisions pertaining to USOAP

A42-WP/646 Resolution 14/1: The USOAP CMA outlines the Assembly decisions related to the evolution of the Programme. They are as follow:

The Assembly expresses its appreciation to the Council and the Secretary General on the successful evolution and implementation of the USOAP Continuous Monitoring Approach (CMA).

It directs the Secretary General to:

- Continue evolving the USOAP CMA into a more evidence-based, risk-informed and result-oriented programme to be applied on a universal basis in order to assess the effectiveness and sustainability of States' safety oversight systems, as well as the progress of States in implementing safety management requirements, in particular State safety programmes (SSPs);
- Implement organizational improvements necessary to successfully manage the changes brought about by the long-term evolution of USOAP CMA, in line with the recommendations of the Ad hoc USOAP Advisory Group (USOAP-AG) as agreed by the Council and relevant recommendations of the AN-Conf/13 HLCC;
- Make effective use of the available continuous monitoring and auditing tools to ensure the targeted use of resources for the USOAP CMA;
- Ensure that the USOAP CMA continues to maintain as core elements the key safety provisions contained in Annexes 1,2,3,4,6,7,8,10,11,12,13,14,15,18,19;
- Ensure that the USOAP CMA abides by the principles of, inter alia, independence, universality, standardization and transparency to further strengthen global acceptance of the programme and its results;
- Analyze the reasons for low or non-sustainable State's effective implementation of a safety oversight system and identify appropriate means to enhance effectiveness;
- Continue to ensure the maintenance of the quality assurance mechanism established to monitor and assess programme the USOAP CMA quality, and the transparency of all aspects of the continuous monitoring process;
- Continue the sharing of SSCs, in accordance with established procedures on the sharing of safety information, with interested stakeholders and the public to allow them to make an informed decision about the safety of air transportation;
- Make all safety oversight-related information generated by the USOAP CMA available to all Member States through the ICAO restricted website USOAP online framework (OLF);
- Implement the data management procedures addressing the collection, storage, usage, management, sharing and protection of USOAP data and information in the OLF;
- Continue to foster coordination and cooperation between USOAP CMA and the audit programmes of other organizations related to aviation safety for the purpose of sharing confidential safety information in order to

reduce the burden on States caused by repetitive audits or inspections, and to decrease the duplication of efforts and find synergies to enhance the efficiency of the USOAP CMA monitoring activities;

- Continue facilitating the sharing of safety-critical information with Member States, industry and other stakeholders, through appropriate secure websites.

In addition, the Assembly urges all Member States to:

- Support ICAO in the evolution of the USOAP CMA and, for those able to do so, to second qualified and experienced technical staff to ICAO on a long- or short-term basis, with a view to enabling the Organization to continue to successfully operate the programme USOAP CMA;
- Provide voluntary contributions to support the evolution and operation of the USOAP CMA;
- Submit to ICAO, in a timely manner, and keep up to date all the information and documentation requested by ICAO for the purpose of ensuring the effective operation of the USOAP CMA;
- Cooperate with ICAO and as much as practicable to accept USOAP CMA activities, as scheduled, including audits, validation missions, and off-site validation activities and SSP implementation assessments, in order to facilitate the smooth functioning of the USOAP CMA;
- Implement corrective action plans to address the findings identified during USOAP CMA activities;
- Share with other Member States critical safety information which may have an impact on the safety of international air navigation and to facilitate access to all relevant safety information;
- Make full use of available safety information when performing their safety oversight functions, including during inspections as provided for in Article 16 of the Convention;

It also reminds Member States of the need for surveillance of all aircraft operations, including foreign aircraft within their territory, and to take appropriate action when necessary to preserve safety;

Finally, **A42 directs the Council to** prioritize the work on the evolution of the USOAP CMA, strive for adequate human and financial resources to be made available to the USOAP CMA, and to report to the next ordinary session of the Assembly on evolution and performance of the USOAP CMA.



USOAP CMA Community Opens Up for NCMCs

Since its launch in September 2025, over 200 subscribers from Member States and ICAO have signed up.

By Mihail Peytchev, Programme Implementation Officer OSU/MAC

On the recommendation of the Group of Experts for a USOAP CMA Structured Review (GEUSR), ICAO has developed the USOAP CMA Community platform to increase Programme's global outreach via a private social media setup to better engage and serve the ICAO Member States, in coordination with the ICAO Regional Offices.

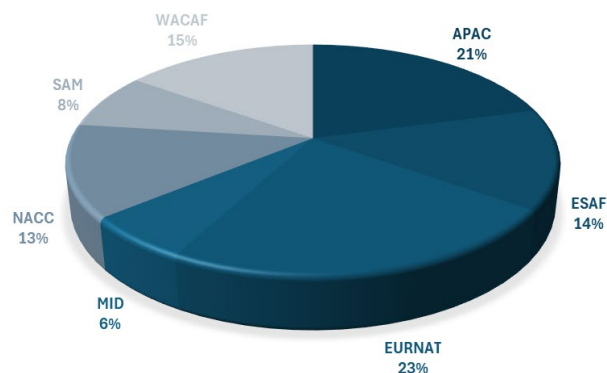


The specific objectives pursued by ICAO were:

- Creating a forum for NCMCs to communicate with each other and with ICAO;
- Improving communications between ICAO and the States; and
- Facilitating regional or sub-regional meetings of NCMCs.

Following the recommendations of GEUSR, ICAO selected and adapted an off-the-shelf web platform, which provides the required functionality and private access to its members. Beside the typical social media communication tools, the Community offers useful USOAP and ICAO information as well as a dedicated space for each ICAO Regional Office. Members can create postings, chat with each other, respond to polls, plan and book online meetings and much more.

USOAP CMA COMMUNITY SUBSCRIBERS BY REGION



After a period of internal testing, configuration and security scrutiny, all National Continuous Monitoring Coordinators (NCMCs) were invited by e-mail to join the Community in September 2025. The initial response was enthusiastic with a response rate of over 30 percent. To date, 178 primary and alternate NCMCs from 129 States has signed up to the USOAP CMA Community. Feedback received from newly subscribed NCMCs is quite positive and gives a reason to believe that States will benefit greatly from the USOAP CMA Community.



New Nomination Manager Module Added to OLF

All new nominations for USOAP CMA auditors will be channeled through the new self-service module

By Mincheol Shin, Audit Management Officer OSU/MAC

Currently, auditor nominations from States arrive to USOAP via different channels - both online and offline, which complicates and often delays their processing. In addition, the tracking of their status is not easy as the information about the progress of candidate auditors is fragmented and comes from different sources, e.g. States, GAT, etc. The backlog of applications from the COVID lockdown period and the lack of automation makes it frustrating to respond to all status inquiries from candidates and delegations.



In order to remedy the situation and to streamline the nomination submission process, OSU has developed a new Nomination Manager module in OLF. The new self-service module falls under the OLF 2.0 initiative and will cover the entire nomination submission and processing.

According to the newly redesigned process, all nominations will have to be submitted online through the USOAP CMA public website. Each nominee will have to contact their NCMC in order to coordinate their applications and to obtain access to OLF. Once the access has been granted, the nominee will access the new Nomination Manager module, create their profile and upload all supporting documents. ICAO will use the new module to review, process and track the status of the submitted nominations.

Benefits of using the new Nomination Manager

- All future nominations will be streamlined through the USOAP public website where instructions how to submit a nomination are available;
- NCMCs will be aware of their State's nominees and will be able to assist with their coordination;
- ICAO will be more responsive if nominees update their profiles;
- Availability of real-time tracking of application status across stages—profile, application, questionnaire, CBT preparation, interview, auditor preparation course;
- Seamless transition of graduating auditor candidates to the Auditor Manager also on OLF.



The new Nomination Manager module is currently in process of testing and adjustment. It is expected to be fully implemented in Q1 of 2026.



ICAO Council Elects a New President

Toshiyuki Onuma, the Representative of Japan will preside over the ICAO Council during the next triennium.

The ICAO Council, the 36-member governing body of the Organization, has elected Toshiyuki Onuma of Japan as its President for a three-year term, beginning 1 January 2026.

He succeeds Salvatore Sciacchitano of Italy, who has held the position for two consecutive terms since 2020.

ICAO Secretary General Juan Carlos Salazar congratulated the incoming Council President recalling that: "Mr. Toshiyuki Onuma's election as President of the ICAO Council reflects the trust and high expectations of the international community at a transformative time for air transport worldwide."

Mr. Toshiyuki Onuma is currently the Representative of Japan on the ICAO Council. With over 20 years of experience, he has shaped national and international civil aviation policy, including leadership of decarbonization efforts. Mr. Onuma has held senior roles such as Senior Deputy Director-General of the Japan Civil Aviation Bureau (JCAB) and Assistant Vice-Minister for International Aviation. He holds an LL.B. from the University of Tokyo and an LL.M. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.



DEPARTURES:

Farewell to a valuable team member who has made a sizeable contribution to the Programme over the past two years...

Mr. Aziz Boulmane, Consultant - Personnel Licensing (PEL) and Flight Operations (OPS) has left USOAP as of 5 November 2025. Over the past two years, Aziz has participated in a number of audit activities and has helped with the delivery of the Audit Preparation course.

We would like to thank Aziz for his contribution to the Programme and to wish him all the best in his future professional and personal life. He will always be part of the USOAP FAMILY!

ARRIVALS:

A warm welcome to all new arrivals!

Mr. Roberto Sosa, from Honduras joined OAS on 27 October 2025 as Continuous Monitoring Coordinator (CMC) from the SAM Regional Office in Lima. Roberto brings a wealth of nearly 30 years of aviation experience (ANS), ten of which with ICAO.

Best of luck to all our new team members in their continued journey at ICAO!