



International
Civil Aviation
Organization

Organisation
de l'aviation civile
internationale

Organización
de Aviación Civil
Internacional

Международная
организация
гражданской
авиации

منظمة الطيران
المدني الدولي

国际民用
航空组织

Ref.: LE 4/3

27 February 2025

Mr. David K. Nanopoulos
Chief, Treaty Section
Office of Legal Affairs
United Nations
2 UN Plaza

Email:

Dear Mr. Nanopoulos,

I refer to the letter dated 25 April 2024, reference LA 41 TS/2024/DN, from Mr. Miguel de Serpa Soares, former Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel, to Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar, Secretary General of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), requesting information on the role of technology in shaping treaty-making practice at ICAO.

Kindly note that the Secretary General of ICAO acts as depositary of almost forty multilateral air law treaties. ICAO is, as well, entrusted, pursuant to Chapter XVII of the *Convention on International Civil Aviation* (Chicago, 1944), with the task of registering aeronautical agreements and arrangements.

ICAO's depositary practice, which pre-dates the 1969 *Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties*, has evolved over time and substantively follows that of the Secretary-General of the United Nations as Depositary of multilateral treaties. The Organization accepts only instruments of ratification which meet the formalities set out in the UN Treaty Handbook and that are in original format, i.e., bearing original and not electronic/digital signatures. The dates of deposit and entry into force are confirmed by letter handed over or emailed to the depositing State.

The ICAO Treaty Collection Website available on ICAO's public website (www.icao.int/treaty), contains lists of parties to international air law treaties (including treaties for which ICAO is not depositary), forms summarizing the current ratification status of each Member State (country status forms), and other resources pertaining to treaty matters such as administrative packages to assist States with ratification.

Regarding ICAO's registration function, kindly note the introduction, in September 2020, of ICAO's Website of Aeronautical Agreements and Arrangements (WAGMAR) (<https://dna.icao.int/WAGMAR>), an interactive web-based system for the registration and publication of aeronautical agreements and arrangements. The introduction of WAGMAR was a long-awaited modernization of the previous database and leverages the latest developments in ICAO systems. Designed from the ground up internally, WAGMAR facilitates efficient and secure registration, and innovates in allowing States to self-register and administer certain aspects of their registrations (e.g., date of entry into force and termination).

WAGMAR comprises three main components: (a) a web interface allowing authorized State users to fill-in predefined templates and upload the aeronautical agreement or arrangement being submitted to ICAO for registration; (b) a registration database which acquires and stores the submitted information and the agreements and arrangements; and (c) essential registration information available through the ICAO public website, searchable by States, operators and the public.

Finally, it should be noted that, with respect to the performance of both its depositary and registration functions, the Organization is interested in developing synergies with the United Nations and other UN Specialized Agencies that have similar functions, thereby benefiting States and the public.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Gill
Director, Legal Affairs and
External Relations Bureau