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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AIR LAW

(Beijing, 30 August – 10 September 2010)

FINAL ACT

FINAL ACT

**of the International Conference on Air Law
(Diplomatic Conference on Aviation Security) held under the auspices of
the International Civil Aviation Organization
at Beijing, China, 30 August to 10 September 2010**

The Plenipotentiaries at the Diplomatic Conference on Aviation Security met at Beijing at the invitation of the Government of China from 30 August to 10 September 2010 to adopt amendments to the *Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation* (the Montreal Convention of 1971) as amended by the Protocol of 1988; and to the *Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft* (The Hague Convention of 1970).

The Governments of the following 71 States were represented at the Conference and presented credentials in due and proper form:

Algeria, the People's Democratic Republic of	Japan
Argentine Republic, the	Kenya, the Republic of
Australia	Kuwait, the State of
Azerbaijani Republic	Madagascar, the Republic of
Belgium, the Kingdom of	Malaysia
Botswana, the Republic of	Mali, the Republic of
Brazil, the Federative Republic of	Mexican States, the United
Cameroon, the Republic of	Nepal, the Federal Democratic Republic of
Canada	Netherlands, the Kingdom of the
Chad, the Republic of	New Zealand
China, the People's Republic of	Nigeria, the Federal Republic of
Costa Rica, the Republic of	Norway, the Kingdom of
Cuba, the Republic of	Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of
Cyprus, the Republic of	Panama, the Republic of
Czech Republic, the	Paraguay, the Republic of
Denmark, the Kingdom of	Poland, the Republic of
Dominican Republic, the	Portuguese Republic, the
Egypt, the Arab Republic of	Qatar, the State of
Fiji, the Republic of	Republic of Korea, the
Finland, the Republic of	Romania
French Republic, the	Russian Federation, the
Gambia, the Republic of the	Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom of
Germany, the Federal Republic of	Senegal, the Republic of
Hellenic Republic, the	Singapore, the Republic of
India, the Republic of	Slovenia, the Republic of
Indonesia, the Republic of	South Africa, the Republic of
Iran, the Islamic Republic of	Spain, the Kingdom of
Israel, the State of	Sudan, the Republic of the
Italian Republic, the	Swaziland, the Kingdom of

Sweden, the Kingdom of
Swiss Confederation
Thailand, the Kingdom of
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Tunisia, the Republic of
Uganda, the Republic of
United Arab Emirates, the

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern
Ireland, the
United Republic of Tanzania, the
United States of America, the
Uruguay, the Eastern Republic of
Venezuela, the Bolivarian Republic of
Zambia, the Republic of

The following four international organizations were represented by Observers:

African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC)
Arab Civil Aviation Commission (ACAC)
International Air Transport Association (IATA)
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

The President of the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization, Mr. Roberto Kobeh González, opened the Conference.

The Conference elected as President Mr. Xia Xinghua (China), and further elected as Vice-Presidents:

First Vice-President	Mr. Terry Olson (France)
Second Vice-President	Mr. Hisham El-Zimaity (Egypt)
Third Vice-President	Mr. Levers Mabaso (South Africa)
Fourth Vice-President	Mr. David Sproule (Canada)
Fifth Vice-President	Mr. Cesar Fernando Mayoral (Argentina)

The Secretary General of the Conference was Mr. Denys Wibaux, Director, Legal Affairs and External Relations Bureau, International Civil Aviation Organization. He was assisted by Mr. John Augustin, Deputy Director, who was the Executive Secretary, by Dr. Jiefang Huang, Legal Officer, who was the Deputy Secretary, and by Ms. Marla Weinstein, Legal Adviser, who was Assistant Secretary. Conference services were provided under the direction of Dr. Fang Liu, Director, Administration and Services Bureau, with the assistance of Ms. Lynda Déry, Chief, Conference Services, and other officials of the Organization.

The Conference established a Commission of the Whole which was chaired by Mr. Terry Olson (France) and the following Committees:

Credentials Committee

Chairman: Mr. Pierre Tankam (Cameroon)

Members: Cameroon
Cuba
India
Netherlands
United Arab Emirates

Drafting Committee

Chairperson: Mrs. Siew Huay Tan (Singapore)

Members: Algeria
Argentina
Australia
Canada
China
Cuba
Czech Republic
Egypt
France
India
Indonesia
Japan
Kenya
Mexico
Nigeria
Romania
Russian Federation
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Singapore
Sweden
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
United States

International Air Transport Association (IATA)
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Preambular and Final Clauses Committee

Chairperson: Mrs. Siew Huay Tan (Singapore)

Members: Algeria
Australia
Belgium
Brazil
Cameroon
Canada
China
Egypt
India
Italy

Mexico
Nigeria
Romania
Russian Federation
Singapore
United States

The Commission of the Whole approved the text of the *Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation* with 55 votes in favour, 14 votes not in favour. It approved the text of the *Protocol Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft* with 57 votes in favour, 13 votes not in favour.

Following its deliberations, the Conference adopted the texts of the said Convention and Protocol.

The said Convention and Protocol were opened for signature at Beijing this day by States participating in the Conference. It was also decided that after 27 September 2010 the said Convention and Protocol would be open to all States for signature at the Headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization in Montréal.

The texts of the said Convention and Protocol are subject to verification by the Secretariat of the Conference under the authority of the President of the Conference within a period of ninety days from the date hereof as to the linguistic changes required to bring the texts in the different languages into conformity with one another.

A consolidated text of the *Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft* (The Hague Convention of 1970) as amended by the *Protocol Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft* was also adopted at Beijing this day to facilitate the implementation of the rules contained in the said Convention and Protocol in a user-friendly manner. This text, established in six languages, is attached to the present Final Act.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Delegates,

GRATEFUL to the Government of China for hosting the Conference at Beijing and for its generous hospitality,

HAVE SIGNED this Final Act,

DONE at Beijing on the tenth day of September of the year Two Thousand and Ten in six authentic texts in the English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish languages in a single copy which shall be deposited with the International Civil Aviation Organization and a certified copy of which shall be delivered by the said Organization to each of the Governments represented at the Conference.

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ATTACHMENT

**CONSOLIDATED TEXT OF THE CONVENTION FOR THE SUPPRESSION
OF UNLAWFUL SEIZURE OF AIRCRAFT, 1970 AND THE PROTOCOL
SUPPLEMENTARY TO THE CONVENTION FOR THE SUPPRESSION
OF UNLAWFUL SEIZURE OF AIRCRAFT, 2010**

THE STATES PARTIES

CONSIDERING that unlawful acts of seizure or exercise of control of aircraft in flight jeopardize the safety of persons and property, seriously affect the operation of air services, and undermine the confidence of the peoples of the world in the safety of civil aviation;

CONSIDERING that the occurrence of such acts is a matter of grave concern;

CONSIDERING that, for the purpose of deterring such acts, there is an urgent need to provide appropriate measures for punishment of offenders;

DEEPLY CONCERNED about the worldwide escalation of unlawful acts against civil aviation;

RECOGNIZING that new types of threats against civil aviation require new concerted efforts and policies of cooperation on the part of States;

BELIEVING that in order to better address these threats, it is necessary to adopt provisions supplementary to those of the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, signed at The Hague on 16 December 1970, to suppress unlawful acts of seizure or exercise of control of aircraft and to improve its effectiveness;

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

1. Any person commits an offence if that person unlawfully and intentionally seizes or exercises control of an aircraft in service by force or threat thereof, or by coercion, or by any other form of intimidation, or by any technological means.

2. Any person also commits an offence if that person:

(a) makes a threat to commit the offence in paragraph 1; or

(b) unlawfully and intentionally causes any person to receive such a threat,

under circumstances which indicate that the threat is credible.

3. Any person also commits an offence if that person:

(a) attempts to commit the offence set forth in paragraph 1 of this Article; or

- (b) organizes or directs others to commit an offence set forth in paragraph 1, 2 or 3(a) of this Article; or
- (c) participates as an accomplice in an offence set forth in paragraph 1, 2 or 3(a) of this Article; or
- (d) unlawfully and intentionally assists another person to evade investigation, prosecution or punishment, knowing that the person has committed an act that constitutes an offence set forth in paragraph 1, 2, 3(a), 3(b) or 3(c) of this Article, or that the person is wanted for criminal prosecution by law enforcement authorities for such an offence or has been sentenced for such an offence.

4. Each State Party shall also establish as offences, when committed intentionally, whether or not any of the offences set forth in paragraph 1 or 2 of this Article is actually committed or attempted, either or both of the following:

- (a) agreeing with one or more other persons to commit an offence set forth in paragraph 1 or 2 of this Article and, where required by national law, involving an act undertaken by one of the participants in furtherance of the agreement; or
- (b) contributing in any other way to the commission of one or more offences set forth in paragraph 1 or 2 of this Article by a group of persons acting with a common purpose, and such contribution shall either:
 - (i) be made with the aim of furthering the general criminal activity or purpose of the group, where such activity or purpose involves the commission of an offence set forth in paragraph 1 or 2 of this Article; or
 - (ii) be made in the knowledge of the intention of the group to commit an offence set forth in paragraph 1 or 2 of this Article.

Article 2

Each State Party undertakes to make the offences set forth in Article 1 punishable by severe penalties.

Article 2 bis

1. Each State Party, in accordance with its national legal principles, may take the necessary measures to enable a legal entity located in its territory or organized under its laws to be held liable when a person responsible for management or control of that legal entity has, in that capacity, committed an offence set forth in Article 1. Such liability may be criminal, civil or administrative.

2. Such liability is incurred without prejudice to the criminal liability of individuals having committed the offences.

3. If a State Party takes the necessary measures to make a legal entity liable in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Article, it shall endeavour to ensure that the applicable criminal, civil or administrative sanctions are effective, proportionate and dissuasive. Such sanctions may include monetary sanctions.

Article 3

1. For the purposes of this Convention, an aircraft is considered to be in service from the beginning of the pre-flight preparation of the aircraft by ground personnel or by the crew for a specific flight until twenty-four hours after any landing. In the case of a forced landing, the flight shall be deemed to continue until the competent authorities take over the responsibility for the aircraft and for persons and property on board.
2. This Convention shall not apply to aircraft used in military, customs or police services.
3. This Convention shall apply only if the place of take-off or the place of actual landing of the aircraft on board which the offence is committed is situated outside the territory of the State of registry of that aircraft; it shall be immaterial whether the aircraft is engaged in an international or domestic flight.
4. In the cases set forth in Article 5, this Convention shall not apply if the place of take-off and the place of actual landing of the aircraft on board which the offence is committed are situated within the territory of the same State where that State is one of those referred to in that Article.
5. Notwithstanding paragraphs 3 and 4 of this Article, Articles 6, 7, 7 *bis*, 8, 8 *bis*, 8 *ter* and 10 shall apply whatever the place of take-off or the place of actual landing of the aircraft, if the offender or the alleged offender is found in the territory of a State other than the State of registry of that aircraft.

Article 3 bis

1. Nothing in this Convention shall affect other rights, obligations and responsibilities of States and individuals under international law, in particular the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on International Civil Aviation and international humanitarian law.
2. The activities of armed forces during an armed conflict, as those terms are understood under international humanitarian law, which are governed by that law are not governed by this Convention, and the activities undertaken by military forces of a State in the exercise of their official duties, inasmuch as they are governed by other rules of international law, are not governed by this Convention.
3. The provisions of paragraph 2 of this Article shall not be interpreted as condoning or making lawful otherwise unlawful acts, or precluding prosecution under other laws.

Article 4

1. Each State Party shall take such measures as may be necessary to establish its jurisdiction over the offences set forth in Article 1 and any other act of violence against passengers or crew committed by the alleged offender in connection with the offences, in the following cases:
 - (a) when the offence is committed in the territory of that State;
 - (b) when the offence is committed against or on board an aircraft registered in that State;
 - (c) when the aircraft on board which the offence is committed lands in its territory with the alleged offender still on board;

- (d) when the offence is committed against or on board an aircraft leased without crew to a lessee whose principal place of business or, if the lessee has no such place of business, whose permanent residence is in that State;
 - (e) when the offence is committed by a national of that State.
2. Each State Party may also establish its jurisdiction over any such offence in the following cases:
- (a) when the offence is committed against a national of that State;
 - (b) when the offence is committed by a stateless person whose habitual residence is in the territory of that State.
3. Each State Party shall likewise take such measures as may be necessary to establish its jurisdiction over the offences set forth in Article 1 in the case where the alleged offender is present in its territory and it does not extradite that person pursuant to Article 8 to any of the States Parties that have established their jurisdiction in accordance with the applicable paragraphs of this Article with regard to those offences.
4. This Convention does not exclude any criminal jurisdiction exercised in accordance with national law.

Article 5

The States Parties which establish joint air transport operating organizations or international operating agencies, which operate aircraft which are subject to joint or international registration shall, by appropriate means, designate for each aircraft the State among them which shall exercise the jurisdiction and have the attributes of the State of registry for the purpose of this Convention and shall give notice thereof to the Secretary General of the International Civil Aviation Organization who shall communicate the notice to all States Parties to this Convention.

Article 6

1. Upon being satisfied that the circumstances so warrant, any State Party in the territory of which the offender or the alleged offender is present, shall take that person into custody or take other measures to ensure that person's presence. The custody and other measures shall be as provided in the law of that State but may only be continued for such time as is necessary to enable any criminal or extradition proceedings to be instituted.
2. Such State shall immediately make a preliminary enquiry into the facts.
3. Any person in custody pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Article shall be assisted in communicating immediately with the nearest appropriate representative of the State of which that person is a national.
4. When a State Party, pursuant to this Article, has taken a person into custody, it shall immediately notify the States Parties which have established jurisdiction under paragraph 1 of Article 4, and established jurisdiction and notified the Depositary under paragraph 2 of Article 4 and, if it considers it advisable, any other interested States of the fact that such person is in custody and of the circumstances which warrant that person's detention. The State Party which makes the preliminary enquiry

contemplated in paragraph 2 of this Article shall promptly report its findings to the said States Parties and shall indicate whether it intends to exercise jurisdiction.

Article 7

The State Party in the territory of which the alleged offender is found shall, if it does not extradite that person, be obliged, without exception whatsoever and whether or not the offence was committed in its territory, to submit the case to its competent authorities for the purpose of prosecution. Those authorities shall take their decision in the same manner as in the case of any ordinary offence of a serious nature under the law of that State.

Article 7 bis

Any person who is taken into custody, or regarding whom any other measures are taken or proceedings are being carried out pursuant to this Convention, shall be guaranteed fair treatment, including enjoyment of all rights and guarantees in conformity with the law of the State in the territory of which that person is present and applicable provisions of international law, including international human rights law.

Article 8

1. The offences set forth in Article 1 shall be deemed to be included as extraditable offences in any extradition treaty existing between States Parties. States Parties undertake to include the offences as extraditable offences in every extradition treaty to be concluded between them.

2. If a State Party which makes extradition conditional on the existence of a treaty receives a request for extradition from another State Party with which it has no extradition treaty, it may at its option consider this Convention as the legal basis for extradition in respect of the offences set forth in Article 1. Extradition shall be subject to the other conditions provided by the law of the requested State.

3. States Parties which do not make extradition conditional on the existence of a treaty shall recognize the offences set forth in Article 1 as extraditable offences between themselves subject to the conditions provided by the law of the requested State.

4. Each of the offences shall be treated, for the purpose of extradition between States Parties, as if it had been committed not only in the place in which it occurred but also in the territories of the States Parties required to establish their jurisdiction in accordance with subparagraphs (b), (c), (d) and (e) of paragraph 1 of Article 4 and who have established jurisdiction in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 4.

5. The offences set forth in subparagraphs (a) and (b) of paragraph 4 of Article 1 shall, for the purpose of extradition between States Parties, be treated as equivalent.

Article 8 bis

None of the offences set forth in Article 1 shall be regarded, for the purposes of extradition or mutual legal assistance, as a political offence or as an offence connected with a political offence or as an offence

inspired by political motives. Accordingly, a request for extradition or for mutual legal assistance based on such an offence may not be refused on the sole ground that it concerns a political offence or an offence connected with a political offence or an offence inspired by political motives.

Article 8 *ter*

Nothing in this Convention shall be interpreted as imposing an obligation to extradite or to afford mutual legal assistance, if the requested State Party has substantial grounds for believing that the request for extradition for offences set forth in Article 1 or for mutual legal assistance with respect to such offences has been made for the purpose of prosecuting or punishing a person on account of that person's race, religion, nationality, ethnic origin, political opinion or gender, or that compliance with the request would cause prejudice to that person's position for any of these reasons.

Article 9

1. When any of the acts set forth in paragraph 1 of Article 1 has occurred or is about to occur, States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to restore control of the aircraft to its lawful commander or to preserve the commander's control of the aircraft.

2. In the cases contemplated by the preceding paragraph, any State Party in which the aircraft or its passengers or crew are present shall facilitate the continuation of the journey of the passengers and crew as soon as practicable, and shall without delay return the aircraft and its cargo to the persons lawfully entitled to possession.

Article 10

1. States Parties shall afford one another the greatest measure of assistance in connection with criminal proceedings brought in respect of the offences set forth in Article 1 and other acts set forth in Article 4. The law of the State requested shall apply in all cases.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article shall not affect obligations under any other treaty, bilateral or multilateral, which governs or will govern, in whole or in part, mutual assistance in criminal matters.

Article 10 *bis*

Any State Party having reason to believe that one of the offences set forth in Article 1 will be committed shall, in accordance with its national law, furnish any relevant information in its possession to those States Parties which it believes would be the States set forth in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 4.

Article 11

Each State Party shall in accordance with its national law report to the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization as promptly as possible any relevant information in its possession concerning:

- (a) the circumstances of the offence;

- (b) the action taken pursuant to Article 9;
- (c) the measures taken in relation to the offender or the alleged offender, and, in particular, the results of any extradition proceedings or other legal proceedings.

Article 12

1. Any dispute between two or more States Parties concerning the interpretation or application of this Convention which cannot be settled through negotiation, shall, at the request of one of them, be submitted to arbitration. If within six months from the date of the request for arbitration the Parties are unable to agree on the organization of the arbitration, any one of those Parties may refer the dispute to the International Court of Justice by request in conformity with the Statute of the Court.
2. Each State may at the time of signature or ratification of this Convention or accession thereto, declare that it does not consider itself bound by the preceding paragraph. The other States Parties shall not be bound by the preceding paragraph with respect to any State Party having made such a reservation.
3. Any State Party having made a reservation in accordance with the preceding paragraph may at any time withdraw this reservation by notification to the Depositary Governments.

Article 13 (Article XXII of the Protocol)

Upon ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to this Convention as amended by the Protocol, each State Party:

- (a) shall notify the Depositary of the jurisdiction it has established under its national law in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 4 and immediately notify the Depositary of any change; and
- (b) may declare that it shall apply the provisions of subparagraph (d) of paragraph 3 of Article 1 in accordance with the principles of its criminal law concerning family exemptions from liability.

Article 14

(Languages of the Convention, see Article XVIII of the Protocol)

Article 15

(Interpretation of the Convention as amended by the Protocol, see Article XIX of the Protocol)

Article 16

(Signature, ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, see Article 13 of the Convention and Articles XX and XXI of the Protocol)

Article 17

(Entry into force, see Article 13 of the Convention and Article XXIII of the Protocol)

Article 18

(Depositaries and their functions, see Article 13 of the Convention and Articles XXI and XXV of the Protocol)

Article 19

(Denunciations, see Article 14 of the Convention and Article XXIV of the Protocol)

FINAL PARAGRAPHS

**From the Convention for the Suppression
of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, 1970**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned Plenipotentiaries, being duly authorized thereto by their Governments, have signed this Convention.

DONE at The Hague, this sixteenth day of December, one thousand nine hundred and seventy, in three originals, each being drawn up in four authentic texts in the English, French, Russian and Spanish languages.

**From the Protocol Supplementary to the Convention for the
Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, 2010**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned Plenipotentiaries, having been duly authorized, have signed this Protocol.

DONE at Beijing on the tenth day of September of the year Two Thousand and Ten in the English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish languages, all texts being equally authentic, such authenticity to take effect upon verification by the Secretariat of the Conference under the authority of the President of the Conference within ninety days hereof as to the conformity of the texts with one another. This Protocol shall remain deposited in the archives of the International Civil Aviation Organization, and certified copies thereof shall be transmitted by the Depositary to all Contracting States to this Protocol.