



One Hundred Nineteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

September 17, 2025

Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano
President of the Council
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
999 Robert-Bourassa Boulevard
Montreal, Quebec H3C 5H7, Canada

Dear President Sciacchitano,

We are writing in advance of the 42nd Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to strongly urge that Taiwan be extended a formal invitation to meaningfully participate in the triennial meeting on September 23, 2025. It is the longstanding policy of the United States to advocate for Taiwan's participation in international organizations, and we hope that a prompt and affirmative invitation is issued to Taiwan without delay.

Established precedent calls for Taiwan's participation in ICAO Assemblies. In 2013, then-President of the Council Roberto Kobeh, extended an invitation for Taiwan to attend the 38th ICAO Assembly as a guest.¹ Unfortunately, subsequent cooperation between Taiwan and ICAO was severely diminished under the former Secretary General of ICAO, Fang Liu, amid allegations of improper politization of ICAO.² As ICAO's mandate is to enhance global civil aviation safety and security, the inclusion of committed and cooperative stakeholders such as Taiwan must serve as a fundamental principle.

Taiwan has a modern and active civil aviation system, underscoring the necessity of its inclusion in relevant international standard setting bodies like ICAO. The Taipei Flight Information Region (FIR), administered by Taiwan, oversees 18 international and four domestic

¹ Spencer-Churchill, Julian, "It's crucial to reintegrate Taiwan into the ICAO," The Hill, September 14, 2022, <https://thehill.com/opinion/international/3638825-its-crucial-to-reintegrate-taiwan-into-the-icao/>.

² Schaefer, Brett, Danielle Pletka, "Can the ICAO Recover After Chinese Stewardship?", The Heritage Foundation, July 29, 2021, <https://www.heritage.org/global-politics/commentary/can-the-icao-recover-after-chinese-stewardship>.

routes within ICAO's global network of approximately 300 FIRs.³ In 2024, Taiwan supported operations by 90 airlines, which operated passenger and cargo flights on 285 routes connecting Taiwan with 117 cities worldwide. Additionally, Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport ranked 13th globally for international passenger volume and 10th for international air cargo.⁴ While Taiwan endeavors to maintain the highest standard of civil aviation, Taiwan remains excluded from ICAO's technical meetings and secure platforms, leaving it without access to critical aviation safety information and undermining international aviation standards.

Meanwhile, the People's Republic of China continues to encroach upon Taiwan's airspace, issuing unilateral announcements of temporary danger zones, airspace reservations, and military exercise areas, as well as activating flight routes such as M503, W121, W122, and W123 adjacent to the Taiwan Strait medium line. These actions are inconsistent with ICAO standards, create dangerous precedents, and heighten the risk of avoidable aviation incidents. As the organization entrusted with deconfliction and aviation safety, ICAO cannot fulfill its mandate while excluding Taiwan's experience, perspective, and participation.

Taiwan's inclusion in the 42nd ICAO Assembly is a matter of U.S. national interest and international aviation security. We recommend that an invitation be promptly extended to Taiwan, and we look forward to receiving confirmation without delay.

Sincerely,



Brian Mast
Chairman
House Foreign Affairs Committee



Gregory W. Meeks
Ranking Member
House Foreign Affairs Committee



Young Kim
Chairwoman
East Asia and Pacific Subcommittee



Ami Bera, M.D.
Ranking Member
East Asia and Pacific Subcommittee

³ Spencer-Churchill, "It's crucial to reintegrate Taiwan into the ICAO."

⁴ Republic of China Ministry of Transportation and Communication, Civil Aviation Administration Statistics, <https://www.caa.gov.tw/article.aspx?a=283&lang=2>.



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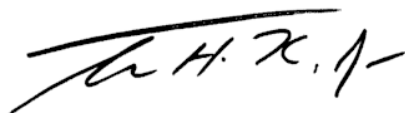
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