

## A call to support Taiwan's participation in ICAO



CHEN SHIH-KAI, MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS ROC (TAIWAN)

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) convenes its Assembly once every three years. During the event, multilateral meetings and discussions are held to draw up global civil aviation regulations and standards. Nations abide by the conclusions drawn at the Assembly, ensuring the safe and orderly growth of international civil aviation worldwide. The 42nd session of the ICAO Assembly will be held from September 23 to October 3 in Montreal, Canada.

In line with its long-term strategic plan called "Safe Skies, Sustainable Future," ICAO is emphasizing a commitment to working with all stakeholders—including member states, nonmember states, NGOs, and private enterprises—to build a more resilient, sustainable, and inclusive international aviation system. We call on ICAO to allow Taiwan to fully participate in its Assembly, technical meetings and mechanisms to ensure regional aviation safety and development needs, thereby achieving safe skies amid a sustainable future.

### Meeting regional aviation safety and development needs

The Taipei Flight Information Region (FIR) covers one of the busiest regions in East Asia for air travel. It is an indispensable part of ICAO's network of over 300 FIRs. Taiwan's Civil Aviation Administration (CAA) is the sole entity responsible for overseeing the Taipei FIR. The CAA offers a comprehensive range of information services and manages air routes to ensure safety and efficiency for all flights and passengers arriving in, departing from, and transiting the Taipei FIR. From both a risk and safety management perspective, ICAO should permit Taiwan's CAA to participate on an equal footing with the oversight agencies of other FIRs. This will ensure that the Taipei FIR can communicate directly with other FIRs as well as with ICAO to ensure the free flow of timely information.

Global aviation faces many natural and manmade challenges such as climate change, power banks, and international geopolitical strife. Taiwan, which is responsible for the considerable traffic through the Taipei FIR, makes every effort to be a responsible stakeholder in the international aviation community. To undergird regional flight safety, Taiwan again calls on ICAO to recognize the importance of the Taipei FIR and of its participation in ICAO.

### Achieving safe skies and a sustainable future

Taiwan's CAA does its best to collect the information it can via indirect channels. It also invites aviation experts from other countries to hold training courses. This helps it to achieve international aviation safety management standards. It also adopts or modifies regulations, systems, and procedures in line with ICAO standards in ways that benefit global and regional aviation safety. For example, the CAA has initiated a State Safety Program and collaborates with aviation industry stakeholders through this program to establish safety oversight systems. This has contributed to Taiwan's exceptional overall safety performance. From 2020 to 2024, the five-year moving occurrence rates of turbofan and turboprop aircraft were zero (zero accidents per million departures). The safety performance of Taiwan's aviation industry has also been remarkable. EVA Air, for instance, has been recognized as one of the world's safest full-service airlines by AirlineRatings.com and was ranked seventh-safest in 2025.

To further sustainable development of the aviation industry, Taiwan's CAA has incorporated the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) into domestic law and launched a sustainable aviation fuel pilot program in April 2025. This demonstrates the determination of Taiwan's aviation industry to take concrete steps toward a net-zero transformation.

Despite these efforts, to ensure access to timely and comprehensive information, the CAA must be allowed to participate in the technical meetings and training opportunities offered by ICAO. ICAO should act in line with its No One Left Behind initiative to rectify the fact that the CAA remains unable to participate in its activities.

### Taiwan needs your support

Aviation safety knows no borders. For decades, the CAA has mandated and upheld the highest standards of service and safety for the Taipei FIR while meeting ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices. As a stakeholder in the international aviation community, Taiwan shares in the responsibility to safeguard regional and global aviation safety. Through participation in ICAO, Taiwan will be able to continue to work with other countries professionally to contribute to the further development of global aviation and the well-being of all mankind.

ICAO is set to convene the 42nd Assembly with the theme "Safe Skies, Sustainable Future." It is time for ICAO to bring Taiwan into the fold. With meaningful participation, Taiwan can contribute its professional expertise in pursuit of ICAO's vision of safer skies and a more sustainable future. Taiwan's CAA is committed to working with the international community to implement the Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs).

# Palestinians rally to celebrate statehood

Majority of European powers now recognise a Palestinian state

AFF | Ramallah, Palestinian Territories

Crowds of people rallied in the occupied West Bank yesterday, waving flags and holding posters of president Mahmud Abbas to celebrate the wave of recognition by Western powers of a Palestinian state.

Nationalist slogans blared from loudspeakers across the central square in the city of Ramallah, where a crowd of more than 100 clutched Palestinian and European flags alongside signs reading "stop the genocide".

High-ranking officials from Abbas's political movement, Fatah, and the Palestinian Authority -- which exerts limited control in the West Bank -- shook hands and smiled.

"This recognition is a first step in a process that we hope will continue," Jibril Rajoub, secretary-general of Fatah's central committee, told AFP.

"It is the result of more than a century of resistance and determination by our people."

Rajoub said he had felt moved listening to the speeches made at the UN General Assembly in New York the night before.

"We must learn from the past and unite the people," he said.

Maysoon Mahmud, 39, who is also a Fatah member, said: "We came here today to thank the countries that have recognised Palestine, but also to ask them to continue to support us in stopping the war."

"It is time for the world to take responsibility," she added.

Further north in Tulkarem, dozens more gathered, holding the flags of countries that now recognise a Palestinian state.

A majority of European powers now recognise a Palestinian state, following official declarations on Monday by France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Malta and others, after nearly two years of war in Gaza and soaring violence in the West Bank.

A day earlier Britain, Australia, Canada and Portugal also took the step.

### 'We want action'

But many Palestinians interviewed by AFP expressed ambivalence at the move due to the bitter reality of the situation on the ground.

Roula Ghaneb, an academic from Tulkarem, stood impassively in the middle of the Ramallah rally, holding a photo of her 20-year-old son, Yazan.

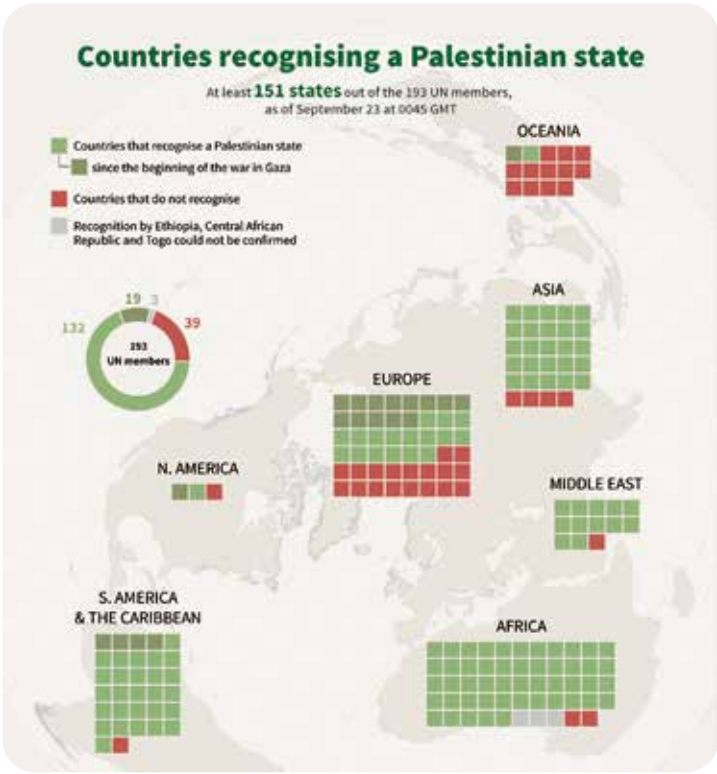
"He was arrested at our home eight months ago," she said, adding that he was being held in poor conditions.

Ghaneb said she wanted an end to all violence, insisting: "We don't want words, we want action."

Jamila Abdul, a resident of a



Palestinians chant slogans during a gathering in Ramallah in the Israeli occupied West Bank



## Indonesia leader offers 20,000 troops for post-war Gaza

United Nations, United States

Indonesia's leader on Tuesday offered to send at least 20,000 troops as peacekeepers to Gaza to safeguard any future peace deal.

Addressing the UN General Assembly, President Prabowo Subianto said that the world's most populous Muslim-majority country wanted a peace that shows that "might cannot make right."

"We believe in the UN. We

will continue to serve where peace needs guardians -- not with just words, but with boots on the ground," he said.

"If and when the UN Security Council and this great Assembly decide, Indonesia is prepared to deploy 20,000 or even more of our sons and daughters to help secure peace in Gaza," he said.

He said that Indonesia was also willing to send peacekeepers elsewhere including in Ukraine, Sudan or Libya.

village between Jerusalem and Ramallah, said: "Palestine is being exterminated today in Gaza and the West Bank in various

ways."

Hardline Israeli government ministers have made little secret of their desire to annex the West

Bank, which Israel has occupied since 1967 and where roadblocks are multiplying and Israeli settlements are expanding.

The diplomatic push also comes as Israel is intensifying its military offensive in Gaza City, after nearly two years of war triggered by Hamas's deadly attack in October 2023.

"If they want to recognise something, they must recognise the genocide that is taking place today, put an end to these atrocities and punish Israel for these crimes," said Abdul.

## Palestinians, Jordan say Israel to indefinitely close West Bank crossing

Ramallah, Palestinian Territories

Palestinian and Jordanian authorities said Israel was indefinitely closing the only crossing between the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Jordan from today.

"The chairman of the Palestinian General Authority for Crossings and Borders, Mr Nazmi Muhanna, announced that the Israeli side has informed us of the closure of the Al-Karama crossing starting tomorrow, Wednesday... until further notice, in both directions," a statement from the Palestinian borders authority said, referring to the Allenby crossing.

The crossing in the Jordan Valley is the only international gateway for Palestinians from the West Bank that does not require entering Israel, which has occupied the territory since 1967.