



International Civil Aviation Organization

**First Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Unmanned Aircraft Systems Task Force
(APUASTF/1)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 03 – 05 April 2017

Agenda Item 5: Asia/Pacific UAS Regional Guidance Material

TERMINOLOGY AND CONCEPTS DESCRIBING UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents information on the terminology describing Unmanned Aircraft Systems.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Unmanned Aircraft Systems includes a range of aircraft systems including remotely-piloted and autonomous aircraft.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 To ensure regional harmonization of concepts and the better understanding of the guidance material that may be developed by APUAS/TF, it is important that the appropriate terminology and concepts relating to unmanned aircraft systems are agreed by the meeting.

2.2 The following definitions should apply:

Unmanned Aircraft – An aircraft which is intended to operate with no pilot on board.

Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) – An aircraft and its associated elements which are operated with no pilot on board.

Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) – An unmanned aircraft which is piloted from a remote pilot station.

Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) – a remotely-piloted aircraft, its associated remote pilot station(s), the required command and control links and any other components as specified in the type design.

Note: RPAS are a subset of UAS.

Autonomous Aircraft – An unmanned aircraft that does not allow pilot intervention in the management of the flight.

2.3 The term unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) is obsolete, and should not be used.

2.4 **Figure 1** illustrates the relationship between various categories of UAS.

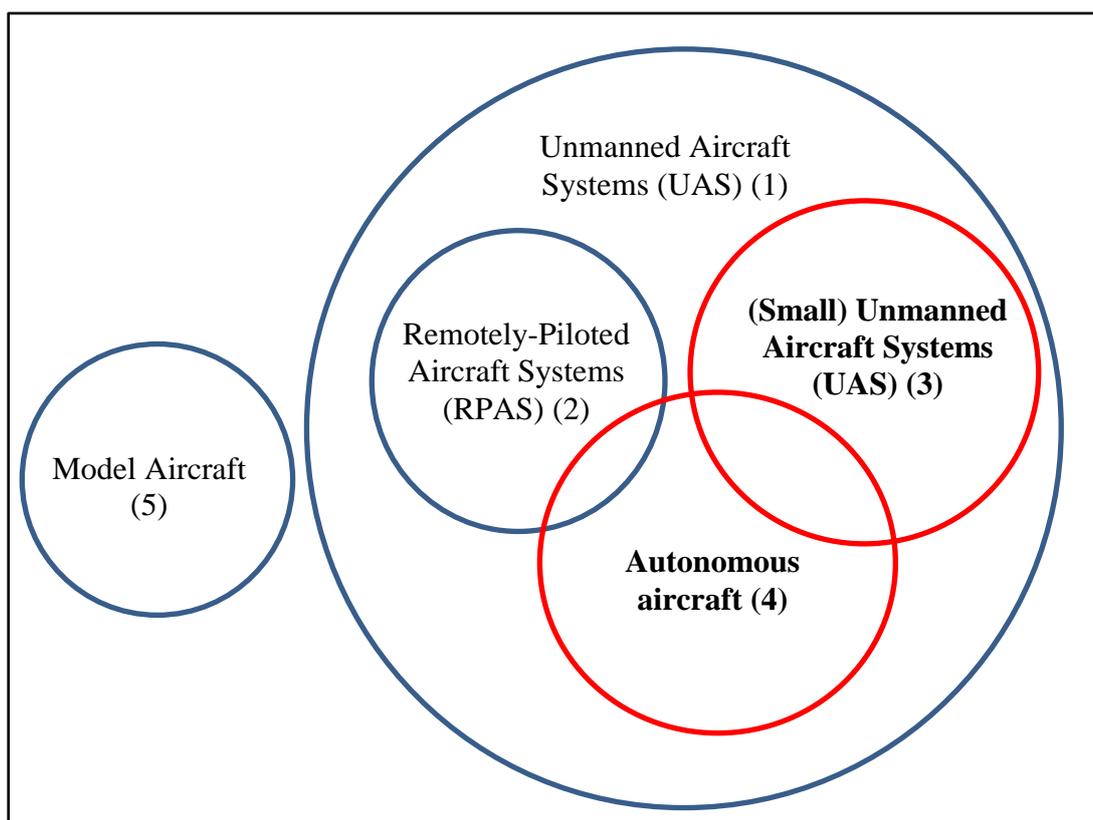


Figure 1: Unmanned Aircraft Systems

1. All Unmanned Aircraft Systems
2. RPAS, piloted and tactically managed beyond visual line of sight (beyond VLOS) and often in direct communication with ATC.
 - *Subject of ICAO global guidance (Doc 10019 – RPAS Manual) – and not within the scope of APUAS/TF*
3. All other small UAS, generally less than 25kg, operated within VLOS and not tactically managed beyond line-of-sight.
 - *Primary area of interest of APUAS/TF*
4. Autonomous Aircraft – RPAS during autonomous phases of flight, or small UAS either wholly or partly in autonomous operation during flight.
 - *Autonomous operation of small UAS is an area of interest of APUAS/TF*
5. Model Aircraft, which many States identify as those used for recreational purposes only, and for which globally harmonized standards are not considered necessary.
 - *Not within the scope of APUAS/TF*

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper;
- b) agree to the terminology and concepts for use in all future work of the APUAS/TF;
and
- c) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate.

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