



ICAO

**INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION**

**Twenty-Seventh Meeting of the AFI Planning and Implementation Regional Group  
(APIRG/27)**

**5 to 6 November 2024**

**Agenda Item 3: Implementation of air navigation goals, targets and indicators, including the priorities set in the Regional Air Navigation Plan**

**ZAMBIA’S ONLINE AIRSPACE OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCE APPLICATION SYSTEM**

*(Presented by ZAMBIA)*

<b>SUMMARY</b>	
<p>This working paper presents an information paper on the online application platform for the Overflight airspace application.</p> <p>The action by the Meeting is in <b>paragraph 3</b></p>	
<b>Strategic Objectives</b>	B - Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency

**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. Zambia, a signatory to the Chicago Convention, became a member of the International Air Services Transit Agreement (IASTA) on the 13th of October 1965 after ratifying the agreement. IASTA provides for the multilateral exchange of the first two freedoms of the air with regard to scheduled international air services, namely the privilege to fly across the territory of other Contracting States without landing and the privilege to land for non-traffic purposes. IASTA also strengthens and facilitates the operation of international scheduled air services.
- 1.2. Parties to this Agreement are supposed to implement the “File n Fly” concept. Meaning scheduled flights only file flight plans and fly without requesting airspace overflight clearances as States have already received their schedules in advance, schedules which have information as to when to fly (days and times), on which routes, types of aircraft and passengers or cargo carried etc. These scheduled operations have the Bilateral Air Service Agreements (BASAs) signed between countries of registration and the Republic of Zambia.
- 1.3. Further to this, the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) has from time to time urged member States to review their authorization procedures for overflight clearances. APIRG/23 and APIRG/24 are some of the meetings at which ICAO has urged States following complaints from IATA on behalf of member airlines.

## 2 DISCUSSION

- 2.1. In the year 1997 Minister of Transport and Communications handed over the Authority for the issuance of airspace clearances to the Air Force Commander - Zambia Air Force through the publication of the Statutory Instrument No. 104, The Aviation (Aircraft Navigation Control) Notice of 1997 was issued in order to establish a framework that will ensure adequate collaboration, cooperation and coordination between the civil and military aviation stakeholders and provide guidance on the implementation and/or improvement of civil-military cooperation for air traffic management, for safe and optimal use of the airspace by both parties.
- 2.2. The evolution of the ATM system requires global, regional and national cooperation between civil and military aviation authorities. This cooperation would ensure the integration of State aviation needs and facilitate the required planning to support the effective implementation of the ATM evolution. Zambia has a strong civil/military corporation which spans for years and was demonstrated through the successful Joint hosting of the ICAO workshop on Civil-Military Corporation that took place last year in 2023 in Lusaka, Zambia. In addition, Zambia has not left behind the Military in its participation in the ICAO meetings, workshops and seminars such as Search and Rescue, ATS Coordination and APIRG.
- 2.3. To further demonstrate the Cooperation in the year, the Zambia Air Force (ZAF) in collaboration with the Zambia Civil Aviation Authority (ZCAA) and Zambia Airports Corporation Limited (ZACL) contracted the services of a Zambian Consultant to develop a web-based airspace management system that would automate the airspace overflight clearance process for Air Operators. The platform has successfully been delivered and it is in active use.
- 2.4. The main objective was to enhance the quick turnaround of airspace clearances, and enhance the file-and-fly concept, the Zambia Air Force in collaboration with CAA developed an online platform accessible for Airspace clearance applications by the users. The applications can be processed on the link <https://www.airforce.mil.zm/clearance/>. The process for application starts by applying for the user account as it shall be demonstrated. Once the account is obtained, the operator may proceed to register the aircraft on their register which will be expected to transit through the Lusaka Flight Information Region (FIR).
- 2.5. This platform also allows for scheduled operators to apply for a block clearance that lasts for three months such that if they desire to fly within that period all they will need to do is to file a flight plan and fly on the same clearance. This further demonstrates Zambia's commitment towards improving Civil/ Military cooperation, collaboration and coordination in the provision of Air Navigation in our region.

## 3 ACTION BY THE MEETING

- 3.1 The meeting is invited to:
  - a) Take note of the information paper;
  - b) Take note of the progress that Zambia has made to improve the process for obtaining the airspace clearance to overfly the Lusaka FIR; and
  - c) Encourage air operators to utilize the platform developed by Zambia.