



ICAO

**INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION**

**Twenty seventh Meeting of the Africa-Indian Ocean Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG/27) and Tenth Meeting of the Regional Aviation Safety Group for the Africa-Indian Region (RASG-AFI/10), Joint sessions**

**4 and 8 November 2024**

**Agenda Item 3: APIRG and RASG-AFI Coordination**

**3.4. AFI Airspace Monitoring**

**UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (UAS) REGULATIONS AND  
IMPLEMENTATION IN THE AFI REGION.**

*(Presented by South Africa)*

<b>SUMMARY</b>	
<p>This Paper presents the requirements or proposal for assistance to States in the development and implementation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Regulations. This proposal, if adopted, will provide great support in expediting the development and implementation of national regulations in line with APIRG/26, Decision 26/26. The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) has developed Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and Model UAS Regulations which are also necessary instruments for States in the AFI Region. This Paper also Proposes that other States that have developed and implemented UAS Regulations, including South Africa, to assist other States in line with the ICAO initiative of No Country Left Behind (NCLB).</p>	
<p>Action by the Meeting is provided in Paragraph 3 of this paper.</p>	
<i>Strategic Objectives</i>	This working paper relates to the Strategic Objectives A, B, D and E

**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The APIRG/26 Meeting discussion, included the advent of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). Where a recent survey carried out in the Western and Central African Office region (WACAF), noted with concern that there was an increase in the operation of UAS activities in the AFI Region.
- 1.2 [MM1] The meeting recommended RASG-AFI to support Staes in expediting the development and implementation of UAS Regulations.

- 1.3 The meeting therefore formulated the following conclusion. APIRG/26, Decision 26/26:
- “Improvement of Safety of Airspace, to improve the safety in the airspace, the RASG-AFI and its contributory bodies to:
- a) Continuously support African Regional Monitoring Agency (ARMA) on monitoring activities related to Reduced Vertical Separation Minima (RVSM);
  - b) Conduct an awareness programme on Performance-based Communication Systems (PCBS) to States; and
  - c) Assist States in the development and implantation of UAS Regulations.”

## **2. DISCUSSION**

- 2.1 This Working Paper provides a set of proposals to achieve the proposed item 1.4, above.
- 2.2 Propose that to improve the safety in the airspace, the contributory bodies or States that already have developed and implemented the UAS Regulations, assist other States in the development and implementation of UAS Regulations.
- 2.3 States that have not developed and implemented the UAS Regulations must be free to request other States that have implemented the UAS Regulations, for such assistance. Amongst others, South Africa is one of the States that have implemented the UAS Regulations back in 2015 and in line with the ICAO initiative of No Country Left Behind (NCLB), has developed an Assistance Mission Programme mainly on the conventional regulatory framework; but is now also ready to assist other States in the implementation of UAS Regulations.
- 2.4 States must develop and implement UAS Regulations by adopt such regulations from other States or download and customize, depending on the scale and extent of state requirements, the ICAO Model UAS Regulations, including the associated to referred Advisory Circular 101-1 (Open Category), 102-2 (Specific Category) and 102-37 (Carriage of dangerous goods by UA). The ICAO Model Regulations may be accessed through the following Link: <https://www.icao.int/safety/UA/UAID/Pages/Model-UAS-Regulations.aspx> or the ICAO public website: <https://www.icao.int/safety/UA/UASToolkit>.

## **3 ACTION BY THE MEETING**

- 3.1 The meeting is invited to:
- 3.1.1 Endorse the proposed action required of the contributory bodies referenced above under item 2.2; and
  - 3.1.2 Endorse the proposal to assist States in the development and implementation of UAS Regulations, as referenced above under item 2.3 and 2.4; and
  - 3.1.3 Identify States and mandate them to assist ICAO, in assisting other States in the development and implementation of UAS Regulations in the AFI Region.