



**SOUTH SUDAN CIVIL  
AVIATION AUTHORITY**

## South Sudan Flight Operations in High-Risk Security Environments

Mechanisms for Safe Aviation in Conflict  
Zones

# introduction

- ▶ *Honorable Delegates, Distinguished Guests, Esteemed Representatives,*
- ▶ I am honored to stand before you today at this crucial **ICAO Regional Aviation Safety (RAS) Activity** in Nairobi, representing the **South Sudan Civil Aviation Authority (SSCAA)**. This gathering is a testament to our collective commitment to aviation safety and operational resilience, particularly in regions where conflict presents unique challenges to airspace management and civil aviation infrastructure.

# South Sudan's Experience in Managing Civil Aviation in Conflict Zones

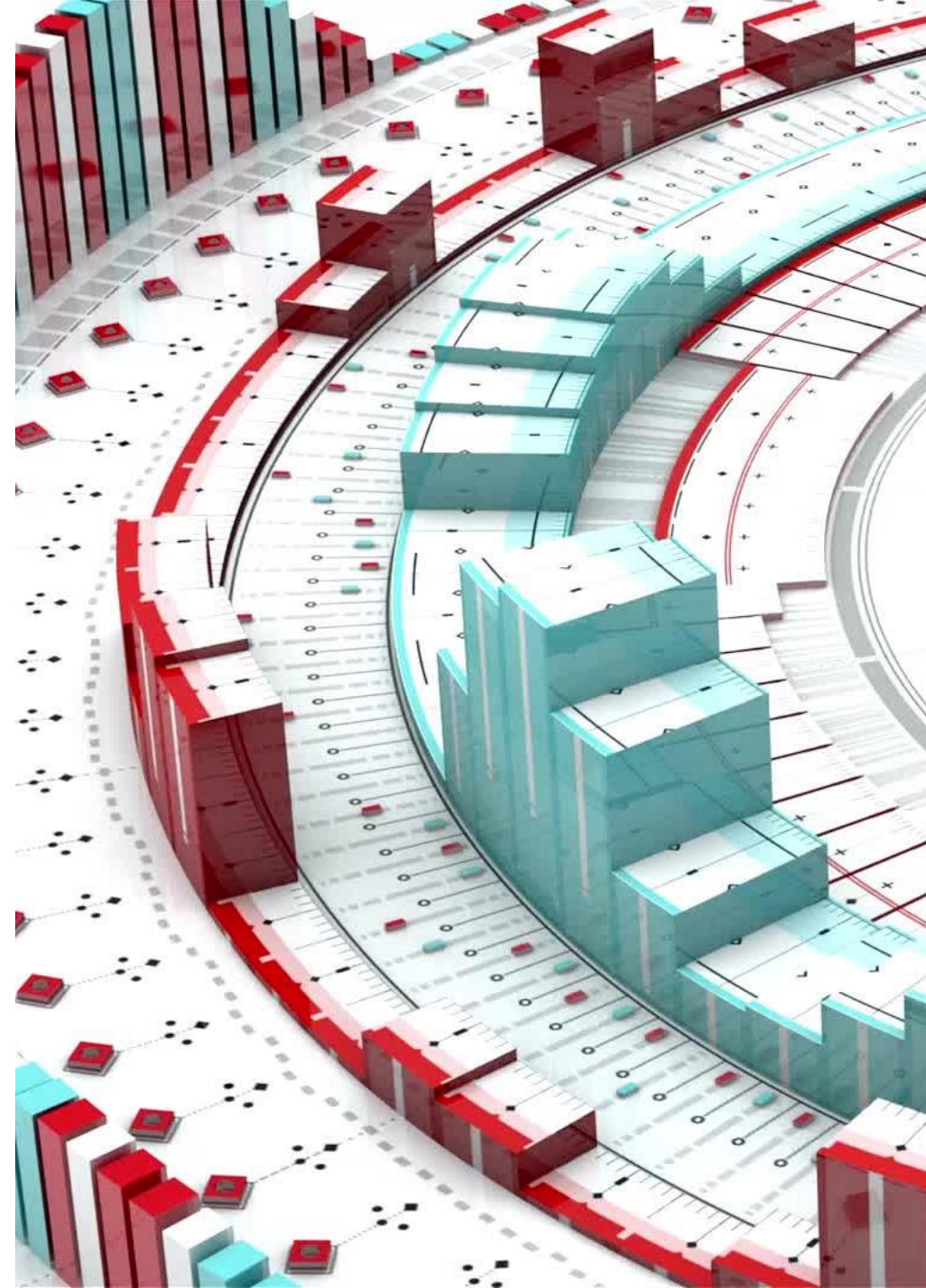


As the youngest nation in the world, South Sudan has faced formidable obstacles in establishing and maintaining a functional aviation sector amid periods of instability.

Aviation management in conflict zones within our airspace has demanded flexible strategies, international cooperation, and unwavering commitment to the principles of safety

# Operating Environment Challenges

- ▶ - Active conflict zones
- ▶ - Limited ATC coverage
- ▶ - Weather extremes (heavy rains and floods)
- ▶ - Poor infrastructure e.g. murrum runways
- ▶ Sovereignty of the airspace
- ▶ Economic challenges
- ▶ Lack of a Radar Facility



# Ensuring Safe Airspace Operations Amid Conflict

- ▶ **Robust Safety Protocols and Risk Assessment:**
  - ▶ Implementation of stringent flight planning procedures tailored to high-risk zones.
  - ▶ Deployment of surveillance systems to monitor airspace activity and mitigate threats.
  - ▶ Adapting and reacting to emerging threats
- ▶ **Regional and International Collaboration:**
  - ▶ Coordination with ICAO, neighboring states, and aviation stakeholders to enhance information sharing.
  - ▶ Engagement with peacekeeping operations to ensure safe corridors for humanitarian and commercial flights.
- ▶ **Capacity Building and Infrastructure Development:**
  - ▶ Strengthening air traffic management through continuous personnel training.
  - ▶ Gradual expansion of airport facilities to accommodate growing operational demands



# In-Flight Risk Mitigation

## Content:

- ▶ - Mandatory check-ins (30-min intervals)
- ▶ - Altitude management
- ▶ - Real-time monitoring
- ▶ - Dynamic rerouting protocols



# Emergency Response Framework

---

Content:

---

Tiered response system:

- 
1. Pilot actions (immediate diversion)

---

  2. Ground coordination (UNMISS QRF)

---

  3. Medical evacuation (MAF on standby)





# Case Study

- ▶ - Situation: Sudden clashes near flight path
- ▶ - Actions:
  - ▶ - Immediate climb to 12,000ft
  - ▶ - Reroute to alternate corridor
  - ▶ - Outcome: Safe landing with 30-min delay
- ▶ Closure of the airspace
- ▶ NOTAMs issues



# Challenges and Lessons Learned

- ▶ Managing civil aviation in conflict zones has provided South Sudan with valuable insights. We have observed the critical importance of **real-time intelligence sharing, flexible airspace regulations, and investment in resilient aviation infrastructure.**
- ▶ Moreover, fostering **strong partnerships** with regional bodies and global aviation authorities has been instrumental in navigating conflict-related disruptions.





## A Vision for the Future

- ▶ Despite past challenges, South Sudan is steadfast in its commitment to enhancing airspace security, expanding aviation operations, and contributing to regional stability.
- ▶ Our vision is to establish an airspace environment where safety is paramount, allowing aviation to serve as a bridge for economic development, humanitarian aid, and national progress.



## Conclusion

As aviation professionals, policymakers, and stakeholders, our role extends beyond technical expertise—it encompasses a duty to ensure that civil aviation remains a pillar of **peace, connectivity, and development**, even in conflict-affected regions. South Sudan stands ready to **learn from, collaborate with, and contribute to** this global effort, strengthening the collective resilience of aviation in complex operational landscapes.



THANK YOU

