



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

Ninth Meeting of the Airspace and Aerodrome Operations Sub-Group of the Africa - Indian Ocean Aviation System Planning and Implementation Group (AAO/SG9)

Nairobi, Kenya 13-17 July 2026

Agenda Item 6.1: Coordination with IIM and SMO

Coordination with IIM and SMO

(Presented by Secretariat)

SUMMARY
This working paper presents the outcome of the meeting between the Airspace and Aerodrome Operations (AAO) and the Information Management (IIM) and Safety Management and Oversight (SMO) Subgroups highlighting a structured framework to enhance coordination between them. The paper identifies current coordination gaps, proposes harmonized governance mechanisms aligned with ICAO Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP) principles, and introduces practical implementation strategies to ensure synchronized operational, safety, and information management outcomes.
REFERENCE(S): GANP 8 th Edition AFI ANP AASPG/1 Report AASPG Procedural Handbook
Related ICAO Strategic Goal(s): ➤ Every Flight Is Safe and Secure ➤ Aviation Delivers Seamless, Accessible, and Reliable Mobility for All ➤ No Country Left Behind

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The increasing complexity of airspace operations and aerodrome management necessitates a system-wide integration approach, consistent with ICAO's Aviation System Block Upgrades (ASBU) methodology and performance-based framework.

1.2 The AAOSG serves as a technical platform addressing operational efficiency, capacity, and aerodrome-airspace interface management. However, effective implementation of its outputs relies heavily on alignment with:

- IIM Subgroup: Responsible for aeronautical information lifecycle management, digital data exchange, and SWIM integration.
- SMO Subgroup: Responsible for safety oversight, safety risk management, and compliance

monitoring.

1.3 Fragmentation among these domains has resulted in inconsistent implementation of operational improvements, particularly in areas such as:

- a) Aerodrome-airspace integration datasets
- b) Runway safety and operational risk mitigation
- c) Digital information exchange supporting decision-making

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 *System Interdependencies*

Airspace and aerodrome operations are inherently dependent on: Accurate and timely aeronautical information (IIM domain); Robust safety assurance frameworks (SMO domain). This interdependency mirrors ICAO Annex provisions, notably: Annex 11 (Air Traffic Services), Annex 14 (Aerodromes), Annex 15 (Aeronautical Information Services), Annex 19 (Safety Management)

2.2 *Identified Coordination Gaps*

- a) Fragmented Data Governance including Inconsistent integration of aerodrome data into ATM systems; Lack of harmonized digital data models across Subgroup.
- b) Limited Safety Feedback Loops such as Safety findings from SMO are not systematically fed into operational planning within AAOSG are reactive rather than predictive safety interventions.
- c) Parallel, Non-Synchronized Work Programmes Work plans of AAOSG, IIM, and SMO are developed independently leading to duplication of effort and missed synergies
- d) Weak Implementation Tracking including; Lack of joint monitoring indicators aligned with GANP performance areas (KPIs).

2.3 . Enhancement of monitoring mechanisms for AASPG Decisions and Conclusions and those of its Contributory Bodies

It is proposed that a centralized monitoring mechanism for Conclusions and Decisions, applicable across AASPG and its contributory bodies is established to ensure the necessary traceability from adoption to implementation, clear assignment of responsibilities, timelines and visibility of progress for decision-makers.

The proposed mechanism may include a centralized dashboard platform to support monitoring, reporting, and actions taken.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) Take note of the information provided in this paper;
- b) Review the coordination challenges identified between AAO, IIM, and SMO Subgroups;
- c) Endorse the proposed joint coordination mechanism between AASPG's contributory bodies, with the aim of establishing mechanism for the analysis and monitoring of decisions and conclusions.;
