



# **CIVIL/MILITARY BEST PRACTICES IN AVIATION SECTOR WITHIN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

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## 0. OBJECTIVE

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The objective of this presentation is to share DRC's experience, perspective and Challenges in Civil/Military Cooperation in ensuring safety, security and economy objectives of the Air Navigation System within the Kinshasa Flight information region (FIR) and Search and Rescue Region(SRR).



# I. LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED

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1. Based on the CC of december 7th 1944, DRC has promulgated the Law 10/014 of 31 december 2010 on civil aviation as amended and completed by the law 23/01 of january 12, 2023 :This law doesn't apply on State aircraft.

2. MOU on the civil military cooperation for civil aviation safety in DRC : signed on september 10, 2021: In this MOU, the army has taken the commitment to take into account the safety of civil aircraft whenever they are exercising.

3. The MOU is applicable only during peace time, under war circumstances the 4 Geneva conventions and other laws of the State are applied.

1. Head of State and Parliament

2. Civil Aviation Authority of DRC, Air Force, Régie des Voies Aériennes (RVA) , BPEA (aviation accident investigation office), Congo Airways.

3. Government



## 2. AREAS AND LEVEL OF COOPERATION

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The civil military cooperation in DRC is very efficient in almost all sectors of the aviation activities including inter alia :

- ❖ Aerodrome management : More than 25 airports across the country are used both by civil operator and military aircraft. Local coordination boards have been set in all our 4 International airports for safe operations,
- ❖ ASM, Instrument flight procedure design and FUA : Regular coordination meeting are taking place between the RVA (DRC ANSP) and Air force to update information about the safe use of some part of Prohibited areas such as FZR4 (at KIMBAMBI city). For this particular case, overflight by civil traffic on UA617 is allowed above FL245 as long as there's no NOTAM forbidding it.

Kinshasa FIR has in total 21 special airspace areas divided as follows :

- 05 Prohibited areas (P)
- 03 Dangerous areas (D)
- 13 Restricted areas (R).

So far, in terms of civil military cooperation, no major incident has ever been recorded in civil aviation operations due to military activities.





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- ❖ Both civilian and military are air navigation services providers regarding ATS, AIM-MAP, MET and CNS, a close collaboration is implemented when it comes to interchange informations and to train the staff. Most of time, RVA training center is the one which qualifies military ATCO though they are not bound with the provisions of annex I concerning aeronautical personnel licensing.
  - ❖ Search and Rescue is one the best area where interaction is huge between civil and military aeronautical professionals. There are many lines of communication between civil and military boards to coordinate operations. DRC Air force and the UN mission in Congo use to provide helicopters to assist the civil aviation for SAR operations.
  - ❖ Aviation accident and incident investigation : a close cooperation is observed when there is a need to investigate on aviation incident, in some cases we have in a single team civilian and military investigators to work together.
  - ❖ AVSEC : Common trainings are organized by the State to ensure the full respect of SARPs of the annex 17 relating to the aviation security.



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- ❖ UAS and UTM : Unmanned airspace and traffic management for RPAS operations are well coordinated between CAA, RVA and the Air Force so as to keep safe other civil aviation operations during drone operations.

In the high level, civil military collaboration is assured by the Government while cooperation in the same matter is made by different CEO of national aviation institutions led by the DG of CAA of the DRC,

Regarding coordination in the operational level, local civil military committees are set in place in most of aeronautical platforms such as N'djili Intl Airport (Kinshasa), Luano Intl Airport (Lubumbashi), Goma Intl Airport and Bangoka Intl Airport (Kisangani).



### 3. CHALLENGES

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- The civil military collaboration, cooperation and coordination in the DRC still face some challenges in terms of lack of information exchange in some circumstances where civilian operators are not associated in the Collaborative Decision Making,
- Fundings to support best implementation of other civil military procedures are coming late in some cases where they are needed to be made on time,
- Low frequency of joint exercises and staff training for the civil military cooperation.









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THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION