



ICAO

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

Twenty Seventh Meeting of the Africa-Indian Ocean 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

Progress on civil military coordination in Nigeria

(Presented by NIGERIA)

Summary	
<p>This working paper presents Nigeria's progress in developing a framework for Civil-Military Coordination (CMC) that involves the formation of a strategic-level Civil-Military Coordination Policy Team (CMAT) and an operational-level National Civil-Military Coordination Committee (NCMCC). Terms of Reference (ToR) have been defined for their tasks. A joint inspection team was established to visit military airports and joint user civil/military airports to ascertain challenges, following which far-reaching recommendations were made.</p> <p>A Memorandum of Cooperation (MoU) was developed with areas of coordination, cooperation and collaboration that included training, licensing, airworthiness, handling of VIP protocols, management of Special Use Airspace, etc.</p> <p>Progress has advanced and it is expected that a High-level commitment will be achieved by the formal signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) between civil and military authorities at the highest level, by the end of 2024.</p>	
Strategic Objective:	This working paper relates to ICAO Strategic Objective of Safety and Air Navigation Capacity enhancement
Financial Implication:	<p><i>For ICAO:</i> The cost will consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Facilitating the organising of a civil-military coordination Workshop; <p><i>For States:</i> The cost will consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Participation in civil-military coordination workshop; and b. Facilitating the development of a civil-military coordination framework.
Action by Meeting:	The actions by the Meeting are outlined in paragraph 4 of this working paper.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Contracting States to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, are obligated by the provisions of Article 3 (d) to cooperate with their military authorities for reason of national integrity and sovereignty and coordinate civil flight operations with military aviation to ensure the safety, regularity and efficiency of civil aviation as well as to ensure the requirements of military air traffic are met.

1.2 Aviation is a significant contributor to the global economy and therefore requires a stable and secure environment. The growth of civil aviation activities needs to be protected and encouraged, while concurrently appropriating priority to military aerial activities for security and defence purposes.

1.3 To best accommodate the needs of both civil and military stakeholders, Nigeria adopts the perspective that airspace is a strategic resource to be collectively managed in support of achieving national objectives.

1.4 This resource would be best managed through civil-military cooperation, supported by coordination, which would allow for civil aviation to flourish and for both civil and military aviation to operate safely and efficiently.

2.0 DISCUSSION

2.1 ICAO Assembly Resolution A40-4, adopted by the 40th Session of the ICAO Assembly [Assembly Resolutions in Force as of 4 October 2019 (Doc 10140)], describes the principles that guide the development of States' regulations and ICAO provisions and guidance concerning civil-military coordination and cooperation.

2.2 Civil-military coordination optimizes airspace for both civil and military operations and results in benefits including:

- a) attaining higher levels of safety;
- b) increase in airspace capacity;
- c) enhanced national security; and
- d) increase in operational efficiencies through the interoperability of civil and military aircraft; a reduction in distances flown; the establishment of optimal flight profiles; and a reduction in fuel consumption and carbon emissions.

2.3 Nigeria's Ministry of Defense which is charged with the responsibility of ensuring national security, and the Ministry of Aviation and Aerospace Development which is charged with the responsibility of formulation and management of civil aviation policies ensuring air safety, have considered it necessary to collaborate, cooperate, strategize and synergize to ensure safety and security of aviation in Nigeria.

2.4 In fulfillment of Nigeria's international obligation, the Ministry of Aviation and Aerospace Development approved the establishment of two important Committees: the high-level Civil-Military Aviation Cooperation Policy Team (CMAT); and the Nigeria Civil-Military Cooperation Committee (NCMCC) to strengthen civil-military coordination and cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

2.5 The CMAT is a high-level policy committee that is co-chaired by DGCA-Nigeria and The Chief of The Air Staff with various stakeholders as members. Similarly, the NCMCC is an operational and tactical level committee that is Chaired by a Director in the CAA with membership drawn from relevant stakeholders consisting of the Air Navigation Service Provider, the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency, NAMA; The Airport Operator, Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria, FAAN; and The Nigerian Air Force, NAF, representing the military.

2.6 The two Committees coordinate and collaborate in the enhancement of the following areas:

- i) Flexible use of airspace;
- ii) Civil-military collaborative decision-making in national airspace management;
- iii) Accident and incident investigations;
- iv) Aeronautical medical examinations/certification;
- v) Air traffic management cooperation;
- vi) Security cooperation;
- vii) Aircraft airworthiness cooperation;
- viii) Search and Rescue cooperation;
- ix) Communication, Navigation and Surveillance cooperation
- x) Joint use of military and civil aviation infrastructure;
- xi) Training and Licensing; and
- xii) VIP movements protocol.

2.7 The Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), in collaboration with NAF, NAMA and FAAN constituted a 9-man High-Level Team to conduct inspection tours of joint user aerodromes and military aerodromes to carry out gap analysis as part of the implementation of civil-military cooperation in Nigeria.

2.8 The outcome of the inspection visit made both parties appreciate the need to consolidate coordination and collaboration that is built on trust, for the advancement of their institution's mandate and the overall interest of safety and security in aviation.

2.9 While a lot has been achieved in consolidating the established relationship, there are a few areas that need to be covered. Significant is the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) which is yet to be achieved. A draft MOC already exists and it is expected that the formal signing will be done before the end of 2024.

3.0 ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to take note of the content of this working paper and:

- a. ICAO to coordinate the conduct of a workshop on the development of a civil-military coordination framework for States before the end of June 2026;
- b. ICAO to develop a template for Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) for States to adopt and adapt; and
- c. Urge States to establish a civil-military coordination framework for promoting the safety of International Air Navigation.

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