



## Regs & Ops meeting #4 UAS Coordination Technical Working Group

10 February. 2021

### Tour de table

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Opening remarks by Jo Gillespie welcoming everyone to fourth session of the Reqs & Ops TWG

Two presentations will be taking place in this meeting, starting with:

Operations sub-group presentation by WFP (Patrick McKay and Hugo Duplessis) and moderated by Olivier Defawe:

Patrick: will be covering the task in emergencies in terms of data collection; the key task for WFP in the emergency response to the two cyclones Idai and Kenneth that hit Mozambique in 2019 was to create maps. In a large emergency in particular where movement is affected, often the only way to know what is going on, is to get on a helicopter, go to the affected areas and see what is going on; however, helicopters are expensive and they can be better used rescuing people and distributing food. Therefore, instead of sending helicopters, WFP deployed drones to go to the affected areas to create very high-resolution maps. For more details and images taken of the before taken by satellite and the after pictures taken by drone, please watch the recording of the session (minute 6:00 – 7:37).

The process of the response: when cyclone Idai hit Mozambique it kicked off one of the biggest drones operations; most of the pilots knew how to map, but had limited knowledge on how to map large areas with very limited connectivity and power, and how to do it efficiently without leaving gaps or double mapping an area (please follow the recording for other challenges to the operations and details one how a typical day of emergency response looks like, minute 8:00 – 10:03)

Hugo: from an WFP’s Aviation and Safety units side, we coordinated three helicopters to do most of the operational work; there was also a lot of private NGOs that came in with their R22s’, helicopters and other fixed wings, and so very quickly all operators ran into problems with the drones team doing their work and therefore had to come up with a quick solution to these challenges and conflicts (for more details and for please follow the recording, minute 10:05 – 13:30)

Lesson learnt and more drone operational challenges can be found in the recording minute 13:40 – 18:20

Patrick: recommendations for future emergency response:

1. Plan before you arrive on site;
2. Data procedures are important;
3. Have a backup plan;
4. Do more than is asked.

Q&A:

Olivier: what is the level of Civil Aviation involvement when it comes to an emergency response like the one of Mozambique's?

Patrick: we had INGC with us who had direct contact with the Civil Aviation, so everything we did was cleared by them.

Olivier: should we (and this TWG can contribute to it) develop a document or a toolkit that consolidate and describes the processes that need to be in place and who should be contacted when a drone needs to be deployed in an emergency?

Patrick: this kind of document would be massively valuable, not just to WFP but to any drones operator.

Jo: This document is in the TOR and would be a product of this group.

Regulations sub-group presentation by ICAO (JC Shine and Leslie Cary) and moderated Jo:

Leslie: at ICAO, we have both the work program focused on certificated remotely piloted aircrafts (those who will be operating internationally under instrument flight rules) and the work that we do on this subject then provides the framework for other non-certificated UAS. (for more details on the standards and recommended practice please follow the recording minute 30:13- 34:40)

JC: in ICAO's guidance document specific to humanitarian activities (can be found on the ICAO website) and can be download: the model regulation, the advisory circular companion to those regulations, humanitarian narrative and application examples for an expedited application and more:

**UAS Non-Annex Guidance  Translation to the five ICAO languages**

Model Regs Part 101 & 102  
Model Regs Part 149  
AC 101-1  
AC 102-1  
AC 102-37  
Humanitarian Narrative  
U-AID Expedited Ap & Auth  
Accident Reporting Document  
SMS for UAS Operators  
Societal Interactions Document  
Safety Assurance AC  
Authorization to Fly  
GlobalMedic Mission Prep

For the current material, the cost for translation in five languages (Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian,

Q&A:

Jo: from a regulatory perspective, if a drone operator or WFP or any other humanitarian organization arrives in a country that doesn't have a regulatory framework; assuming there is a CAA, how do you engage and who do you engage with?

Leslie: going into any states whether the country has a regulations in place or not, to bring along a copy of the ICAO model regulations, there is a lot of material that is very helpful for the CAA because the chances are the regulations won't be as comprehensive as the ones in the model regulations. The CAA will have to determine what from within those model regulations would be acceptable to them, with their legal framework.

Steven O'Sullivan: I'm with UN peace keeping, we look at micro UAS operations in supporting peace operations; there is 13 UN peace operations around the world and one hybrid mission in Somalia. We have very robust aviation sections in every mission who control the helicopter flights, the fixed-wing flight...etc and part of that is aviation safety aspect. With that being said, when we find ourselves operating in areas with no regulations, we follow the ICAO model regulation and use that in our trainings as well.

Close-up:

- If any of the member would like to join a side subgroup to work on the toolkit, please contact Jo.
- Please remember to have a last look on the TOR for comment in order to finalize them.
- If any member has time, please check the Articles of Requirement document and send your input by email.
- Have a think if the Regs and Ops groups should be split into two separate groups.

Next TWG meeting is on **10 March 2021**