CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
SPECIAL MEETING ON GLOBAL FLIGHT TRACKING
MONTRÉAL, 12-13 MAY 2014

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), upon the completion of this Special Meeting on Global Flight Tracking of Aircraft, forged consensus among its Member States and the international air transport industry sector on the near-term priority to track airline flights, no matter their global location or destination. Furthermore, the meeting established a framework for future efforts in this regard for the medium and long term.

The meeting concluded that:

NEAR-TERM

a) global tracking of airline flights will be pursued as a matter of priority to provide early notice of and response to abnormal flight behaviour;

b) a DRAFT concept of operations on flight tracking will be developed that includes a clear definition of the objectives of flight tracking that ensures that information is provided in a timely fashion to the right people to support search and rescue, recovery and accident investigation activities, as well as, the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders;

c) under the ICAO framework, the contribution by the industry through an Aircraft Tracking Task Force (ATTF) will help address the near-term needs for flight tracking;

d) ICAO will consider establishing a short term joint ICAO/IATA advisory group to support the global tracking initiative;

e) airlines will be encouraged to use existing equipment and procedures to the extent possible to support flight tracking pending the outcome of the AATF;

f) in partnership with the Task Force, ICAO will develop guidance material, based on available flight tracking best practices;

g) a FINAL high level concept of operations should be delivered to the ICAO High Level Safety Conference (HLSC 2015, February, Montreal);

h) ICAO should increase its resources allocated to the Search and Rescue in order to improve the effectiveness across national and regional boundaries;

i) ICAO should, in collaboration with a pool of search and rescue experts, identify and address operational search and rescue challenges with implementation of existing Annex 12 provisions, and provide assistance to States, including aiding in the setting of priorities for the mid and long term;

j) ICAO should facilitate the sharing of experience and lessons learned from States that were recently involved in accidents where flight tracking could have facilitated search and rescue efforts to all other States;

k) ICAO should strongly encourage States to regularly run practice exercises involving airlines operation centres, air navigation service providers (ANSPs) and rescue coordination centres (RCCs) to test and verify their ability to respond and coordinate together in an integrated manner to abnormal flight behaviour scenarios;

MID-TERM

l) ICAO performance based provisions should be developed, using a multidisciplinary approach, on flight tracking to support the location of an accident site in a timely manner for the purpose of search and rescue and accident investigation;

m) ICAO performance based provisions addressing flight tracking requirements should be sufficiently flexible to accommodate regional needs and be commensurate to operational situations;

n) ICAO should encourage States and International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to take action, at the earliest opportunity, to provide the necessary spectrum allocations as emerging aviation needs are identified. This includes spectrum for satellite and radio services used for safety of life aviation services. ICAO encourages ITU to place this on the Agenda for the upcoming ITU World Radio Conference 2015;

o) COSPAS-SARSAT should be invited to continue to investigate, within its own program and in partnership with the industry, the means of improving the reliability and utility of emergency locator transmitter (ELTs), particularly in the context of flight tracking during a distress event; and

LONG-TERM

p) ICAO should work in coordination with ITU to develop aviation requirements for network communications associated with remote storage of flight information.

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