



# **Conference on Search and Rescue**

**(Saint Denis de La Réunion, September 3 – 7, 2007)**

**WP/8 – Draft International SAR Agreement**

**COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN \_\_\_\_\_ [STATE 1] AND \_\_\_\_\_  
[STATE 2] ON SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS FOR AIRCRAFT IN DISTRESS**

THE GOVERNMENT OF \_\_\_\_\_ [State 1]

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF \_\_\_\_\_ [State 2]

Mindful of the importance of cooperation in search and rescue (SAR) and the delivery of fast and efficient SAR services;

Desirous of establishing mutual assistance in search and rescue operations in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Convention on International Civil Aviation signed in Chicago on December 7, 1944;

The two States therefore agree as follows:

Article I. Definitions and Acronyms

For the purposes of this agreement, an aircraft or a ship is considered to be in distress if the craft and its occupants are facing, or presumed to be facing, serious and/or imminent danger for which they require immediate assistance.

The following definitions shall apply:

- **Search and Rescue (SAR):** The international acronym SAR covers all responsibility, activities or means used in the search and rescue of aircraft and ships in distress.
- **Search and Rescue Region (SRR):** An area with defined dimensions, associated with a rescue coordination centre, within which search and rescue services are provided.
- **Rescue Coordination Centre( RCC):** A unit responsible for promoting efficient organization of search and rescue services and for coordinating the conduct of search and rescue operations within a search and rescue region;
- **Rescue Sub-Centre (RSC):** A unit subordinate to a rescue coordination centre, established to complement the latter according to particular provisions of the responsible authorities;
- ***[Joint Search And Rescue Centre: (JRCC): A rescue coordination centre responsible for both aeronautical and maritime search and rescue operations.]***
- **Search and Rescue Unit (SRU):** A mobile resource composed of trained personnel and provided with equipment suitable for the expeditious conduct of search and rescue operations.

## Article II. Area of Applicability

The provisions of this agreement shall apply to the respective territories of \_\_\_\_\_ [State 1] and of \_\_\_\_\_ [State 2].

## Article III. Use of Resources

### III.01 Modalities for Requesting Assistance

When conducting SAR operations, RCC of \_\_\_\_\_ [State 1] or RCC of \_\_\_\_\_ [State 2] may at any time request assistance from the other centre.

When requesting assistance, RCC of \_\_\_\_\_ [State 1] or RCC of \_\_\_\_\_ [State 2] shall provide the assisting centre with the following information:

- a) Areas to be searched;
- b) Estimated time of stay of the aircraft, personnel and equipment in the territory;
- c) Full details of identification of each aircraft involved in the Search and Rescue;
- d) The number of persons in each aircraft including the identification details of such persons; and
- e) The number of crew of such aircraft including their identification details.

The assisting centre shall then, subject to availability, allocate SAR resources to the operation being conducted by the requesting centre.

Before the SAR resources of one of the two States participate in search and rescue operations within or over the territory of the other State, the requesting centre (RCC \_\_\_\_\_ [State 1] or RCC \_\_\_\_\_ [State2]) shall alert its State's territorial surveillance authorities.

### III.02 Facilitation of Entry for Search and Rescue Units

The requesting [State/RCC] shall allow without delay Search and Rescue units of the other State to enter into or leave its territory and to land at designated aerodromes within its territory.

### III.03 Deployment

Once deployed, SAR resources shall identify themselves as SAR units and shall remain at the disposal of the requesting centre until the operations are completed or withdrawn by the assisting centre.

[The SAR organization of the requesting State shall assume the cost of the following services provided within its territory:

- a) use of designated aerodromes and their equipment (if the SAR unit concerned is an aeronautical resource);
- b) assistance services;
- c) refuelling;
- d) lodging, meals and transportation of deployed unit personnel.]

All other operational costs shall be borne by the State that provided the resources.

At the end of the operation, the requesting centre shall provide the assisting centre with a report on the operation it coordinated, together with technical observations, where applicable.

At the end of the operation, the head of the requesting centre shall be responsible for recovering and returning to assisting State, reusable supplies and survival equipment belonging to the assisting units.

### III.04 Liability

The [assisting/requesting] State shall remain liable for the units it provides to the requesting Centre.

#### Article IV. Relations between SAR Authorities

The States shall participate in other collaborative SAR efforts, which shall include among others:

- exchange of pertinent SAR information;
- regular coordination meetings, with a jointly established agenda, shall be organized between these authorities, at least once every [three] years;
- Joint training and mutual visits by SAR personnel ;
- Joint exercises at least every [three] years;
- Coordination in development of SAR procedures and techniques.

#### Article V. Entry into force, termination and amendment

This agreement shall come into effect on the date it is signed by both States. It may be terminated upon a written three months notice.

Any amendment to this agreement shall be subject to a supplemental agreement signed under the same conditions.

DONE IN.....

In two original copies.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF \_\_\_\_\_  
[State 1]

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF \_\_\_\_\_  
[State 2]