



Conference on Search and Rescue

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

WP/9 – Draft International SAR Agreement

(Case of Several States Belonging to the Same SRR)

(Original text in the French language)

**COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN _____ [STATE 1] AND _____
[STATE 2] RESPECTING SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS FOR AIRCRAFT IN
DISTRESS¹**

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 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 international acronym SAR covers all responsibility, activities or means used in the search and rescue of aircraft and ships in distress. The following definitions shall apply:

- **Search and Rescue Region:** (international acronym: SRR): An area with defined dimensions, associated with a rescue coordination centre, in which search and rescue services are provided.
- **Rescue Coordination Centre** (international acronym: RCC): A unit responsible for promoting effective organization of search and rescue services and for coordinating the conduct of operations within a search and rescue region;
- **Rescue Sub-Centre** (international acronym: RSC): A unit subordinate to a rescue coordination centre, created to complement the latter in accordance with the specific provisions established by the competent authorities;
- ***[Joint Search And Rescue Centre: (international acronym: JRCC): Rescue coordination centre responsible for both aeronautical and maritime search and rescue incidents.]***
- **Search and Rescue Unit:** A unit composed of trained personnel and provided with equipment suitable for the expeditious conduct of search and rescue operations.

¹ This draft agreement is applicable in the case of two States, where the territory of one (State 2) is included in the SRR of the other (State 1)

Article II. Agreement Application Area

The provisions of this agreement concern the territory of _____ [State 1] and the parts of the territory of _____ [State 2] included in the SRR of _____ [State 1], as defined in the Air Navigation Plan of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) for the Africa - Indian Ocean Region.

Article III. Relations between RCC _____ [State 1] and RSC _____ [State 2]

III.01 Operational Command

Whenever an emergency situation occurs on the part of the territory of _____ [State 2] that falls within SRR _____ [State 1], the command of operations shall be permanently delegated to RSC _____ [State 2].

Without prejudice to the relevant provisions of Appendix 12 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation, if the area of occurrence of the emergency situation is unknown, but presumed to be located within the territory of one of the two States, RCC _____ [State 1] shall temporarily take over command of operations. Once the accident area is known, if it is located in the territory of _____ [State 2], operational command shall be transferred to RSC _____ [State 2].

In all cases, the centre (RCC _____ [State 1] or RSC _____ [State 2]) assuming operational command, may request assistance from the other centre.

III.02 Information Exchange

Each of the centres (RCC _____ [State 1] or RSC _____ [State 2]) shall promptly provide the other centre with information regarding the serviceability of its SAR resources.

Reports on operations overseen by RSC _____ [State 2] shall be forwarded to RCC _____ [State 1].

The centre assuming operational command shall promptly alert the other centre, should the incident require or subsequently require the use of the latter's resources.

Article IV. Use of Resources

IV.01 Crossing of Borders

Where the SAR resources of one of the two States shall be participating in search and rescue operations within or over the territory of the other State, the requesting centre (RCC _____ [State 1] or RSC _____ [State 2]) shall immediately alert its State's territorial surveillance authorities.

The requesting centre shall set up special procedures allowing for the prompt authorization of foreign aircraft to enter or fly over its territory.

IV.02 Modalities for Requesting Assistance

When requesting assistance, RCC _____ [State 1] or RSC _____ [State 2] shall provide the other centre with all useful information concerning the scope of the assistance required. The assisting centre shall then, subject to availability, allocate SAR resources to the operation being commanded by the requesting centre.

IV.03 Deployment

Once deployed, the SAR resources that are thus assigned shall inform the requesting centre of their quality, and shall remain available to this centre until the operations are completed. However, the assisting centre may at any time retake control over its resources should the need arise.

The SAR organization of the requesting centre 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 commanded, together with technical observations, where applicable.

At the end of the operation, the head of the requesting centre shall be responsible for recovering of reusable supplies and survival equipment on the territory of _____ [State 1] or of _____ [State 2].

IV.04 Liability

The assisting State shall remain liable for the resources it provides to the requesting Centre.

Article V. Joint Exercises

Joint exercises, details of which shall be specified on a case-by-case basis, shall be organized at least every three years.

Article VI. Relations between SAR Authorities

Each State shall take steps to ensure that SAR officials are authorized, as part of this agreement, to directly exchange information on all matters relating to the search and rescue of aircraft in distress.

Regular coordination meetings, with a jointly established agenda, shall be organized between these authorities, at least once every three years.

Article VII. General Provisions

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 AT.....
In two original copies.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF _____
[State 1]

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF _____
[State 2]