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Outcome of the Special Meeting on Global Flight Tracking of Aircraft (Montreal, Canada, 12-13 May 2015)

David Labrosse
Regional Officer ATM/SAR

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Outline

- Meeting Outcome
- Recommendations





Meeting Outcome

- Following the incident involving MH370 on 8 March 2014, ICAO convened a Special Meeting on Global Flight Tracking of Aircraft.
- The meeting 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.



Meeting Outcome

- ICAO and the industry acknowledged that the MH370 incident had been an unprecedented event for aviation.
- ICAO also acknowledges that its flight safety work logically focuses the majority of its energy and resources on accident prevention, and this was something totally beyond expectation.
- It was agreed that ICAO should develop a flight tracking concept of operations covering how the new tracking data should be shared.



Meeting Outcome

- The meeting also recognized the challenges faced by States when coordinating their SAR efforts across national and regional areas of responsibility.
- The meeting also recognized the strong level of international cooperation and resource sharing on MH370 SAR efforts.
- “**Cooperation** is the key to everything we achieve in global air transport” (*Dr Olumuyiwa Bernard Aliu, President of ICAO*).



Meeting Outcome

- The meeting urged Civil Aviation Authorities to support the safety initiative to enhance effectiveness of SAR services.



Meeting Conclusions - Near Term

- Global tracking of airline flights will be pursued as a matter of priority to provide early notice of and response to abnormal flight behaviour.
- A **DRAFT concept of operations** on flight tracking will be developed that includes a clear definition of the objectives of flight tracking that ensures 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.



Meeting Conclusions - Near Term

- Under ICAO framework, establish and Aircraft Tracking Task Force (ATTF) to help address the near-term needs of flight tracking.
- Airlines will be encouraged to use existing equipment and procedures to the extent possible to support flight tracking , pending the outcome of the ATTF.
- ICAO, in partnership with the ATTF, will develop guidance material, based on available flight tracking best practices.



Meeting Conclusions - Near Term

- ICAO should increase its resources allocated to SAR in order to improve the effectiveness across national and regional boundaries.
- ICAO, should, in collaboration with a pool of SAR experts, identify and address operational SAR challenges with implementation of existing Annex 12 provisions, and provide assistance to States, including aiding in the setting of priorities for mid and long term.



Meeting Conclusions - Near Term

- 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.
- ICAO should strongly encourage States to regularly run practice exercises involving airlines operation centres, ANSPs and RCCs to test and verify their ability to respond and coordinate together in an integrated manner to abnormal flight behaviour scenarios.





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