



Agenda Item 3: Specific Air Navigation Activities and Developments
3.3 Search and Rescue (SAR)

SAR AGREEMENT

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This working paper presents a SAR agreement model so that States may develop and/or update their respective SAR national and international co-operation agreements in the E/CAR.

References:

- Annex 12 – *Search and Rescue*
- Doc.9731 - *International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual (IAMSAR)*

1. Introduction

1.1 Annex 12, in its Chapter 3 – *Cooperation*, establishes that the contracting States shall coordinate their search and rescue organizations with those of the neighbouring States, subject to the conditions prescribed by their own authorities.

1.2 On the other hand, the latest version published of Doc 9731 IAMSAR, Appendix I, presents an agreement model for States to reach a co-operation agreement among the aeronautical and maritime authorities.

1.3 Based on this information, during the CAR Region Search and Rescue (SAR) Meeting/Workshop held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from 28 March-01 April 2005, subjects related with co-operation agreements of the SAR service, AMVER and COSPAS-SARSAT were discussed, and a common model for Regional Agreement of Search and Rescue Service was agreed upon. The model agreed is depicted in the **Appendix** to this Working Paper

2 Analysis

2.1 The E/CAR States/Territories, in support of an effective regional SAR system should foster regional SAR cooperation through the adoption of the model for regional SAR agreement in order to provide search and rescue services in compliance with the requirements within the CAR region. In this regard, it is very important to ratify and/or set forth bilateral and multilateral agreements considering the

information provided in this working paper to establish an effective *modus operandi* and coordination between rescue co-ordination centres (RCCs) and rescue sub-centres (RSCs) concerned.

2.7 The agreements will permit to continue working on a regional SAR system harmonized through co-operation agreements with the neighbouring States, as well as to facilitate coordination between RCCs for the entrance of SAR brigades of a State in the territory of another State. Also, this agreements might facilitate the entrance of SAR brigades with a minimum of formalities to the place where an aviation accident occurs for the sake of rescuing the accident survivors.

3. **Suggested action**

3.1 States and Territories of the E/CAR that have not yet done so are urged to:

- a) present an up-to-date report of their SAR co-operation agreements;
- b) establish agreements and bilateral and/or multilateral coordination actions with other States/Territories/International Organizations allowing the use of mechanisms and resources to improve SAR services, adopting the format of the Appendix to this Working Paper; and
- c) submit to the ICAO NACC Office, by 30 August 2005, a report on the progress attained in this regard.

APPENDIX

AGREEMENT ON AERONAUTICAL AND/OR MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE BETWEEN:

_____, _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____.

1 INTRODUCTION

Knowing the importance of co-operation in search and rescue (SAR), and of the provision of expeditious and effective SAR services;

Desiring to support the provisions of the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and/or the Convention on International Civil Aviation of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO); and

Seeking to provide an overall plan for SAR co-ordination, use of available resources, mutual assistance, and efforts to improve SAR services;

The Parties have agreed as follows:

2 EXTENT OF ASSISTANCE

The Parties agree to co-operate in the following areas:

- (a) Support each other by pooling SAR facilities as appropriate for operations within their respective search and rescue regions (SRRs);
- (b) Make, and respond to, requests for operational assistance between the designated rescue co-ordination centres (RCCs) or rescue sub-centres (RSCs) of the Parties as capabilities allow;
- (c) Develop procedures and communications appropriate for co-ordination among facilities of both Parties responding to the same distress incident, in co-ordination between the RCCs or RSCs of the Parties;
- (d) Normally apply the guidance of the International Aeronautical and Maritime SAR manuals regarding SAR operational procedures and communications;
- (e) Work to establish agreed procedures, with balanced concern for sovereignty and for saving lives, regarding entry of various types of SAR facilities into the territory of the other Party, solely for a search or a rescue operation; and
- (f) Enter into other collaborative SAR efforts which may include:
 - Mutual visits by SAR personnel of the parties;
 - Joint training or exercises
 - Co-operation in development of SAR procedures, techniques, equipment, or facilities;
 - Exchange of pertinent SAR or communication information; and
 - Establishment of one or more SAR committees to provide a means for ongoing co-operation in improving SAR effectiveness.

3. SEARCH AND RESCUE REGIONS

Establishment of SRRs is intended only to effect an understanding concerning where each Party accepts primary responsibility for co-ordinating or providing SAR services. SRRs of the Parties shall be separated by lines connecting points as follows: [appropriate co-ordinate points describing applicable lines.]

4. TERMS OF AGREEMENT

Each Party will:

- (a) Keep the other fully and promptly informed of all SAR operations of mutual interest, or which may involve use of facilities of the other Party;
- (b) Keep information readily available on the availability of any SAR facilities or other resources which may be needed for implementing these agreements;
- (c) Authorize its RCC(s) to request assistance from the RCC(s) of the other Party, and to provide all pertinent information on the distress situation and scope of assistance needed;
- (d) Authorize its RCC(s) to promptly respond to any request for assistance from an RCC of the other Party;
- (e) Authorize its RCC(s) to promptly arrange, or arrange in advance, with other national authorities for territorial entry of SAR of the other Party (including overflight or landing of SAR aircraft, in similar accommodation of surface (land or water) SAR units) as circumstances dictate for fueling, medical or other appropriate and available operational support, or in response to a request to the RCC of the other Party for assistance of those facilities which will involve territorial entry;
- (f) Normally fund its own activities in relation to this agreement unless otherwise arranged by the Parties in advance, and, in any event, will not allow a matter of reimbursement of costs to delay response to persons in distress.

5. GENERAL PROVISIONS

This Agreement:

Shall enter into force... [provisions as appropriate];
May be amended ... [provisions as appropriate]; and
May be terminated or superseded ...[provisions as appropriate].