



**WORKING PAPER**

**ICAO/IMO JOINT WORKING GROUP  
ON HARMONIZATION OF AERONAUTICAL  
AND MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE (ICAO/IMO JWG-SAR)**

**FOURTEENTH MEETING**

**Saint Gilles, La Réunion, 10 to 14 September 2007**

**Agenda Item 3: Provisions of conventions, plans, manuals and other documents affecting SAR:**

**Establishment of SAR Coordinating Committees**

(Presented by the ICAO Secretariat)

**SUMMARY**

This document submits to the ICAO/IMO JWG for discussion a draft proposed amendment to Annex 12 regarding the establishment of SAR Coordinating Committees.

Action by the ICAO/IMO JWG is in paragraph 3.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Coordination is a key concept for Search and rescue (SAR) operations. Being able to pool together available resources in order to respond as effectively as possible to an aircraft or vessel distress alert is one of SAR managers' main challenges.

1.2 Yet, available resources, at the level of a State or a region, are generally operated by a variety of public and private entities, hence the need for a coordination forum. The IAMSAR Manual therefore provides that "A popular and effective process for SAR co-ordination is the establishment and use of SAR co-ordination committees (SCCs)." (Volume 1, paragraph 6.3.3).

1.3 Experience teaches that most States around the Globe have established SCCs. However, some States have not yet established SCCs, nor have they implemented alternative coordination tools.

1.4 It is therefore suggested to include a provision on the establishment of a SCC in Annex 12 to the Chicago Convention.

## 2. PROPOSAL TO AMEND ANNEX 12 — *SEARCH AND RESCUE*

2.1 Amending annexes to the Chicago Convention is a relatively formal and complex process. The JWG has no responsibility in this process. According to its mandate, however, the JWG may make “recommendations [...] directly to both organizations”.

2.2 The JWG is therefore invited to discuss the proposed addition to Annex 12 of a paragraph on the establishment of SCCs.

2.3 the addition will be a recommended practice. It could be included in Chapter 2 (Organization), after paragraph 2.1.1.3 (in Section 2.1 *Search and rescue services*)

2.4 Paragraph 2.1.1.2 reads as follows: “Basic elements of search and rescue services shall include a legal framework, a responsible authority, organized available resources, communication facilities and a workforce skilled in coordination and operational functions.”

2.5 Paragraph 2.1.1.3 reads as follows “Search and rescue services shall establish processes to improve service provision, including the aspects of planning, domestic and international cooperative arrangements and training.”

2.6 It is proposed that a new paragraph 2.1.1.4 be inserted: “**Recommendation.** *Contracting States should establish SAR Coordinating Committees, where practical, for the purposes of:*

- *Providing a standing forum for coordination of administrative and operational search and rescue matters; and*
- *Developing plans, policies, procedures and manuals.”*

2.7 Alternatively, the same paragraph could be included in Chapter 3 (Cooperation), in Section 3.2 (*Cooperation with other services*), after paragraph 3.2.2 that reads as follows: “**Recommendation.**— *Contracting States should ensure the closest practicable coordination between the relevant aeronautical and maritime authorities to provide for the most effective and efficient search and rescue services.”*

## 3. ACTION BY THE ICAO/IMO JWG

3.1 The ICAO/IMO JWG is invited to:

- a) consider the information provided;
- b) discuss the proposed addition of a paragraph on SCC in Annex 12;
- c) discuss the proposed text presented in paragraph 2.6; and
- d) recommend one of the alternatives presented in paragraphs 2.3 and 2.7, with respect to the choice of the Chapter this addition would be inserted in.

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