



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 5: SAR system administration, organization and implementation methods:
5.3: quality/improvement, needs assessment, risk management, (including subregional
organizations) and resource allocation**

**THE COSPAS-SARSAT PROGRAMME
LONG-TERM PLANNING EFFORT**

(Presented by Cospas-Sarsat)

SUMMARY

This document provides background on the current Cospas-Sarsat Programme long-term planning effort and invites the ICAO/IMO JWG-SAR to provide input based on the IMO/ICAO perspective.

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

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Cospas-Sarsat Programme assists search and rescue activities on a worldwide basis by providing accurate, timely, and reliable distress alert and location data to the international community on a non-discriminatory basis. The Cospas-Sarsat space segment is contributed by France, Canada, United States, Russia, India and EUMETSAT. As at 2006, the System was supported by 25 ground segment providers, nine user states and included two participating organizations.

1.2 In October 2006, the Cospas-Sarsat Council endorsed the development of a long-term plan for the Programme and established a Long-Term Planning Experts' Working Group (EWG). The EWG will meet in September 2007 under terms of reference which include determining the intended use and audience of a long-term Cospas-Sarsat plan, proposing focus areas for the Programme, and proposing an initial scope of work to further the development of the plan.

1.3 In preparation for the EWG, a correspondence group has discussed the possible purpose for the long-term plan, the audience for such a plan, and factors which could impact the Programme in the future. A preparatory meeting was held during the course of the Cospas-Sarsat Programme Joint Working Group meeting in June 2007.

1.4 The Cospas-Sarsat Programme draws its mandate and mission from the missions and directives of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). Input from IMO and ICAO on future plans relating to search and rescue will assist Cospas-Sarsat in developing an accurate and useful long-term plan.

1.5 The IMO/ICAO JWG-SAR is invited to provide input from the IMO/ICAO perspective on long-term search and rescue issues and changes for consideration by Cospas-Sarsat during the long-term planning efforts.

2. PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS TO DATE

2.1 To assist the IMO/ICAO JWG-SAR in focusing any possible input to the Cospas-Sarsat long-term planning effort, the audience, the purpose of the plan, and initial thoughts on future trends that might affect Cospas-Sarsat are listed below. Also listed are the planning assumptions agreed and approved by the Cospas-Sarsat Council.

2.2 The following assumptions give an underlying framework for the Cospas-Sarsat long-term plan, considered for a 20-year time-frame.

- a) there will be an international organization that coordinates Programme activities in the future;
- b) the MEOSAR system will be implemented;
- c) the current International Cospas-Sarsat Programme Agreement will not be significantly altered in the foreseeable future;
- d) there will be a Secretariat function; and
- e) there will be a user community for the Cospas-Sarsat System.

2.3 The audience for the Cospas-Sarsat long-term plan includes IMO, ICAO, national administrations, the Cospas-Sarsat Council, and SAR services.

2.4 The intended uses, currently in draft form, of the Cospas-Sarsat Long-Term Plan are:

- a) serve as a basis for a general agreement among all participants of how the Programme will evolve;
- b) aid the Programme in decision-making in the short- and medium- term;
- c) identify the goals and objectives of the Programme;
- d) convey the long-term plan of the Programme to customers [SAR Services] and other stakeholders; and
- e) demonstrate the intention of the Programme to provide services into the future.

3. ACTION REQUIRED

3.1 While drafting the focus areas for the long-term plan, and potentially drafting the plan itself within the next year, Cospas-Sarsat would like to ensure that Cospas-Sarsat goals and objectives are not misaligned with the guidance provided by IMO and ICAO to the SAR community.

3.2 Cospas-Sarsat invites the ICAO/IMO JWG-SAR to specifically comment on:

- a) IMO and ICAO priorities that may affect C/S;
- b) challenges that Cospas-Sarsat could help IMO and ICAO address;
- c) converging or diverging interests between Cospas-Sarsat and IMO or ICAO;
- d) IMO or ICAO safety or search and rescue performance indicators that Cospas-Sarsat can contribute to;
- e) new or emerging issues that may impact Cospas-Sarsat in the future; and
- f) trends that might affect Cospas-Sarsat, such as an increased user base (larger Personal Locator Beacon population), changes in technology, potential changes in IMO or ICAO regulations.

3.3 Cospas-Sarsat would like to more fully understand the vision of the ICAO/IMO JWG-SAR as it relates to satellite-aided search and rescue. The ICAO/IMO JWG-SAR is also invited to list any shortcomings that Cospas-Sarsat should consider addressing in the long-term plan.