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WORKING PAPER

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Fourth NAM/CAR Air Navigation Implementation Working Group Meeting (ANI/WG/4)
Miami, United States, 21 – 24 August 2018

Agenda Item 3: Global and Regional Air Navigation Plans
3.3 Proposal of AGA, MET and SAR integration to ANI/WG

CAR REGIONAL SAR STRATEGY

(Presented by the Secretariat)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
This Working Paper presents the current Search and Rescue level of implementation in the CAR Region, with an update of the Regional Performance Objective Improve Search and Rescue Services of the RPBANIP; identification of the regional implementation challenges, and suggested actions to address them.	
Action:	The suggested actions are presented in Section 4.
Strategic Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safety• Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency• Economic Development of Air Transport
References:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Convention on International Civil Aviation, ICAO Doc 7300/9• Annex 12 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation.- Search and Rescue• NAM/CAR Regional Performance-Based Air Navigation Implementation Plan (RPBANIP)

1. Introduction

1.1 Assistance to aircraft in distress is one of the basic principles of the Chicago Convention. Moreover, States and Territories of the CAR Region rely heavily in the tourism industry, that for their location in Caribbean archipelago have aviation as their main transportation for foreign visitors.

1.2 An established Search and Rescue (SAR) service is a priority to guarantee lives of traveling public, air transport continuity, and the significant contribution of aviation. Availability of SAR resources often provides the initial response and relief capabilities critical to saving lives in early stages of natural and man-made disasters.

1.3 Poor response or ineffective response to a major accident or disaster can also result in world-wide publicity and adversely affect sensitive industries for Caribbean States, such as tourism and transportation. Therefore, an effective SAR service is a vital component to maintain the safe provision of regional air navigation services, and the significant contribution of aviation to the prosperity and growth of the Caribbean economies.

2. Current situation

2.1 Unfortunately, the current SAR implementation in the CAR region reflects a strong contrast with what was expected. The USOAP Results for the SAR related PQs in the ANS area is 48.13%. 9 States of the CAR region have not established an entity which provides, on a 24-hour basis, SAR services within its territory and the areas where the State has accepted responsibility to provide SAR to ensure that assistance is rendered to persons in distress.

2.2 The NAM/CAR Regional Performance-Based Air Navigation Implementation Plan (RPBANIP) has 1 Regional Performance Objective (RPO) for the improvement of search and rescue (SAR) services. SAR RPO and all its related tasks have not been addressed by any ANI/WG body (or any other NACC implementation body). Therefore, it is evident that from the very conception of the planning process no progress or regional support should be expected in this entire area

2.3 It is crucial to raise awareness of this situation with all States and Territories of the CAR Region, to make them understand that without resources and their commitment nothing can be accomplished for SAR implementation. Their support is vital to make some progress.

3. Main challenges

3.1 The first version of the RPBANIP was published in May 2008. Ten years later, the CAR region has not decided to empower a regional body to lead the support for SAR implementation.

3.2 Improve Search and Rescue (SAR) Services RPO related tasks have a start-end date of 2013-2016. ANI/WG meetings were celebrated in 2015 and 2016, and no corrective actions were taken for the lack of SAR progress.

4. Suggested actions

4.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) Establish an ad-hoc group to plan SAR implementation for the CAR Region and draft a regional SAR Plan. This regional plan shall include concrete recommendations to address regional SAR support, identifying ongoing regional initiatives and opportunities to enhance them at a wider level;
- b) This ad-hoc group should be composed by the following States, Territories and International Organizations:
 - United States of America (US Coast Guard)
 - Trinidad and Tobago (TTCAA)
 - Curacao, Aruba and Bonaire (Joint Rescue Co-ordination Centre Dutch Caribbean Coast Guard (JRCC DCCG))
 - Dominican Republic (IDAC)
 - Cuba (IACC)
 - COCESNA
- c) This SAR ad-hoc group shall present its results to the ICAO NACC Regional Office no later than December 1st 2018.