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North American, Central American and Caribbean Office

WORKING PAPER

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**Fifth NAM/CAR Air Navigation Implementation Working Group Meeting (ANI/WG/5)**  
Mexico City, Mexico, 27 to 31 May, 2019

- Agenda Item 2: Review and Follow-up to Valid Conclusions/Decisions of the ANI/WG/04, NACC/WG/05 and GREPECAS/18 Meetings**
- 2.1 Follow-up and performance and monitoring assessment of the NAM/CAR Regional Performance-Based Air Navigation Implementation Plan (RPBANIP)**
- 2.1.3 AGA, MET and SAR Information**

**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR) ACTIVITIES**

(Presented by Secretariat)

<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	
This Working Paper presents the progress on the activities related to SAR implementation, from the decisions of the Fourth NAM/CAR Air Navigation Implementation Working Group Meeting (ANI/WG/4).	
<b>Action:</b>	Suggested actions are presented in Section 6.
<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Safety</li><li>• Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency</li><li>• Economic Development of Air Transport</li></ul>
<i>References:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Report of the Fourth NAM/CAR Air Navigation Implementation Working Group Meeting (ANI/WG/4), Miami, United States, 21 – 24 August 2018</li><li>• Report of the NAM/CAR Search and Rescue (SAR) Implementation and Civil-military Coordination Meeting, Mexico City, Mexico, 5 – 7 November 2018</li></ul>

**1. Introduction**

1.1 The adequate provision of Search and Rescue (SAR) services is a fundamental part of sustaining a well-thought air navigation system, which focuses on the protection of passengers' lives. Assistance to aircraft in distress is therefore one of the basic principles of the Chicago Convention.

1.2 For several years the Region has left aside such an important role, focusing mainly on addressing the air navigation system operational growth. Considering the importance of aviation for our Region, an effective SAR service is a vital part to maintain the safe provision of air navigation services and the important contribution of aviation to the prosperity and growth of Caribbean economies.

## **2. Background**

2.1 During the Fourth NAM/CAR Air Navigation Implementation Working Group Meeting (ANI/WG/4), held in Miami, United States from 21 to 24 August 2018, the ICAO Secretariat presented the CAR Regional Strategy for SAR Implementation, which proposed establishing an Ad hoc Group to plan SAR implementation for the CAR Region and draft a SAR regional plan.

2.2 This regional plan should include concrete recommendations to address regional SAR support, identifying ongoing regional initiatives and opportunities to expand them to a broader level.

2.3 This Ad hoc Group was composed of Cuba, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, United States (United States Coast Guard), and the Central American Corporation of Air Navigation Services (COCESNA), having to present their work results to the ICAO NACC Regional Office by 1 December 2018.

2.4 At this same meeting, the Secretariat presented a proposal to integrate the AGA, MET and SAR initiatives to the ANI/WG. Both initiatives received the expected support from the States, which allowed the consolidation of the assigned tasks.

## **3. SAR Ad hoc Group Work**

3.1 The SAR Ad hoc Group held several teleconferences to attend the delegated tasks and worked on the development of the first draft CAR Regional SAR Plan (presented as **Appendix** to this working paper).

3.2 The SAR Ad hoc Group considered that the CAR Regional SAR Plan should be the main conceptual document to support the regional implementation of Search and Rescue in the Caribbean Region. The purpose of this Plan would be to provide a framework to assist CAR States to comply with their accepted obligations under the Chicago Convention, for the harmonized and interoperable delivery of aeronautical and maritime SAR services within the region, and through other regions, where applicable. The SAR Plan would be the main planning document for SAR implementation, to translate the requirements of Annex 12 - *Search and Rescue* to the regional context of the Caribbean.

#### 4. **NAM/CAR Search and Rescue (SAR) Implementation and Civil-military Coordination Meeting (SAR/CM)**

4.1 Continuing with the proposed works, the Secretariat convened the First Search and Rescue Implementation Meeting (SAR) and Civic-Military Coordination NAM/CAR (SAR/CM), held in Mexico City, Mexico, from 5 to 7 November 2018. This meeting was attended by representatives of 12 States and International Organizations of the CAR Region, including members of the Ad hoc Group.

4.2 The meeting reviewed and agreed to support this Plan, and requested the SAR Ad hoc Group and the Secretariat to continue the process to seek its approval in order to comply with Decision ANI/WG/4/04, in compliance with the established deadline. It was agreed that the Caribbean SAR Plan should evolve to establish regional performance standards with respect to the provision and supervision of the SAR.

#### *DECISION*

*ANI/WG/4/04*

#### *DEVELOPMENT OF THE CAR REGIONAL SAR PLAN*

*That, in order to support SAR implementation in the CAR Region, the ANI/WG establish an Ad hoc Group to draft the Regional SAR implementation Plan for the CAR Region and 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; this Ad hoc Group will be composed by the following States, Territories and International Organizations:*

- *Cuba*
- *Dominican Republic*
- *United States (US Coast Guard)*
- *Trinidad and Tobago*
- *COCESNA*

*and shall present its results to the ICAO NACC Regional Office by 1 December 2018.*

4.3 Additionally, the Meeting decided to support the establishment of the SAR Task Force as part of the structure of the ANI/WG, and to remind the States/Territories/International Organizations of the NAM/CAR Regions to comply with Conclusion ANI/WG/04/02 providing their SAR Point of Contact.

**CONCLUSION**  
**ANI/WG/04/02**

**GREATER SUPPORT FROM STATES AND AIRPORT OPERATORS TO AGA/AOP,  
 MET AND SAR TASK FORCES**

*That, States/Territories, International Organizations' airport operators (operational staff), show a stronger commitment and take more effective action in support of GREPECAS AGA, MET and SAR harmonized Projects, and designate experts as focal points by 31 October 2018, in order to support the implementation of aerodrome certification, meteorology and search and rescue activities through the integration into the ANI/WG.*

**5. Conclusions**

5.1 An adequate SAR service is a priority to guarantee the life of the traveling public, the continuity of air transport and the important contribution of aviation. The availability of SAR resources often provides the initial response and critical relief capabilities to save lives in the early stages of natural and man-made disasters.

5.2 SAR implementation, although evaluated individually, depends significantly on regional collaboration frameworks. SAR response, mainly measured in times of urgency, depends to a large extent on the organization of the services and the SAR preparations made before any SAR operation is carried out and is based on considerable planning and coordinated approaches. Therefore, regional actions have a direct relevance to SAR.

**6. Suggested Actions**

6.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) approve the CAR Regional SAR Plan that is presented in Appendix to this working paper;
- b) establish a SAR Task Force as part of the ANI/WG structure;
- c) to take the needed actions for the organization of this SAR Task Force and convene its first meeting with the SAR activities proposed by the ICAO NACC Regional Office;
- d) remind the NAM/CAR States, Territories and International Organizations to comply with ANI/WG/04/02 Conclusion and provide its SAR Point of Contact to the ICAO NACC Regional Office; and
- e) take any additional action deemed necessary.

**APPENDIX**

**INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION**



**CARIBBEAN SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR) PLAN**

Draft Version 1.0 November 2018

This Plan was developed by the NAM/CAR Search and Rescue Ad hoc Group

Approved by:

NAM/CAR Air Navigation Implementation Working Group

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>1.</b>	<b>SCOPE OF THE PLAN</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>OBJECTIVES</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>BACKGROUND INFORMATION</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>CURRENT SITUATION</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>FUTURE DEVELOPMENT</b> .....	<b>23</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS</b> .....	<b>24</b>
	<b>APPENDIX A: ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS</b> .....	<b>25</b>
	<b>APPENDIX B: WORK PLAN FOR THE [[JOINT]] SAREX COORDINATION MEETING</b> .....	<b>27</b>
	<b>APPENDIX C: BENEFITS TO THE SAR SYSTEM OF STATES ASSISTING OTHER STATES</b> .....	<b>28</b>

## SCOPE OF THE PLAN

### Plan Structure

1.1 The Caribbean (CAR) Search and Rescue (SAR) Plan (hereinafter referred to as the 'Plan') references different levels. At the higher level are global requirements established by the Annex 12 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, Search and Rescue (Annex 12). Global guidance material is provided by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and ICAO's joint publication, the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (IAMSAR) Manual. Beneath this is regional planning guidance primarily provided by this Plan and other regional guidance material, in order to enable States to define the goals and means of meeting objectives for State planning towards improving State SAR System capability, such as NAM/CAR Regional Performance-Based Air Navigation Plan objectives.

1.2 The global air navigation perspective is guided mainly by Doc 9750 – *Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP)*, Doc 9854 – *Global ATM Operational Concept* and Doc 10004 – *Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP)*.

1.3 The scope of the Plan is the identification of:

- the current status of SAR preparedness of CAR Region States and State SAR arrangements; and
- recommendations for SAR planning and preparedness enhancements, in terms of compliance with Annex 12, IAMSAR Manual guidance, Regional Air Navigation Plans and accepted best international practice.

1.4 References in the Plan to 'States' are intended to include Territories and International Organizations.

### Plan Review

1.5 As an iterative process, the Plan requires regular updating to keep current with changes in ICAO Annexes and guidance material, the IAMSAR manual, regional aviation activity, developments in the Air Traffic Management (ATM) system, new technology, political considerations, human performance and lessons learned from actual SAR responses and exercises. Plan updates should also focus on the SAR system being an important component of an integrated regional and global air navigation system. It is intended that the ANI/WG and its contributory bodies conduct a complete review every three years from 2019 (or a shorter period determined by NAM/CAR Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Group) of the Plan to align with the review cycle of the GANP and the IAMSAR Manual. The review should be guided by a consultative process involving States and relevant International Organisations such as the IMO and other technical bodies.

## OBJECTIVES

### Introduction

2.1 Caribbean States who are signatories to the Convention on International Civil Aviation accept the responsibility for the provision of SAR services per the requirements of Annex 12 - *Search and Rescue*. Increase in both aviation and maritime traffic throughout the CAR Region places additional importance on the ability for States to be adequately prepared for potentially increased demand for aeronautical and maritime SAR services.

2.2 The world's citizens, who frequently fly over or sail through the Caribbean, expect a timely and adequate SAR response to be provided should it be required. States in the Region need to be adequately prepared for the provision of efficient and effective SAR services. To assist in achieving this, it is essential for States to cooperate, collaborate and in some cases assist with resources to neighbouring and sub-regional RCCs.

2.3 As reflected by the results of the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme – Continuous Monitoring Approach (USOAP-CMA) there are significant variations in the level of State SAR compliance and capability across the CAR Region with significant gaps requiring urgent action, especially in oceanic areas.

2.4 There is a high risk of negative consequences to a State which does not provide an adequate SAR response to an aircraft or vessel in distress. The primary concern is the higher probability for loss of lives which may have been saved. The ability for news to spread rapidly in today's technologically connected world also provides the opportunity for a poor or ineffective SAR response to quickly reach a global audience resulting in damage to that State's reputation internationally and potential economic loss to sensitive State industries such as tourism and transport. However, the benefits of an effective and reliable SAR service to States offers many advantages. In addition to the reduction of the risk of loss of life and human suffering, other advantages include the following aspects.

- a) ***Safer and more secure environment for aviation and maritime related industries, commerce, recreation and travel.*** Increased safety may promote use and enjoyment of aviation and maritime environments, tourism and economic development. This is especially true when the SAR system is associated with programmes aimed at preventing or reducing the effects of mishaps, sometimes referred to as "Preventative SAR."
- b) ***Availability of SAR resources often provides the initial response and relief capabilities critical to saving lives in the early stages of natural and man-made disasters.*** SAR services offer an integral part of local, national and regional emergency management systems.
- c) ***Well performed SAR operations can provide positive publicity about situations which may otherwise be viewed negatively.*** This can lead to improved public confidence in that State's reputation and commitment to providing a safe environment, leading to increased confidence to conduct activities beneficial to that State's economy.

- d) ***As SAR is a relatively non-controversial and humanitarian mission, it provides an excellent opportunity to enhance cooperation and communication in general between States and organizations, not only for SAR.*** It can also foster better working relationships between States and organizations at the local, national and international levels, including civil/military cooperation.

2.5 In 2014 Malaysia Airlines flight MH370, a Boeing 777 with 239 persons on board, disappeared when flying from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to Beijing, China. The MH370 event resulted in probably the largest and most expensive search response for a missing aircraft in human history. Together with Air France flight AF447, which crashed into the Atlantic Ocean in 2009, these tragedies highlighted vulnerabilities in the current air navigation system including the SAR system, which have hampered timely identification and localization of aircraft in distress, hindering effective response efforts. ICAO is taking measures to assist with addressing these vulnerabilities through the Global Aeronautical Distress and Safety System (GADSS) concept of operations; however this also requires improvements in global SAR capability.

2.6 The Plan is designed to address both civil and military SAR authorities and has been developed in consultation with Caribbean States, SAR administrations and relevant International Organizations. States should consult with stakeholders nationally, regionally and internationally as appropriate and determine actions in order to commit to achieving the objectives of this Plan in order to meet the minimum SAR service requirements in accordance with Annex 12.

2.7 States should aim to meet their obligations progressively in a strategically structured and planned manner with improvement goals set for short term, medium term and long term implementation. It may be more productive to make gains in small steps commencing with measures that are more easily achievable in the short term and have a minimal cost, progressing to measures which will take longer to implement over the medium to long term. ***Short term measures that may be implemented relatively easily include the establishment of a national SAR Coordinating Committee and ensuring SAR Agreements are in place with neighbouring States allowing for seamless cross-border transit of search assets engaged in SAR activity.*** A SAR agreement can be in the form of 'Letter of Agreement' (LOA) or a Memorandum of Understanding or other acceptable term indicating a lower form of arrangement for operational matters between SAR service providers (such as RCCs and/or RSCs) or a more formal agreement for arrangements between governments concerned.

2.8 All States are encouraged to use the guidance provided within this Plan as a way forward, thus ensuring a timely and well-coordinated response to any SAR incident within their area of responsibility, or during cooperative responses involving more than one Search and Rescue Region (SRR).

### **Plan Objective**

2.9 The objective of this SAR Plan is to provide a framework to assist CAR States to meet their SAR needs and obligations accepted under the Convention on International Civil Aviation and for the harmonized and interoperable delivery of both aeronautical and maritime SAR services within the region, and across other ICAO regional boundaries, where practicable.

2.10 The Plan is to be consistent with the SARPs of Annex 12, and aligned where appropriate with the SAR technical and operational standards and guidance of the IMO.

2.11 The Plan recognizes that ICAO serves as the forum for the implementation of practical and achievable measures to improve SAR services for international civil aviation. The Plan also recognizes that the IMO provides a similar forum for SAR services to maritime shipping.

2.12 Both ICAO and IMO share the same goal of ensuring that SAR services are available globally wherever people sail or fly. The SAR services that ICAO and IMO promote are complementary and offer tangible opportunities to derive mutually beneficial efficiencies for both the aviation and maritime transportation SAR systems globally, regionally and nationally.

2.13 The objective of this Plan includes encouraging States to take advantage of such efficiencies. States should, where practicable, align their SAR systems with the guidance provided by the IAMSAR Manual, which also provides the benefit for standardized SAR coordination between RCCs and across SRR lines of delineation.

2.14 State SAR plans describe how SAR services will be provided, organized and supported in order for States to meet their obligations under the relevant Conventions. Search and Rescue Coordinators (SC) and SAR managers oversee and implement these plans. National SAR plans should be signed by all Government agencies which can provide or support SAR services. These agencies should all be represented on the State's Search and Rescue Coordinating Committee (SCC), which oversees these plans.

*Note: The SC should not be confused with the operational nature of the SAR Mission Coordinator (SMC). The primary purpose of the national SC is to enable a whole-of- government approach to make efficient and effective use of a State's capabilities for SAR.*

#### **Plan Development**

2.15 The Plan was developed as part of a suite of CAR air navigation plans, including the CAR/SAM Air Navigation Plan, the NAM/CAR Regional Performance-Based Air Navigation Implementation Plan (RPBANIP) and the CAR Region ATM Contingency Plan, so the Plan should not be considered in isolation.

2.16 The Plan is expected to provide guidelines and recommendations for CAR States to consider for the enhancement and improvement of national, sub-regional and regional SAR capability including:

- a) compliance with Annex 12 SARPs;
- b) identification and addressing of deficiencies in SAR capability and oversight;
- c) continuous and coherent development of SAR capability and oversight;
- d) harmonization of aeronautical and maritime SAR services;
- e) civil/military cooperation and coordination (including SAR response, information sharing and use of airspace);
- f) remote oceanic SAR response capability (including provision for Mass Rescue Operations (MRO));
- g) establishment and review of arrangements between neighbouring States to expeditiously facilitate SAR coordination, operations and cooperation across regional boundaries including contingency procedures;
- h) facilitation of the implementation of SAR systems and services including the establishment of JRCCs where suitable and practicable;

- i) supporting the sharing of SAR information, data and expertise;
- j) integration with ATM systems and future ATS developments, where appropriate;
- k) monitoring of outcomes from Sub-Groups, other ICAO Region SAR groups, ICAO/IMO Joint Working Group on Harmonization of Aeronautical and Maritime SAR (JWG) and related forums for issues that may affect the Plan;
- l) facilitation of a continuous reporting mechanism of State SAR capability, Annex 12 compliance and SAR performance data to the NACC Regional Office through the NAM/CAR Air Navigation Implementation Working Group (ANI/WG);
- m) implementation of a SAR System Improvement and Assessment measures, including Safety Management System, Quality Assurance programme and risk assessment;
- n) coordinating the introduction of new technology affecting the regional SAR system;
- o) sharing future research and development concepts;
- p) seeking efficiencies, through the coordination and facilitation of concurrent regional SAR meetings, seminars, workshops and exercises, including joint ICAO and IMO, and sub-regional forums where practicable; and
- q) conducting efficient SAR Exercises (SAREXs) that identify improvements and latent problems.

2.17 The Plan elements should be periodically reviewed by NAM/CAR ANI/WG to ensure that they remain relevant to the SAR system, particularly for new technology developments and alignment with other relevant global SAR plans.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

3.1 According to the ICAO Circular 333-AT/190, *Global Air Transport Outlook to 2030*, CAR/SAM Regions are enjoying increasing political stability and the emergence of Brazil as a major industrial and economic power with help boost traffic growth. Other nations are currently addressing political and economic concerns, but still have considerable potential for growth in the medium term.

3.2 Total passengers traffic grew annually by 6.2% between 1995 and 2010. Forecasts nevertheless call for a slightly lower but healthy annual growth rate of 5.9% up to 2030. By 2030 CAR/SAM Regions markets are expected to account for 74% of the total passenger traffic from-to-within the Regions. All-cargo traffic will total 72 % of the intra-regional cargo traffic. The developing economy will grow 4.0 % a year in term of GDP, and the total cargo traffic related to these regions will grow 5.6%.

3.3 Air passengers' traffic on domestic routes is expected to grow at an average rate of 6.5% annually between 2011 and 2030. Brazil and Mexico represent the most important domestic markets. Rising personal incomes and Low Cost Carriers (LCCs) will drive future traffic increases. Intra-regional passenger traffic is expected to grow at an average annual rate of 7.4% between 2011 and 2030.

3.4 Increases in both aviation and maritime traffic throughout the CAR Region places additional importance on the ability for States to be adequately prepared for potentially increased demand for aeronautical and maritime SAR services.

3.5 Considering that many Caribbean States have the challenging responsibility for providing a SAR service over large oceanic areas the importance for States to cooperate, collaborate and share resources with their neighbouring and regional/sub-regional RCCs is essential.

3.6 High-level support might be necessary from regional bodies that can effectively support the Plan's implementation.

### **SAR System Funding**

3.7 The level of funding provided for effective SAR systems is a matter of concern for all senior decision-makers. The resources should be sufficient to develop and/or maintain the required SAR service per their obligations as signatories to the relevant aeronautical and maritime SAR conventions. This may require the development of business cases to governments outlining where additional funding is required. A national SAR coordinating committee may be able to develop a plan for efficient use of all available national resources, including the military as well as local authorities and associations.

3.8 Such business cases should include consideration of amendments to existing State SAR arrangements which may provide more efficient delivery of the SAR service by better utilization of existing resources (for example by establishing Joint RCCs (JRCCs), or additional funding sources where required (for example charging a levy to aircraft operators for providing the SAR service or seeking company sponsorship for SRUs).

3.9 For States with limited resources collaboration, at national and regional level, is vital to enable SAR provision.

**Joint Rescue Coordination Centres (JRCCs)**

3.10 Where practicable, States are encouraged to examine the potential benefits that may be derived by the establishment of JRCCs to incorporate the aeronautical and maritime SAR activities and/or facilities of ARCCs/ARSCs and MRCC/MRSCs. JRCCs have the potential to not only provide a more effective SAR service to both the aeronautical and maritime industries, but also offer potential financial efficiencies by releasing funds for improvements in other SAR areas.

*Note: Where JRCCs are not practicable, development of facilities and procedures which provide and/or enhance effective SAR coordination and collaboration between the ARCCs and MRCCs in support of each other, to provide an efficient and integrated State SAR system for both aeronautical and maritime SAR incident response.*

3.11 Where practicable, the JRCC evaluation may consider consolidation of two or more different State RCCs into single sub-regional JRCCs.

*Note: a single sub-regional JRCC may be established in partnership with a group of States and serve as a 24 hour nodal JRCC supported by Joint Rescue Sub-Centres (JRSCs) of the other partner States which may not necessarily need to be manned 24 hours but could be activated when required.*

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **Improvement Drivers**

4.1 The ICAO USOAP-CMA focuses on a State's capability in providing safety oversight by assessing whether the State has effectively and consistently implemented the critical elements of a safety oversight system, including Annex 12 Search and Rescue, and associated procedures and guidance material.

4.2 The ICAO CAR/SAM Regional Planning and Implementation Group (GREPECAS) maintain an Air Navigation Deficiencies List. This list is based on the uniform methodology for identification, assessment and reporting of such deficiencies as described in GREPECAS Procedural Handbook. Identifying and addressing specific deficiencies facilitate the development and implementation of action plans by States to resolve identified deficiencies, where necessary.

### **Caribbean SAR System Monitoring**

4.3 Significant Annex 12 compliance weaknesses had been identified within the CAR Region based upon information provided (and in many cases not provided) by States to the ICAO Regional Office. This regional information of the SAR capability and SAR agreements should be recorded and periodically reviewed by the ICAO NACC Regional Office, in order to enhance the regional support for implementation.

### **Recent ICAO SAR Initiatives**

4.4 The tragedies of Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 in 2014 and Air France flight AF447 in 2009 had highlighted vulnerabilities in the current air navigation system which had hampered timely identification and location of aircraft in distress, particularly remote oceanic areas. This had significantly hindered effective SAR efforts and recovery operations.

4.5 As part of the response to the Conclusions and Recommendations from the ICAO Multi-disciplinary Meeting on Global Tracking, ICAO developed a Concept of Operations (CONOPS) for a GADSS. The implementation of this target concept will have implications for the provision of services such as air traffic control, SAR and accident investigation. It contained a large number of measures targeting improvements in SAR system response integrated within the wider ATM and aircraft/airline operations systems.

4.6 The CONOPs noted that the effectiveness of the current alerting and SAR services should be increased by addressing a number of key improvement areas. The ICAO GADSS CONOPS also included aspects which potentially involve use of different distress systems, including for example 406 MHz Emergency Locator Transmitters (ELTs) and the COSPAS-SARSAT system as part of the proposed GADSS solution. Implementation of GADSS functions for certain aircraft include flight tracking at 15 minute intervals, in November 2018, and autonomous distress tracking at one minute intervals, by 1 January 2021.

4.7 ICAO will focus more on improvement of civil-military cooperation and collaboration. ICAO is upgrading Circ.330 AN/189 Civil/Military Cooperation in Air Traffic Management to become the Manual on Civil-Military Cooperation in Air Traffic Management (Doc 10088). This document will provide an enhanced set of guidance for putting into practice civil-military cooperation, including search and rescue.

**COSPAS-SARSAT System**

4.8 COSPAS-SARSAT had been developing two major enhancements to its distress-alerting System of value to all System users, including the aviation industry. One is the introduction of a new space-segment architecture based primarily on Medium-altitude Earth Orbit Search and Rescue (MEOSAR) payloads aboard the European Commission's Galileo system, the Russian Federation's Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS) and the United States' Global Positioning System (GPS) satellites. MEOSAR is in the early operational capability phase. The technical specifications for the second generation 406 MHz distress beacon have been issued.

4.9 This architecture would permit determination of a distress incident location (independent of any location data transmitted in the beacon message) beginning with the first burst from the distress beacon. This could mean near real-time and very frequent delivery of distress alerts.

4.10 The SAR/Galileo space segment would also provide a Return Link Service (RLS) that, among other possible future uses, would provide an acknowledgment back to the beacon to confirm when the distress message has been received.

4.11 The other major development was the completion in the next couple of years of specifications for the next generation of 406 MHz distress beacons, including ELTs. This new generation of beacons should further improve speed and accuracy in locating an activated distress beacon. The period from beacon activation to first transmission was expected to be reduced from 50 seconds to three seconds. The specification would consider in-flight activation of ELTs when certain flight parameters were exceeded. The RLS was also being considered as part of the GADSS Concept, being a means of remotely activating an ELT in the case of an unresponsive or uncooperative cockpit.

4.12 States needed to continue to ensure that aviators were aware that 121.5 MHz beacons cannot be detected by the global COSPAS-SARSAT System. The 406 MHz distress beacon has a low-power 121.5 MHz signal only intended as a final homing signal.

4.13 States also need to ensure the critical requirement to provide for a suitable, clear and simple means for aircraft owners to register and keep updated their 406 MHz distress beacon details.

*Note: information on beacon registration is at: <http://www.COSPAS-SARSAT.int/en/beacons-pro/beacon-regulations-pro/ibrd-user-information-for-professionals>.*

4.14 Entries in the beacon register should be available to both aeronautical and maritime RCCs on a 24 hour basis (Annex 12 – *Search and Rescue* refers, although Annex 10 establishes the registration requirement). States should note that Annex 12 should be read in conjunction with elements of the following ICAO Annexes:

- Annex 6 – *Operation of Aircraft*;
- Annex 10 – *Aeronautical Telecommunications*;
- Annex 11 – *Air Traffic Services*, particularly Chapter 5 Alerting Service; and
- Annex 14 – *Aerodromes*, particularly on aerodrome emergency planning.

## CURRENT SITUATION

### Global Situation

5.1 The ICAO USOAP Report of audit results, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, April 2005 to August 2010 revealed a number of SAR deficiencies during the audits of 165 Member States:

- 38% of States had not laid down provisions for entry into their territory of SAR units (SRU) of other States for the purpose of search for the site of aircraft accidents and rescuing survivors;
- 44% of States had not developed a detailed plan on operation for the conduct of SAR operations within their respective Search and Rescue Regions (SRRs); and
- 67% of States had not established the necessary coordination of their SAR organisations with those of neighbouring States, including the conclusion of bi-lateral SAR agreements in order to coordinate SAR operations; and
- regarding RCCs –
  - i. about 40% of States had not developed job descriptions for their technical staff;
  - ii. 45% did not ensure that RCC personnel using radiotelephony communications were proficient in the use of the English language; and
  - iii. about 56% of States do not regularly train their SAR personnel, and nor did they conduct SAREXs.

### CAR SAR Analysis

5.2 The last decade has seen a steady increase in air traffic in the CAR Region. Maritime traffic is also increasing, adding further urgency to ensure that States with oceanic SAR responsibilities in the region meet the requirements of both ICAO and IMO for the provision of aviation and maritime SAR services.

5.3 The USOAP results for the SAR related Protocol Questions (PQs) in the ANS area for the Caribbean Region is 48.13%.

- 5 States have a SAR Effective Implementation (EI) above 80 %.
- 9 States of the CAR Region (out of 19 States) 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.
- 6 States coordinate its SAR organization with those of neighbouring States.
- 7 States ensure that each rescue coordination centre (RCC) has prepared detailed plans of operation for the conduct of SAR operations within its search and rescue region (SRR).

5.4 From these results it appeared that the major weakness is related to the proper establishment of SAR provision and oversight. Many States rely on the provision of search and rescue operations without the proper establishment of the SAR coordination of the formal delegation of services to another State.

**CAR SAR Coordination Forums**

5.5 The CAR Region will benefit from the cooperation and coordination of States and International Organizations involved in the ANI/WG. The establishment of a regional forum to enable collaboration and cooperation to address SAR issues should be considered.

5.6 There were several regional initiatives for cooperative support and development already being undertaken in the CAR Region to assist with SAR capability enhancement. One example is the United Kingdom's "Overseas Territories Search and Rescue Capability Project" to improve SAR system management and improving services of its territories in the region.

5.7 Such improvement programmes could result from a request by a State needing assistance, ICAO/IMO oversight, the users of the SAR system itself, an audit or following a SAR 'Go-Team' visit that identifies weaknesses in the State's SAR capability (a 'Go Team' normally consists of external SAR experts from ICAO/IMO, more advanced 'champion' States or external agencies such as COSPAS-SARSAT). The programs can be conducted by experts from a 'champion' State, or through a cooperative effort by several States or a regional body. Both ICAO and IMO have means to assist developing States in technical cooperation projects.

**Barriers**

5.8 The following potential issues should be considered to ensure they do not become barriers to the achievement of the expected SAR capability:

- a) absence of established appropriate legal framework designating, recognizing, supporting and giving authority to national SAR authorities, RCCs and SMCs;
- b) inadequate funding and equipping of SAR authorities and in particular, resourcing of RCCs;
- c) absence of an appropriate SAR organizational framework;
- d) absence of a national SAR committee;
- e) lack of clarity of responsibilities for each component of the SAR system;
- f) absence of bilateral/multi-lateral/international SAR Agreements;
- g) inadequate civil/military cooperation; and
- h) complacency about, or lack of recognition of, the importance or priority given to SAR.

**Global and Regional SAR Issues**

5.9 States should monitor outcomes from global and regional ICAO and IMO SAR forums to ensure their State SAR authorities are updated on relevant SAR developments, otherwise State planning may not be synchronized with external international expectations, including users.

5.10 The provision of sufficient resources is critical in a number of areas, including:

- a) Financial-
  - i. funding for 24 hour RCC facility and staff;

- ii. funding for use/hire of search and rescue units; and
  - iii. Provision of a suitable administrative process enabling financial support including the ability for SAR authorities to quickly authorise payments required for emergency response aircraft, vessels and supporting logistics such as fuel.
- b) RCC personnel- a suitable number of trained and skilled staff, supplemented by a pool of trained RCC support staff where appropriate;
- c) RCC facilities-
- i. appropriate RCC facility space;
  - ii. minimum RCC tools (such as current charts, plotting equipment, documentation, etc.);
  - iii. identify and task available SRUs;
  - iv. Aircraft and vessel tracking information including ADS-B, Automatic Identification System, etc.;
  - v. reliable and rapid H24 communications, and a suitable means to-
    - receive and communicate distress alerts
    - communicate with ATS units, other RCCs/RSCs, Coast Radio Stations, COSPAS-SARSAT Mission Control Centres (MCCs), military units, medical services, meteorological offices, etc.;
  - vi. information technology-
    - RCC workstation computers;
    - Software including basic databases, drift modelling, incident management, etc.;
- d) Contingency- back-up RCC facility, or arrangement with another RCC as a contingency against inability to operate from the primary RCC due to the need to evacuate or loss of systems, etc.;
- e) Search and Rescue Units (SRUs)-
- i. available and suitable SAR aircraft and crews;
  - ii. funding arrangements/agreements for hiring/payment/sharing of SRUs to permit rapid deployment; and
  - iii. Available and suitable SAR survival equipment for delivery by aircraft to survivors and to assist SAR coordination efforts (e.g.: SAR Datum Buoys, droppable life rafts and survival supplies, etc.);
- f) Training support-
- i. RCC staff – basic and ongoing;
  - ii. SRU crews – pilots, air crew and air observers; and
  - iii. RCC support staff – basic and refresher.

## PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

### Legal Framework and Structure Planning

6.1 All States should develop statutes and related provisions that establish or enhance the legal foundation for a State SAR organization and its framework, resources, policies and procedures to, where appropriate to:

- a) ensure that it is party to, and/or aligned with the following Conventions, as applicable –
  - i. Convention on International Civil Aviation 1944;
  - ii. International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979;
  - iii. International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974;
  - iv. Convention on the High Seas, 1958; and
  - v. United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982.
- b) unless delegated by written agreement, establish an entity that provides, on a 24- hour basis, SAR services within its territories and designated area of responsibility/SRR;
- c) establish a national SAR committee consisting of civil and, where appropriate, military members to enable a whole-of-government approach;
- d) empower SAR Mission Coordinators with the authority to adequately carry out their responsibilities;
- e) establish an Administrative Single Point of Contact for SAR (ASPOCS) for non- urgent, administrative matters, such details to be submitted to the ICAO Regional Office;
- f) conduct studies to check the feasibility for, and develop an implementation plan if practicable, the integration of aviation and maritime SAR activities, and as far as practicable, civil and military activities, including joint training and familiarisation of staff and review of documentation to ensure harmonisation of procedures, and joint exercises;
- g) conduct studies to align, as far as practicable, aeronautical and maritime Search and Rescue Regions (SRRs); and SRRs and Flight Information Regions (FIRs); and
- h) establish a single State SAR Plan that –
  - i. designates the responsible RCC(s), RSC(s) and 24-hour SPOC/ASPOC;
  - ii. describes the relevant SRRs, including the coordinates and geographical chart depiction of the SRR and neighbouring SRRs;
  - iii. details the National SAR Committee;

- iv. details the governmental and non-governmental agencies with authority and responsibility for SAR coordination within its territories and designated area of responsibility;
- v. details required and available SAR facilities, personnel, and equipment;
- vi. details the SAR manuals, plans and procedures for national and regional cooperative SAR response arrangements;
- vii. details the SAR personnel training and competency programme, qualification standards, SAR certification if applicable and SAR cooperation training;
- viii. details the SAR agreements required;
- ix. is electronic and accessible on the Internet, such details to be submitted to the ICAO NACC Regional Office; and
- x. is monitored by quality assurance processes.

**SAR Standards and Procedures**

6.2

All States should:

- a) establish aerodrome emergency plans that provide for co-operation and co-ordination with RCCs;
- b) establish SAR agreements with States having adjoining SRRS or FIRs, including trans-regional neighbours (the agreements should include clear responsibilities for overlapping or non-adjointing aeronautical and maritime SRRs);
- c) provide up to date cross-border information on SAR capability (this should be included in bilateral SAR agreements);
- d) pre-arrange procedures for cross-border SAR responses (this should be included in bilateral SAR agreements);
- e) establish contingency procedures for delegation of SAR responsibility where such service is not able to be provided, or in contingency (temporary) circumstances;
- f) establish a program for regular SAREX, which may be a desktop communications exercise, with each alternate SAREX being a full exercise (this expectation may be fulfilled by participating in a sub-regional SAREX that tests the State's SAR system; and
- g) establish RCC plans for response to Mass Rescue Operations (MROs) integrated with national disaster plans;

- h) establish SAR Operations Plans to include:
  - i. procedures for cooperation and deployment of foreign SRUs;
  - ii. provision for translators/liaison Officers/Embassy Officers for the daily tasking of the SRUs at the RCC;
  - iii. provision of information for logistic and administrative support (hotels, fuel, security passes, food, medicine, etc.);
  - iv. instructions on communication (ops normal reports, sightings, etc.) for search planning, command and control to foreign SRUs;
  - v. daily end of day report by SRUs to the RCC (via mobile, email, fax, etc.); and
  - vi. establish SAR Alerting procedures which:
    - are tested and fully integrated with RCC procedures so that RCCs are rapidly notified of any SAR event 24 hours a day;
    - include procedures for joint aeronautical and maritime distress alert notification, including reliable delivery and acknowledgement of COSPAS- SARSAT distress alerts, support and response to both aviation and maritime SAR incidents; and
    - where applicable, include protocols for civil and military support and sharing of information.

#### **SAR Facilities and Resources**

6.3 **RCC Facility:** All States should ensure that RCCs are of sufficient size with adequate provision for operational positions designed in accordance with human factors principles (such as human machine interface) for a major search involving civil and military assets where applicable, and facilities such as:

- a) Workstations, telephones (with international access), mobile cellphones, plotting tables, wall notice/status boards, computer, and communications equipment and systems, briefing/debriefing areas room for storage including incident records and recorders, RCC staff break and rest facilities;
- b) computer resources which may provide support to RCCs with incident management, plotting, search planning, mapping, contact databases, web-based information, etc.;
- c) charts, electronic or paper, which:
  - i. apply to SAR (aeronautical, nautical, topographic and hydrographic);
  - ii. depict SRR, neighbouring SRRs, FIR(s), SAR resources and made available for all relevant aeronautical and maritime RCCs, ATS units, aircraft operators; and
  - iii. provide a means of plotting;

- d) ability to reliably receive and acknowledge distress alerts 24 hours a day;
- e) maritime broadcast facilities;
- f) a means of recording, playback and archiving of communications;
- g) shipping/vessel communications and maritime broadcast facilities such as Coast Radio Stations, RCC radio and satellite communications, marine radio networks;
- h) aircraft communications – via ATS units, aircraft operators, satellite communications or direct between RCC and aircraft;
- i) access to aircraft and ship tracking data, e.g. ADS-B, Automatic Identification System and Long Range Identification and Tracking of Ships (LRIT) allowing rapid identification of potential aircraft and vessels that may divert to assist;
- j) a means of obtaining meteorological information – forecast, present and historical data;
- k) if applicable drift modelling software;
- l) if applicable, ocean data including sea temperature, currents, winds, tides, etc.;
- m) if applicable, SAR Datum Buoys, preferably with satellite tracking capability; and
- n) RCC documentation and reference material such as plans of operation, procedures manuals, guidance material, ICAO and IMO references, SAR agreements; and
- o) COSPAS-SARSAT equipment and reference material.

**Personnel and Training**

6.4 All States should, where applicable to maintain a 24 hour service:

- a) provide adequate ATC resources (either an ATS supervisor or other staff) that can provide relief within Area Control Centres (ACCs) to allow timely SAR alerts and information to RCCs;
- b) provide sufficient RCC staffing;
- c) provide a sufficient number of trained specialist RCC officers including SMCs and Assistant SMCs (A/SMCs);
- d) provide availability of a pool of RCC support staff who are familiar with RCC operations, but not trained as coordinators, that can assist with the functioning of the RCC during SAR incident response;

- e) develop SAR personnel position descriptions that detail responsibilities and eligibility criteria for recruitment of operational staff;
- f) develop a comprehensive training programme that includes SAR training for:
  - i. RCC SAR Coordinators (SCs) based on a competency-based assessment approach to ensure technical and English language proficiency, cyclical (periodic) instruction that provides continuous training to ensure competency is maintained, and a system for maintaining training records; and
  - ii. SRU staff, including military personnel.
- g) facilitate RCC staff to be proficient in the English language; and
- h) facilitate a programme of regular liaison visits between relevant RCCs, ATC units and airline operating centres in order to understand those organizations, facilities and capabilities (reference Annex 12, paragraph 3.1.9).

**Oceanic Capability:**

6.5 Where applicable, States should establish additional oceanic SAR capability as far as practicable to ensure a timely and adequate SAR response is available to all oceanic areas of their SRRs. This may be met through cooperative arrangements with neighbouring States or other RCCs.

**Search and Rescue Units**

- 6.6 All States should establish capabilities enabling:
- a) availability and deployment of suitably crewed, trained and equipped SRUs (including a pool of air search observers trained in visual search techniques), public and/or private, civil and military, for rapid SAR response;
  - b) availability and deployment of SRU craft that may be in use for another primary purpose but made available to RCCs for SAR purposes on an as needed emergency basis (vessels, aircraft and land units );
  - c) protocols for civil SAR authorities to request the assistance of military assets, and similarly military SAR authorities to request civil assets;
  - d) a communication means and information protocols between the State's Aeronautical and Maritime SAR Authorities;
  - e) cooperative use and/or sharing of SAR assets with protocols incorporated within National SAR Plans and bilateral SAR Agreements;
  - f) pre-arranged government authority for funding of costs associated with hiring of SRUs, and payment for critical supporting logistics such as fuel, to avoid any delays in response availability; and
  - g) aircraft with the ability and regulatory approval to safely conduct SAR missions.

*Note: guidance material on SAR aircraft capability is found in the IAMSAR.*

**Distress Beacons**

6.7 All States should:

- a) where separate ARCCs and MRCCs exist with responsibility for coincident aviation and maritime SRRs, coordinate distress beacon alert procedures to ensure both RCCs are aware of any distress beacon activations within their areas to avoid duplication of response. For example, MRCCs should ensure their procedures alert ARCCs and ATS units to any EPIRB activations;
- b) have a reliable distress beacon registration system that:
  - i. provides a readily-accessible mechanism (preferably one that is available by Internet as well as other conventional means) to enable distress beacon owners to fulfil their obligation to register ELTs, EPIRBs and PLBs, and update the registration data as information changes (e.g., change in ownership); and
  - ii. is available to RCCs 24 hours a day and includes up-to-date registration details for all national civil and military ELTs, EPIRBs and PLBs;
- c) take steps (including education) required to prepare for, and to implement changes related to, the introduction of next generation beacons (e.g.: update beacon registration systems to be compatible with new beacon hexadecimal identifications) and the transition to the MEOSAR satellite architecture (e.g.: update local user terminals and mission control centres to properly receive and manage MEOSAR data), in accordance with COSPAS-SARSAT specification documents (<http://www.COSPAS-SARSAT.int/en/documents-pro/system-documents>); and
- d) establish an appropriate nationwide means of disposal for old distress beacons.

*Note 1: Information on beacon registration is at: <http://www.cospas-sarsat.int/en/beacons-pro/beacon-regulations-pro/ibrd-user-information-for-professionals>.)*

*Note 2: Incorrect disposal of distress beacons often causes the deployment of scarce and often expensive SAR resources only to have the beacon located as a non-distress event in a rubbish dump or similar location. This also creates the risk of SAR resources being diverted away from a real emergency should it arise at the time. Beacon batteries are hazardous items which should be disposed of in an environmentally friendly manner.*

**Contingency Facilities**

6.8 All States should ensure there are established contingency facilities, or when a SAR service is not able to be provided, procedures in place for the temporary delegation of the SAR responsibility to another appropriate national body or State. All States should test their contingency arrangements periodically, but not less than once every six months.

**SAR Information**

**Provision of Information**

- 6.9 All States should ensure the:
- a) establishment of a centralised information source publishing all CAR States, Territories and International Organizations Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP) information as required by ICAO Annex 15 Appendix 1, page APP 1-8 including:
    - i. The agency responsible for providing SAR services;
    - ii. The area of SAR responsibility where SAR services are provided;
    - iii. The type of SAR services and facilities provided including indications where SAR aerial coverage is dependent upon significant deployment of aircraft;
    - iv. SAR agreements;
    - v. The conditions of SAR facility and service availability; and
    - vi. SAR procedures and signals used;
  - b) establishment of an Internet-based SAR information sharing system (with security protocols as required and in accordance with the emerging System Wide Information Management – SWIM concept as applicable) to share SAR activity with States and key stakeholders participating in a SAR activity (the information sharing system should include a means of handling media and next of kin enquiries, and recognise the need to avoid premature media statements); and
  - c) maximum practicable cooperation between State entities in the provision of accurate and timely information when required, including from military sources except where national security could be adversely affected.

**SAR Facilities and Equipment Lists**

- 6.10 All States should develop and maintain a current, comprehensive electronic list of State SAR Facilities, SAR Equipment, and SAR Units (SRUs), including joint or shared facilities and equipment, and provide the Internet link to that list to the ICAO NACC Regional Office.

**SAR Library**

- 6.11 All States should:
- a) establish a web-based SAR Library, or cooperate by contributing to an Internet- based resource (such as [www.uscg.mil/nsarc](http://www.uscg.mil/nsarc)); and
  - b) ensure that each RCC and SAR Authority has ready access to a current copy (either electronic or hard copy) of the following reference documents at a minimum:
    - i. ICAO Annex 12;

- ii. IAMSAR Manual Volumes I, II and III;
- iii. International Convention on Maritime SAR (SAR Convention);
- iv. SAR Plan/electronic Air Navigation Plan; and
- v. relevant regional, national and agency SAR documents.

*Note: The SAR Library hosted by the US Coast Guard contains a list of documents that may be held by RCCs and JRCCs as appropriate. In addition, a list of documents (SAR.7/Circ.12) would be available on the IMO web site at: (<http://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Safety/RadioCommunicationsAndSearchAndRescue/SeArchAndRescue/Pages/Default.aspx>).*

### **SAR Improvement**

#### **Search and Rescue Exercises (SAREX)**

6.12 All States should conduct regular SAREX (at least once every two years) to test and evaluate existing coordination procedures, data and information sharing and SAR response arrangements involving:

- a) both aeronautical and maritime SAR authorities including both civil and military agencies as applicable, and related bodies such as Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs) and Airline Operations Centres (AOCs);
- b) where appropriate, cross-aeronautical SRR coordination (SAREX should routinely involve SAR authorities of adjacent SRRs, especially if the SAREX area concerned is within 50NM of the adjoining SRR); and
- c) SAREX effectiveness through a post-SAREX review and written report, completed to ensure that deficient areas or latent problems are identified and remedied.

*Note 1: a SAREX template is provided at **Appendix B**.*

*Note 2: SAREX should test the SAR system, including unannounced alerts that allow an actual search (whether it is a desktop or a physical operation), to be conducted which will indicate weaknesses in the system. SAREX should not be confused with, or take the form of, simulated crash fire exercises such as for Aerodrome Emergency Procedures that do not have a search component.*

*Note 3: Real SAR incident responses which include an adequate post-response review and evaluation with lessons learned may replace the need for a SAREX.*

#### **SAR Quality Assurance**

6.13 All States should implement SAR System Improvement and Assessment measures, including Safety Management and Quality Assurance systems, that:

- a) provide performance and safety indicators, including post-incident/accident lessons learned and management reviews (RCC and SAR System Continuous Improvement process), and feedback from RCC staff, SAR system users or SAR stakeholders;

- b) identifies risk and corrective and preventive actions that prevent or minimise risk and the possibility of substandard SAR performance;
- c) establishes an internal quality assurance programme, which includes regular internal audits of the RCC, SAR operations, SAR facilities and procedures that are conducted by trained auditors;
- d) ensures the person responsible for internal quality assurance within the entity responsible for SAR services has direct access to report to the Head of the entity responsible for SAR services on matters of quality assurance; and
- e) where appropriate, provides submissions to the JWG to share lessons learned and experiences with other global States for the continuous improvement of the worldwide SAR system.

*Note 1: Resourcing of SAR system audit arrangements could be mitigated by States entering cooperative arrangements, including sub-regional regulation, between States for auditing of each other's SAR systems to share expertise and costs.*

*Note 2: Provisions of Annex 19 for a Safety Management System (SMS) may apply where a SAR service is provided under the authority of an ATS provider (Annex 19, Chapter 3, 3.1.3 e refers).*

*Note 3: Peer review, either external or internal, may provide a useful internal quality assurance tool.*

#### SAR Management Review

6.14 All States should conduct an annual or more frequent analysis of their current State SAR system to identify specific gaps in capability against the minimum requirements of Annex 12 and the guidelines of the IAMSAR Manual to:

- a) enable the ICAO CAR SAR data to be updated to accurately reflect the State's capability;
- b) be informed regarding the availability and capability of SAR services in neighbouring States;
- c) identify SAR research and development programmes, especially those which could be conducted if possible in cooperation with other States;
- d) establish a common set of basic SAR system statistics, which include:
  - i. number of SAR incidents per year;
  - ii. number of lives at risk versus number of lives saved;
  - iii. time from first alert to tasking the SRU;
  - iv. time from first alert to arrival on scene of first SRU; and
  - v. time from first alert to rescue.

- e) plan for any necessary improvements to gradually build and improve capability over time, which would be detailed in the State SAR Plan; and
- f) regularly review and update SAR agreements as appropriate.

*Note 1: The National Self-Assessment found in IAMSAR Manual Vol I Appendix H and the ICAO USOAP-CMA Protocol Questions for SAR may assist States with their reviews.*

*Note 2: The number of incidents should identify the type (e.g.: COSPAS-SARSAT alert, ATS alerts, etc.) and outcome of SAR incidents.*

#### SAR Promotion

6.15 All States should conduct SAR promotional programs (e.g. Seminars, Workshops and public safety campaigns) to:

- a) encourage higher SAR preparedness by persons that may require SAR services through public safety campaigns aimed at preventing persons getting into distress situations (i.e.: 'preventative SAR');
- b) ensure the support of government decision-makers for SAR facilities and improvements, in particular adequate funding availability;
- c) assist media to understand SAR operations in order to minimise the need for explanations during SAR responses;
- d) recognise improvement in State SAR systems;
- e) enhance cooperation between SAR services and –
  - i. civil, military and police agencies;
  - ii. ANSPs;
  - iii. aerodrome and port operators;
  - iv. aircraft and shipping operators;
  - v. meteorological agencies;
  - vi. accident investigation agencies;
  - vii. government and non-government agencies affected by SAR operations, in particular large scale national and international responses involving whole of government agencies; and
  - viii. other States.

*Note: social media may be an effective means of SAR promotion that reduces the workload of SAR staff during major SAR responses.*

## FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

### **Research and Development**

7.1 To develop the tools and systems required to meet foreseeable long-term requirements, there is a need for States to undertake planning and co-operation on SAR matters. This includes major efforts to define concepts, to extend knowledge and invent new solutions to future SAR challenges so these new concepts are selected and applied in an appropriate timely manner. Such efforts could be forged through collaborative partnerships between, States, ANSPs, International Organizations, institutes of higher learning and specialised technical agencies. This concept is consistent with Seamless ATM Principle 36 (*Inter-regional cooperation ('clustering') for the research, development and implementation of ATM projects*), and may manifest itself in joint projects such as:

- ICAO and/or IMO regional SAR training opportunities where provided to assist States that are unable to provide their own SAR training;
- Joint Sub-regional RCCs (Some States in particular may be candidates for a single centre of excellence that brings together civil and military SAR experts from States and provides a single SAR facility that is cost-effective and has a level of resources and facilities that would be difficult for all States to maintain by themselves); and
- Regional online eLearning packages.

*Note: Appendix C provides a summary of benefits to the SAR System of States assisting other States.*

7.2 With the end goal of a globally interoperable SAR system in mind, the region will have to consider planning for a long term supporting concept and infrastructure. The following are possible areas that should be considered for future SAR research and development, in order to promote the maximum possible harmonisation and interoperability of SAR systems:

- a) data sharing such as aircraft and ship tracking information;
- b) automated data link communication to RCCs when an aircraft or ship exceeds a Variable Set Parameter (VSP) in terms of its operating envelope, or activation of an emergency status (could be displayed as a symbol, and the data could include certain operating parameters such as acceleration and altitude for an aircraft) – note the ICAO GADSS includes this concept;
- c) regional Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) SAR capability;
- d) inclusion of the SAR system and RCC access as a component of the new ICAO SWIM concept of operation and implementation;
- e) on-going development of standardised SAR training objectives and advanced training systems, including the use of high fidelity simulators; and
- f) enhanced technology oriented systems to improve SAR system effectiveness.

## PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS

### Priorities

8.1 It is a matter for each State, Territory and International Organization to determine priorities in accordance with its own economic, environmental, safety and administrative drivers.

### Actions

8.2 This Plan necessitates a number of implementation actions. It is expected that each CAR State report progress on each applicable element to the Regional Performance Objective “Improve Search and Rescue (SAR) Services” of the NAM/CAR Regional Performance-Based Air Navigation Implementation Plan RPBANIP. All States should note the importance of SAR status monitoring and report to the ICAO NACC Regional Office the following information:

- SAR Regulatory and Coordination Mechanisms;
- SAR Facilities and Assets;
- SAR Information; and
- SAR Improvement.

8.3 Section 5(*Current Situation*) provides analysis and major concerns in the region, which should be considered in the formulation of specific State plans.

### SAREX

8.4 A program is expected to be established for an annual SAREX in each sub-region, with every second year being a desktop communications exercise, and alternate years being a full exercise. The SAREX outcomes and lessons learned should be reported to through the ANI/WG.

8.5 The ICAO NACC Regional Office is responsible for taking actions that assist the implementation of SAR within its accredited States, in cooperation with the IMO. In addition, the ICAO NACC Regional Office is responsible for coordinating with adjacent ICAO regional offices on an ad hoc basis or at relevant trans-regional meetings.

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## APPENDIX A

## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ADS-B	Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast
ADS-C	Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Contract
ANRF	Air Navigation Reporting Form
ANSP	Air Navigation Service Provider
ARCC	Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre
ARSC	Aeronautical Rescue Sub-Centre
A/SMC	Assistant SMC
ASPOCS	Administrative Single Point of Contact for SAR
ATC	Air Traffic Control
ATFM	Air Traffic Flow Management
ATM	Air Traffic Management
CONOPS	Concept of Operations
COSPAS-SARSAT	<b>C</b> osmicheskaya <b>S</b> istema <b>P</b> oiska <b>A</b> variynyh <b>S</b> udov-Search and Rescue Satellite-Aided Tracking
EI	Effective Implementation
ELT	Emergency Locator Transmitters
GADSS	Global Aeronautical Distress and Safety System
GANP	Global Air Navigation Plan
GASP	Global Aviation Safety Plan
GLONASS	Global Navigation Satellite System
GPS	Global Positioning System
IAMSAR	International Aeronautical and Maritime SAR (Manual)
IMO	International Maritime Organization
iSTARS	Integrated Safety Trend Analysis and Reporting System
JRCC	Joint (aeronautical and maritime) Rescue Coordination Centre
JRSC	Joint Rescue Sub-Centre
JWG	ICAO/IMO Joint Working Group on the Harmonisation of Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue
LOA	Letter of Agreement
MCC	Mission Control Centres
MEOSAR	Medium-altitude Earth Orbit Search and Rescue
MRCC	Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre
MRO	Mass Rescue Operations MRSC Maritime Rescue Sub-Centre
OJT	On-the-Job Training
PQs	Protocol Questions
PSCS	Preferred SAR Capability Specifications
RANP	Regional Air Navigation Plan
RCC	Rescue Coordination Centre
RPK	Revenue Passenger Kilometres
RPAS	Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems
SAR	Search and Rescue
SARPs	Standards and Recommended Practices
SAREX	SAR Exercises
SC	Search and Rescue Coordinator
SCC	Search and Rescue Coordinating Committee
SMC	Search and Rescue Mission Coordinator

SMS	Safety Management System
SOLAS	International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea
SPOC	SAR Point of Contact
SRR	Search and Rescue Region
SRU	Search and Rescue Unit
SWIM	System Wide Information Management
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
USOAP-CMA	Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme – Continuous Monitoring Approach
VSP	Variable Set Parameter

**APPENDIX B**

**WORK PLAN FOR THE [[JOINT]] SAREX COORDINATION MEETING**

**To be developed**

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## APPENDIX C

### BENEFITS TO THE SAR SYSTEM OF STATES ASSISTING OTHER STATES

#### Caribbean States and Territories Face Demanding SAR Responsibilities with Few Resources

1. Many States have the challenging responsibility of providing SAR services over vast and remote land and oceanic areas and several have few resources available to meet Annex 12 requirements.

#### Taking A Regional Approach Improves Effectiveness and Efficiency

2. To provide an effective and efficient SAR service in the region it is important that States focus not only on meeting their own national obligations, but also take the broader view that their State SAR system is only one part of the wider regional SAR system. States therefore need to cooperate, collaborate and share resources and technical expertise with their neighbouring and regional RCCs, with the more developed SAR States in particular looking for opportunities to assist their lesser developed State neighbours.

#### When Developed SAR States Support Less Developed Neighbours, Everyone Wins

3. Sometimes simple measures can reduce the incidence of SAR operations in a State's Area of Responsibility.

4. States who aren't compliant with Annex 12 SARP's and who are unable to meet the minimum SAR service requirements could consult and seek assistance from 'champion' States who are compliant and have well developed SAR systems in place.

5. Examples of assistance that could be provided by States, International Organisations (such as IMO/ICAO) or multi-lateral initiatives include:

- a) conduct of a SAR Gap Analysis;
- b) advice on the establishment of a SAR organisational framework;
- c) advice for the establishment of a National SAR Committee;
- d) technical assistance in the development of a National SAR Plan;
- e) providing copies of relevant SAR documents to be used as templates;
- f) technical assistance on the establishment of SAR agreements;
- g) technical assistance in the development of RCC position descriptions;
- h) training of SAR personnel;
- i) provision of SRU where appropriate and training of SRU crews;
- j) provision/sharing of computerised SAR tools including incident management systems, databases, maritime drift modelling software, etc.;
- k) establishing data and information sharing agreements between RCCs;

- l) the provision of operational search plan data;
- m) provide advice on how to conduct a SAREX and post-SAREX analysis;  
and
- n) set up of SAR system publicity and safety awareness campaigns.

— END —