



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

**AFI PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION REGIONAL GROUP
THIRTEENTH MEETING (APIRG/13)**

(Sal, Cape Verde, 25-29 June 2001)

Agenda Item 4:SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR)

(Presented by the AFCAC Secretariat)

REFERENCES:

ICAO Resolution A32-14 (Appendix O)

APIRG/12 Report

IAMSAR Manual

Annex 12 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation

APPENDICES

Resolution S16-7

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Recent air strategies have sorely reminded to the African aviation community how it was essential to have efficient search and rescue systems in Africa.

1.2 In fact, the implementation of an efficient search and rescue system is an ICAO Contracting States' responsibility in compliance with the provisions of Annex 12 to the Convention on international Civil Aviation.

1.3 Yet, there are many shortcomings in that area in most African States.

1.4 In the light of the above, AFCAC undertook to implement a large scale project and upgrade search and rescue services in Africa.

1. EXISTING SHORTCOMINGS

2.1 The shortcomings identified by the various reports and ICAO meetings in SAR area concern mainly the following aspects:

- S Obsolete and ill-adapted nature of the regulatory framework;
- S deficient structures and organization of SAR services;
- S limited human and material resources;
- S lack of exercises.

3.1 In the face of this alarming situation and given the lives which could be saved through the implementation of more efficient SAR systems in Africa, AFCAC wishes to initiate action in three phases as follows:

1. Evaluation of shortcomings and deficiencies of SAR systems in Africa.
2. Processing legal and organizational aspects of future search and rescue systems in Africa.
3. Implementation of these systems, including the possible purchase of equipment.

3.2 The funding of the two first phases of this project was already the object of a pledge by one donor.

3.3 The evaluation would relate to :

- S the regulations in force (national regulations and international agreements);
- S SAR services structures and organization;
- S available means (material, human and financial);
- S the assessment of possible exercises or situations of real crises.

3.4 The evaluation methodology would lean on :

- S ICAO reports (States' visits, meetings);
- S The dispatching of a questionnaire to the SAR Coordinator in each State and SAR region (SRR);
- S States visit.

3.5 Following the conclusions of this evaluation, an action plan will be implemented. This action plan, subject to adaptation to specific requirements highlighted through the evaluation, would comprise several phases as follows:

- S Updating of the regulatory framework;
- S Making current the organizational structures ;
- S Training/validation of local expertise
- S Exercises organization;
- S Staging one workshop/study on the financing modes of SAR activities, notably within the framework of a subregional approach.
- S Evaluation of actions and achievements.

4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Search and Rescue systems are deficient in many areas in the AFI Region. Yet, ICAO Contracting States must implement such systems on the basis of their commitment under Article 25 and the provisions of Annex 12 to the Chicago Convention.

4.2 In close collaboration with ICAO, AFCAC wishes to launch a project aimed at upgrading these SAR systems in Africa. This project was recommended by the Ninth Meeting of the Technical Committee (Dakar, 5-7 December 2000) and adopted by the 67th Meeting of the AFCAC Bureau (Tunis, 15-16 February 2001), and then by the 16th AFCAC Plenary Session under Resolution S16-7 (see Appendix 1.)

4.3 States were informed that this project may start by the end of 2001. To-date, eight States expressed the wish to participate in this programme.

5. ACTION SUGGESTED

5.1 The Meeting is invited to :

- a. note the information presented in paragraphs 1-4 of this working paper;
- b. support AFCAC in its efforts aimed at promoting in Africa SAR services in compliance with international standards on the matter.

RESOLUTION S16 -7 : SEARCH AND RESCUE SERVICES IN AFRICA**THE COMMISSION:**

CONSIDERING the responsibility of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Contracting States in the field of Search and Rescue (SAR) in accordance with Article 25 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago 1944);

CONSIDERING the shortcomings existing in the AFI Region in the Search and Rescue field;

CONSIDERING the lack of human and financial resources of many African States and their difficulty to comply with ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices, and especially the provisions of Annex 12 to the Chicago Convention relating to SAR services;

RECOGNIZING the fundamental role of search and rescue services in the civil aviation safety chain, both globally and regionally;

INVITES African States to reaffirm their commitment to meet their responsibilities under international law with regard to search and rescue;

INSTRUCTS the Bureau to :

- a) continue the implementation of the AFCAC SAR technical cooperation programme;
- b) present a working paper on SAR services at the 13th APIRG meeting; and
- c) work, through appropriate means, towards the improvement of SAR services in Africa, in close cooperation with ICAO; and

INVITES African States to participate in the AFCAC SAR technical cooperation programme.
