



International Civil Aviation Organization
Western and Central African Office

**Twelfth Meeting of the Air Traffic Management/Aeronautical
Information Management/Search and Rescue Sub-Group
(ATM/AIM/SAR SG/12)**

(Dakar, Senegal, 25 - 29 July 2011)

**Agenda Item 2: Follow-up on RAN Recommendations, APIRG Conclusions and
Decisions**

Implementation of ICAO requirements in the field of Search and Rescue (SAR)
(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper discusses implementation of SAR (Search and Rescue) in the AFI Region, and invites attention to relevant ICAO Assembly Resolutions, Air Navigation Plan (ANP) provisions, Regional Air Navigation and APIRG Recommendations, Conclusions/Decisions relating to SAR implementation..

Action by the meeting is at **paragraph 3**.

REFERENCES:

Report of the 37th Assembly Session	
AFI 7	Report
SP AFI RAN 2008	Report
APIRG 15 &16	Reports
APIRG 17 Report	

This Working Paper is related to Strategic Objectives: **A**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The meeting will recall that States' obligations with regard to SAR are rooted, specifically, in Article 25 of the Convention. In support of the provision of Annex 12, the basic principles, operational requirements and planning criteria regarding search and rescue services, have been developed for the AFI Region and are indicated in the Basic Air Navigation Plan (ANP) (Doc 7474).

1.2 Some of the provisions in the ANP are the outcome of Regional Air Navigation (RAN) meetings, in particular the seventh AFI Regional Air Navigation Meeting (AFI 7) in Abuja, Nigeria 12-23 May 1997 which adopted a comprehensive (eight) set of Recommendations, aimed at fostering implementation of current and future imperatives in the field of SAR.

1.3 At its 15th meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, 26 – 30 September 2005, APIRG adopted the following Conclusion 15/47 and Decision 15/98 mainly on SAR arrangements and funding.

1.4 The Special AFI RAN Meeting Durban, South Africa 24-29 2008 adopted Recommendation 6/22 – *Establishment of sub regional search and rescue (SAR) arrangements*, adopting as policy the general concept of sub-regional SAR provision from joint aviation/maritime RCCs and as SAR performance objective for the region the establishment of Sub-regional SAR Arrangements based on the example of the initiative taken at the Port Elizabeth (South Africa) Consultative Conference in October 2007.

1.5 In order to support and facilitate States in discharging their responsibilities under Article 25 of the Convention, the Assembly has developed the “ *Consolidated statement of continuing ICAO policies and associated practices related specifically to air navigation*”, which is reviewed and updated as necessary at every Assembly Session. In this regard Appendix N of the Assembly Resolution 37-15 is about *Provision of Search and Rescue Services* and addresses various elements that are pertinent to SAR implementation..

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 When considering the status of implementation of the ICAO provisions relating to Search and Rescue Services, APIRG 16 (2007) noted with concern that some few of the these provisions had remained unimplemented for decades and the meeting was of the view that States should now be sensitized on the need to take remedial action. Before hand, various APIRG meetings had called special attention to the absence of SAR legislation and cooperative agreements between States that appear among the major deficiencies in the AFI region.

2.2 The APIRG 17 meeting also acknowledged that the abovementioned AFI/7 RAN Meeting provisions relating to SAR continue to have high relevance, and that more effort was necessary to give effect to the APIRG Conclusions and SP AFI/08 RAN Recommendation.

2.3 Furthermore, concern was raised y the Group that implementation of SAR was not receiving the attention it deserves and the participation of SAR experts in the activities of APIRG and its subsidiary bodies is significantly limited. There was a strong view that, in view of implementation challenges that have impeded implementation of SAR provisions for many years despite several above-mentioned Resolutions, Recommendations and Conclusions, a subsidiary body specifically on SAR matters was essential to support implementation and that it could actually attract the required expertise.

2.4 Based on the above, the APIRG/17 meeting agreed with the proposal to establish a Task Force pursuant to SP AFI/08 RAN Recommendation 6/22, and accordingly formulated the following Decision and Conclusion:

DECISION 17/67: AFI SAR SERVICES INTEGRATION TASK FORCE (ASSI/TF)

That, in order to progress the initiatives taken at the Port Elizabeth Consultative Conference of October 2007 on integration of SAR services and similar other initiatives in the AFI Region, and to support the implementation of SAR

provisions, the AFI SAR Services Integration Task Force (ASSI TF) is established with the terms of reference at Appendix 3.4L to this report.

CONCLUSION 17/68: SEARCH AND RESCUE SERVICES

That, with the objective to foster the implementation of SAR services and improvement of SAR systems in the Region, AFI states are:

- (a) Urged to establish joint aviation/maritime rescue coordination centres (RCCs) in order to optimize usage of resources and coordination;
- (b) Encouraged to establish sub-regional task forces to progress the development SAR cooperative arrangements and integration of SAR services;
- (c) Urged to consider entering into agreements with States that have adequate facilities (within or outside the sub-region) to assist in SAR operations; and
- (d) Encouraged to include officials from other State organs who are part of the States SAR organization, in their delegations to relevant ICAO

2.5 The terms of reference of the ASSI TF is shown at **Appendix A** to this paper.

2.6 The ASSI TF will hold its first meeting in Dakar, Senegal, from 19 to 20 September 2011 and a State letter has been disseminated in this respect. The provisional agenda of the meeting is at **Appendix B** to this paper.

2.7 In accordance with the TORs the ASSI TF should report to the ATM/AIM/SAR Sub-Group. However, given that for this time the ASSI TF meeting could not be convened before the Sub-Group's one, the meeting may wish to allow the Task Force to present the report of the ASSI TF/1 meeting to the forthcoming APIRG/18 meeting.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information in this working paper;
- b) call on States to participate in the ASSI TF meeting to be held in Dakar in September 2011.
- c) Call on States to continue making efforts to implement above-mentioned Resolutions, Recommendations and Conclusions on SAR matters.
- d) agree on proposal under paragraphs 2.7

APPENDIX A

AFI SAR SERVICES INTEGRATION TASK FORCE (ASSI TF)

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND COMPOSITION

1. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The ASSI Task Force is established to support the development of the concept of sub-regional search and rescue (SAR) arrangements and cooperation between neighboring States; provide a forum for discussions and identifying solutions to impediments in the effective provision of SAR services in the Region; and developing regional guidance to meeting ICAO provisions in the field of SAR.

2. WORK PROGRAMME

As part of its work programme, the ASSI Task Force will:

- a) Periodically review and update Regional performance objectives with regard to SAR;
- b) Identify and coordinate task related to establishment and functions of sub-regional SAR organizations;
- c) Develop Regional strategies and guidance to support establishment of joint aviation/maritime rescue coordination centres;
- d) Review SAR deficiencies identified within the AFI region, taking into consideration existing capacity and other constraints being experienced by States and SAR organizations, and propose solutions;
- e) Support the cooperation between ICAO and IMO in their continuing collaboration with African States to implement sub-regional, joint RCCs at strategic locations on the African continent.

3. REPORTING

The ASSI Task Force shall meet at least once a year and report to the ATM/AIM/SAR Sub-Group.

4. COMPOSITION:

The ASSI Task will comprise:

- a) experts nominated by AFI States from both civil aviation entities, SAR organizations and ANSPs;
- b) Interested International and Sub-Regional Organizations;
Note: The meeting accepted with appreciation the (starting) membership of Kenya, Seychelles and Uganda.
- c) Expertise on SAR from States outside the AFI Region and from other entities may be invited by the Task Force based on the contribution that may be provided by such expertise.

APPENDIX B

**Draft Agenda for the ASSI TF/1 meeting
(Dakar, Senegal, 19-20 June 2011)**

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	AGENDA ITEM NO.	SUBJECT
A	1	Adoption of the Agenda and Election of Chairperson
A	2	Review and follow up of Recommendations, Conclusions and Decisions applicable to the Task Force
A	3	SAR Regional Performance Objectives; Update on Actions
A	4	Review SAR Guidelines
A	5	SAR legislation and Regulations
A	6	Review/update of the deficiencies in the Search and Rescue
A	7	Review of Terms of Reference (TOR) of the ASSI Task Force and Work Programme Date and Venue of the next meeting
	8	Any other business