



International Civil Aviation Organization  
Western and Central African Office

**Third Meeting of the AFI Search and Rescue Services Integration  
Task Force (ASSI TF/3) (Yaoundé, Cameroon, 30-31 July 2013)**

**Agenda Item 2: Review and follow up on Recommendations, Conclusions and  
Decisions applicable to the Task Force**

**FOLLOW-UP ON RECOMMENDATIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND DECISIONS  
FROM AFI/7 RAN, SP AFI/08 RAN AND APIRG APPLICABLE TO THE ASSI  
TASK FORCE**

*(Presented by the Secretariat)*

**SUMMARY**

This paper presents the Recommendations of the AFI/7 RAN Meeting, the Special AFI/08 RAN Meeting, and the Conclusions and Decisions formulated within the frameworks of APIRG, for review, follow up action, and update as necessary by the Task force.

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

**REFERENCES**

- AFI/7 RAN Report
- SP AFI/08 RAN Report
- APIRG Reports

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

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The meeting will recall that the AFI/7 RAN meeting adopted a comprehensive set of eight Recommendations, aimed at fostering implementation of current and future requirements in the SAR field.

1.2 The Special AFI/08 Regional Air Navigation Meeting convened in November 2008, formulated Recommendation 6/22 '*Establishment of sub-regional search and rescue (SAR) arrangements*'. Moreover, the APIRG/17 meeting in August 2010 adopted Decision 17/67 and Conclusion 17/68 which are directly applicable to the work of the ASSI Task Force.

**2. DISCUSSION**

2.1 While recognizing the lack of effective implementation of AFI/7 RAN recommendations and ICAO provisions for the SAR field in general, the SP AFI/08 RAN meeting noted also that the historical approach to SAR system development had rested on the

establishment of independent national SAR services, which prompted ICAO and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to recommend the regionalized provision of SAR services as the most expeditiously means of achieving an effective global SAR system. The meeting further noted that regional SAR service provision provided the opportunity for aeronautical and maritime agencies to cooperate in the provision of SAR services.

2.2 The APIRG/17 meeting was of the view that the implementation of SAR was not receiving the attention it deserved, and that a concerted effort was necessary to give maximum effect to the Conclusions of APIRG and the AFI RAN Recommendations.

2.3 APIRG/18, upon considering the challenges that were impeding SAR implementation progress in the AFI Region, agreed that the single most prominent hurdle was the establishment of agreements. The meeting also acknowledged that the establishment of international agreements was the key to effective implementation and consequently urged States to focus on the issue of bilateral and multilateral SAR agreements to facilitate cooperation.

2.4 The Group also noted that issues related to SAR integration could still take some time to be implemented and that challenges ahead included the lack of political commitment, differing interpretations of sovereignty and political complexities in establishing international agreements. Sensitization of high level State officials on SAR matters was considered essential to successful implementation.

2.5 In accordance with Decision 17/67 of APIRG 17, the ASSI TF was established and the first and second meetings thereof were held respectively in Dakar, Senegal, 19 - 20 September 2011 and Nairobi, Kenya, 5-6 December 2012. The ASSI TF1 meeting adopted three draft conclusion and one decision which are reflected in **Appendix A** to this paper.

2.6 As per its Terms of Reference, and in accordance with established procedures, the ASSI TF reports to the ATM/AIM/SAR Sub-Group which on its turn reports to APIRG. Since the ASSI TF/1 meeting, the Sub-Group did not have the opportunity to meet. The ASSI TF/2 meeting was of the view that conclusions and decision adopted by the ASSI TF/1 meeting were still valid and decided to renew them for presentation to the ATM/AIM/SAR Sub-Group and endorsement.

2.5 The meeting may wish to review these recommendations, conclusions and decisions and decide on any follow-up action deemed appropriate, in order to expedite their implementation.

### **3. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) review the list of Recommendations, Conclusions and Decisions at **Appendix A** to this working paper;
- b) take all necessary measures, including follow-up action deemed necessary to foster the implementation of SAR provisions contained therein.

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## AFI/7 REGIONAL AIR NAVIGATION MEETING RECOMMENDATIONS

Cons/Decs No. Strategic Objectives*	Title of Cons/Decs	Text of Cons/Decs	Follow-up Action	To be initiated by	Deliverable/ Intended Outcome	Target Dates	Status of Implementation
<b>REC 6/1 A</b>	<b>CARRIAGE OF 406 MHZ ELTS</b>	That in the AFI Region, all aircraft required to carry emergency locator transmitters (ELTs) in accordance with Annex 6, carry automatic ELTs operating on 406 Mhz, and on 121.5 Mhz for homing.	States, Operators and Regulators to coordinate implementation and oversight on 406 Mhz ELTs carriage.	ESAF & WACAF Offices	All civil aircraft equipped with 406 Mhz ELTs	Dec 2010	To be confirmed (on-going)
<b>REC 6/2 A</b>	<b>SATELLITE-AIDED SEARCH AND RESCUE</b>	That States: a) take appropriate action to reduce the number of false alarms through the COSPAS-SARSAT system on 121.5/243/406 Mhz caused by inadvertent activation of emergency transmitters and eliminate unauthorized use of those frequencies. b) establish a register of 406 Mhz and make available information by publishing, in the aeronautical information publication, how ELT registration information can be obtained rapidly by rescue co-ordination centres (RCCs) of other States. c) provide to ICAO a search and rescue (SAR) point of contact (SPOC) for inclusion in the Table SAR 1 of the respective air navigation plan (ANP); and d) include information regarding the COSPAS-SARSAT system in the SAR plans.	States	States	States have access to COSPAS-SARSAT system for SAR	Dec 2010	To be confirmed (on-going)

Cons/Decs No. Strategic Objectives*	Title of Cons/Decs	Text of Cons/Decs	Follow-up Action	To be initiated by	Deliverable/ Intended Outcome	Target Dates	Status of Implementation
<b>CONC 6/3 A</b>	<b>COOPERATION BETWEEN STATES</b>	<p>In order to promote a more effective and economic utilization of SAR facilities, States should enter into precise agreements with other States in order to pool their resources and provide mutual assistance in SAR operations when requested:</p> <p>a) to assist in meeting the minimum requirements specified in Table SAR 1 in cases where difficulties are experienced in fulfilling such requirements;</p> <p>b) to provide complete coverage of a search and rescue region with the assistance of SAR facilities of other States;</p> <p>c) to provide, if possible, SAR facilities additional to the minimum requirements in Table SAR 1, while at the same time avoiding prohibitive costs; and</p> <p>d) to establish common SAR procedures.</p>	States ICAO	States ICAO	Signed LOPs	Dec 2010	To be confirmed (on-going)
<b>REC 6/4 A</b>	<b>COORDINATION WITH MARITIME SAR AUTHORITIES AND IMO</b>	That, to ensure compatibility between aeronautical and maritime search and rescue regions (SRRs), aeronautical search and rescue (SAR) authorities in States maintain close liaison with their maritime counterparts and the International Maritime Organization (IMO).	States	States	Coordination between civil aeronautical and maritime authorities for joint operations and pooling of resources	Dec 2010	To be confirmed (on-going)
<b>REC 6/5 A</b>	<b>TRAINING OF SAR PERSONNEL</b>	That, when preparing a training programme for search and rescue personnel,	States ICAO	States ICAO	SAR personnel are adequately trained	Dec 2010	To be confirmed (on-going)

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Cons/Decs No. Strategic Objectives*	Title of Cons/Decs	Text of Cons/Decs	Follow-up Action	To be initiated by	Deliverable/ Intended Outcome	Target Dates	Status of Implementation
		arrangements be made to include all personnel, including military, involved in search and rescue.					
<b>REC 6/6 A</b>	<b>SEARCH AND RESCUE SEMINARS</b>	That ICAO organize search and rescue seminars in the AFI Region at regular intervals and at least once every three years	ICAO	ICAO	SAR seminars and workshops organized	Continuous	On-going
<b>REC 6/7 A</b>	<b>SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISES</b>	That States make arrangements for: a) paper and communications exercises in search and rescue (SAR) and, in addition, frequent, regular SAR exercises under realistic conditions at least once a year to achieve maximum SAR capabilities; b) joint SAE exercises between their search and rescue units and those of other States and with operators at regular intervals and, if possible, at least once a year; and c) observers from other interested States and organizations to participate in such exercises.	States	States	SAREX conducted regularly	Dec 2010	To be confirmed
<b>REC 6/8 A</b>	<b>SEARCH AND RESCUE FACILITIES</b>	The list of search and rescue (SAR) facilities at the Appendix to the Report on Agenda Item 6 constitute the plan for the SAR facilities in the area considered by the meeting.	States	States	States having adequate SAR facilities	Dec 2010	To be confirmed

**APIRG17 CONCLUSIONS & DECISIONS RELATED TO SAR**

Cons/Decs No. Strategic Objectives*	Title of Cons/Decs	Text of Cons/Decs	Follow-up Action	To be initiated by	Deliverable/ Intended Outcome	Target Dates	Status of Implementation
<b>DECISION 17/67</b>  A	<b>AFI SAR SERVICES INTEGRATION TASK FORCE (ASSI TF)</b>	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 the report on agenda item 3.4.	Coordinate establishment of ASSI TF	ESAF & WACAF Offices	ASSI TF meetings report	March 2011	Completed. ASSI TF/1 meeting 19-20 September 2011
<b>CONCLUSION 17/68</b>  A	<b>SEARCH AND RESCUE SERVICES</b>	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) where applicable, in order to optimize usage of resources and coordination;  (b) Encouraged to establish sub-regional task forces to progress the development of SAR cooperative arrangements and integration of SAR services;	Issue State Letter  Initiate coordination protocols between RCCs  Establish sub-regional task forces	ESAF & WACAF Offices  States  States	State Letter  More efficient and effective SAR services  Cooperative arrangements, integration of SAR services	2010-2011  2010-2011	Completed  Still valid  Still valid  Still valid



ASSI TASK FORCE MEETINGS - LIST OF DRAFT CONCLUSIONS AND DECISIONS

Conclusions/Decisions No.	Title of Conclusion /Decision	Text of Conclusion/Decision	Follow-up Action	To be initiated by	Deliverable/ Intended Outcome	Target Dates	Status of Implementation
DRAFT CONCLUSION 2/1	Resolution of SAR deficiencies and establishment of Joint RCCs	That ICAO send a State letter to all AFI States, calling on them to expedite the resolution of the longstanding deficiencies recorded in the SAR field and highlighting that both ICAO and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) now recommend the establishment of joint aviation/maritime rescue coordination centres <i>where applicable</i> and regionalized provision of SAR services.	Issue State Letter	ESAF & WACAF Offices			Still valid. To be endorsed by APIRG
DRAFT CONCLUSION 2/2	Development and management of an AFI SAR web page	That <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) ICAO develops and manages a web page under ESAF and WACAF websites where information from all AFI States on SAR implementation and SAR activities will be posted.</li> <li>b) AFI States forward to the ICAO regional offices regular information on their SAR activities, for posting on the website.</li> </ul>					Pending approval by APIRG

<p><b>DRAFT CONCLUSION</b> <b>2/3</b></p>	<p><b>Survey on the provision of SAR in the AFI Region</b></p>	<p><i>That,</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <i>ICAO Regional Offices send a State Letter with a questionnaire to all AFI States, prior to 30 November 2011, to collect information on the status of implementation of SAR provisions in the AFI Region and update the list of Air Navigation Deficiencies accordingly;</i></li> <li>b) <i>States send their replies to the ICAO Regional Offices not later than 31 January <del>December</del> 2012.</i></li> </ul>					<p>Ongoing</p>
<p><b>DRAFT DECISION</b> <b>2/1</b></p>	<p><i>Organization of ASSI TF meetings</i></p>	<p><i>That</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <i>the ASSI TF meeting be held in a different State each year;</i></li> <li>b) <i>the ASSI TF meeting to coincide with a planned SAR events activity being organized occurring in the host State (SAR exercises), or visit of SAR facilities etc..) if possible.</i></li> </ul>					<p>Pending approval by APIRG</p>

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