



ICAO

International Civil Aviation Organization

Eighth Meeting of the ICAO Asia/Pacific Search and Rescue Working Group (APSAR/WG/8)

Bangkok, Thailand, 22 – 25 May 2023

Agenda Item 2: Review Outcomes of Related Meetings

OUTCOMES OF THE ICAO/IMO JOINT WORKING GROUP MEETING

(Presented by USA)

SUMMARY

This paper presents a brief overview of the outcomes of the twenty-ninth meeting of the ICAO/IMO Joint Working Group on SAR held from 17 to 21 October 2022.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The twenty-ninth meeting of the ICAO/International Maritime Organization (IMO) Joint Working Group on Harmonization of Aeronautical and Maritime SAR (JWG 29) was held in person at IMO Headquarters, London, UK, from 17 to 21 October 2022. The report of this meeting was presented at the annual meeting of the IMO Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and SAR held at IMO Headquarters from 8 to 19 May 2023. Copies of JWG reports can be provided through your national points of contact for ICAO and IMO or from your JWG members attending APSAR WG 8.

1.2 The Asia/Pacific Search and Rescue (SAR) Plan specifically refers to the value of ICAO/IMO JWG outcomes in two sections:

- Plan Review, paragraph 1.5, "...the Plan requires regular updating to keep current with changes in ICAO Annexes and guidance material, outcomes from the ICAO/IMO JWG"; and
- Global and Regional SAR Issues, paragraph 6.15, "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. Such forums may include...ICAO/IMO JWG".

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The ICAO/IMO JWG is a group of eight aeronautical SAR experts and eight maritime SAR experts who meet annually supported by the IMO and ICAO who each provide a secretariat. Strong effort is made to meet in States around the world to enable local inputs from nearby States. The Asia/Pacific region is represented by two aeronautical SAR experts, one each from Australia and Singapore; and, three maritime experts, one each from China, New Zealand and USA.

2.2 JWG 29 focused on a small set of critical matters to address, including:

1. amendments to the IAMSAR Manual;

2. concerns relating to implementation of autonomous distress tracking of aircraft in flight; and
3. discussion of how the JWG can assist States in implementing improvements to their SAR services.

2.3 The IAMSAR Manual has a three-year cycle to consider amendments to its next edition. JWG 29 convened in the second year of that cycle and focused on either finalizing proposed amendments or refining proposed amendments for finalization at its next session (JWG 30) in late 2023. Discussions on working papers and status reports during JWG 29 also resulted in tentative draft amendments. Now is the time for inputs to guide JWG 30 as it finalizes proposed amendments for the 2025 edition of the IAMSAR Manual. Outcomes from JWG 29 regarding proposed IAMSAR Manual amendments included:

1. update on implementation of the Global Aeronautical Distress and Safety System (GADSS): GADSS continues to evolve and some parts of the system will not be fully operational until late 2023. The ICAO Secretariat will provide a smooth draft proposal for JWG 30.
2. cooperation between SAR services and accident investigation authorities: JWG 29 completed smooth text and new appendix based on inputs from APSAR WG 7.
3. guidance on approval of entry into a State’s territory for SAR: new content and sample template will be finalized at JWG 30. This is supporting guidance for pending ICAO proposal for amendment to ICAO Annex 12 regarding “the methods for obtaining approval to allow search and rescue units from an assisting State to enter into the territory of the State of the RCC.”
4. guidance on electronic night search: Australia to propose smooth text based on discussions during APSAR 8.
5. guidance on SAR in windfarms: JWG 29 completed smooth text.
6. content regarding exercises: This is supporting guidance for pending ICAO proposal for amendment to ICAO Annex 12 regarding exercises. This is follow-on work initiated by the APSAR WG.

2.4 As noted in the Asia/Pacific Search and Rescue Plan under *SAR Quality Assurance*, paragraph 7.13, “All States... e) where appropriate, provide submissions to the ICAO/IMO JWG to share lessons learned and experiences with other global States for the continuous improvement of the worldwide SAR system.” The Asia/Pacific SAR Working Group has a long history of doing this. The ICAO/IMO JWG members in this meeting look forward to your continued support and will gladly assist in carrying forward your State and regional concerns and ideas for global consideration. JWG 30 will likely convene from 6 to 10 November 2023 in Cape Town, South Africa.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper; and
- b) encourage States, as appropriate, to participate in and provide submissions to ICAO/IMO JWG meetings to share lessons learned and experiences with other global States for the continuous improvement of the worldwide SAR system.

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