



ICAO

*International Civil Aviation Organization*

**Ninth Meeting of the ICAO Asia/Pacific Search and Rescue Working Group (APSAR/WG/9)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 07 – 10 May 2024

---

## **Agenda Item 2: Review Outcomes of Related Meetings**

### **OUTCOMES OF THE ICAO/IMO JOINT WORKING GROUP ON SAR MEETING**

(Presented by USA)

#### **SUMMARY**

This paper presents a brief overview of the outcomes of the thirtieth meeting of the ICAO/IMO Joint Working Group on SAR held from 06 to 10 November 2023.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The thirtieth meeting of the ICAO/International Maritime Organization (IMO) Joint Working Group on Harmonization of Aeronautical and Maritime SAR (JWG 30) was held in person in Cape Town, South Africa from 06 to 10 November 2023. The IMO intentionally scheduled its Africa Regional SAR Workshop the next week so that JWG participants could also be active in the workshop. 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 9.

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 30 discussions and decisions included:

- a) reports on outcomes of ICAO and IMO from the viewpoint of their headquarters;
- b) finalizing proposed amendments to the IAMSAR Manual;

- c) concerns on implementation of autonomous distress tracking of aircraft in flight; and
- d) assisting States in implementing improvements in SAR service, quality, capacity and capability and use of ICAO and IMO technical cooperation activities and IMO SAR Fund.

2.3 The IAMSAR Manual has a three-year cycle to consider amendments to its next edition. JWG 30 convened in the third year of that cycle and focused on finalizing proposed amendments for the 2025 edition. Discussions on working papers and status reports during JWG 30 also identified issues for possible future amendments. Now is the time for inputs to guide JWG 31 as it begins the review cycle of the IAMSAR Manual. Outcomes from JWG 30 regarding proposed IAMSAR Manual amendments included:

- a) 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 2024. The ICAO Secretariat provided smooth draft proposal.
- b) cooperation between SAR services and accident investigation authorities: JWG 30 completed smooth text and new appendix based on inputs from APSAR WG 7.
- c) guidance on approval of entry into a State's territory for SAR: new content and sample template was finalized. This is supporting guidance 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."
- d) guidance on electronic night search: finalized text proposed by Australia based on discussions during APSAR 8.
- e) aircraft distress beacon report form: sample report form and guidance text finalized.

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 31 will convene from 6 to 8 November 2024 in Ireland. Its invitation letter should be sent out in late June 2024.

2.5 The IMO intentionally scheduled its Africa Regional SAR Workshop to follow the week after the JWG 30 meeting. IMO funded representatives from several States to participate in JWG 30 and its Workshop. The Workshop also benefited from the active participation of JWG Members and other JWG 30 participants. ICAO and IMO each conduct technical cooperation activities for lesser developed SAR systems so that SAR capability and capacity are expanded for all.

### 3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper;
- b) encourage States to participate in and provide submissions to ICAO/IMO JWG meetings to share lessons learned and experiences with other global States; and
- c) consider if ICAO and IMO technical cooperation activities might benefit States within the Asia/Pacific region.

.....