



*International Civil Aviation Organization*

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

Bangkok, Thailand, 07 – 10 May 2024

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**Agenda Item 7: APSAR/WG Task List**

**APSAR/WG TERMS OF REFERENCE AND TASK LIST**

(Presented by Secretariat)

**SUMMARY**

This paper presents the APSAR/WG Task List and Terms of Reference for review.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The APSAR/WG is required to periodically review the tasks assigned to it or developed within the APSAR/WG itself, as well as the relevancy of tasks within the context of its Terms of Reference (TOR).

**2. DISCUSSION**

2.1 The APSAR/WG TOR is appended as **Attachment A** to this paper.

2.2 The APSAR/WG Task List as last updated by APSAR/WG/8 is appended as **Attachment B** to this paper.

**3. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The meeting is invited to review the:

- a) Terms of Reference at **Attachment A**; and
- b) Task List at **Attachment B**.

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## **Terms of Reference**

### **Asia/Pacific Search and Rescue Workgroup (APSAR/WG)**

#### **Objective**

1. In collaboration with affected stakeholders and in close cooperation with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the objective of the Asia/Pacific Search and Rescue Workgroup is to promote the enhancement and improvement of SAR facilities and services within the Asia/Pacific Region and adjacent regions, in accordance with:

- a) Annex 12 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation; and
- b) the International Aeronautical and Maritime SAR Manual (IAMSAR).

2. The APSAR/WG will be expected to enhance SAR capability within the Asia/Pacific Region by:

- a) making recommendations for improvement to the Asia/Pacific SAR Plan; and
- b) providing advice and information, including recommendations for effective implementation of SAR improvements.

#### **Tasks**

3. To meet its objectives, the APSAR/WG shall:

- a) review the current status of SAR preparedness of Asia and Pacific Region States;
- b) review State SAR Arrangements for commonality with those of neighbouring States to facilitate SAR coordination and cooperation across regional boundaries;
- c) monitor outcomes from APANPIRG, ATM/SG, other ICAO Region SAR groups, ICAO/IMO Joint Working Group (JWG) and related forums for issues that may affect the APAC Region;
- d) monitor sub-regional and/or regional SAREX as appropriate;
- e) analyse procedures in use in other ICAO Regions, and cooperate with other groups which are involved with similar work in adjacent airspaces, in order to achieve harmonized inter-regional solutions;
- f) identify areas where SAR planning and preparedness requires improvement in terms of compliance with Annex 12, the IAMSAR Manual and accepted best practice; and
- g) make recommendations for improvement and implementation of SAR systems.

#### **Reporting**

4. The APSAR/WG reports to the ATM Sub-group of APANPIRG. A line of communication will be provided to the IMO on APSAR/WG outcomes where necessary.

#### **Membership**

5. The membership of the APSAR/WG is open to States and administrations that have the responsibility for the provision of SAR services and facilities within the Asia/Pacific, related international organizations, IMO and ICAO. The membership is also open to participants from outside the Asia/Pacific or organisations that can contribute to APSAR/WG by invitation from APSAR/WG (such as Cospas-Sarsat and military organizations that can facilitate SAR operations).

**APSAR/WG - TASK LIST**

*(Last amended APSAR/WG/8, 25 May 2023)*

ID	Task Description	Start Date	Expected Finish Date	Resource Names/Remarks
4/2	ICAO requested that States monitor and report the effectiveness of their false alert education programmes.	May 2019	On-going	All APAC States Updated to 'ongoing' at APSAR/WG/6
4/6	<del>China and Nepal</del> were requested to provide more detailed analysis of the investigations into ELT non-activation problems in mountainous and high terrain areas.	May 2019	Closed	<del>China and Nepal</del> APSAR/WG/6 – update: there was insufficient data so far available to progress this task. Future update to be provided.
5/1	Cospas-Sarsat requested States to provide feedback on notifications about system developments; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) provide feedback on the Cospas-Sarsat Video Library;</li> <li>b) participate in the development of modifications to distress alert message format; and</li> <li>c) provide details of any existing MCC-SPOC agreements/arrangements, and proposals for improving MCC-SPOC communications during tests and real alerts.</li> <li>d) provide feedback to Cospas-Sarsat on the status of the registration systems that were maintained by individual States (prev task 4/1)</li> </ul>	APSAR/WG/5	Ongoing	APSAR/WG/4 Task 4/1 APSAR/WG/5/WP03 – APAC States APSAR/WG/6 WP/05 – APAC States APSAR/WG/7 WP/04 – APAC States APSAR/WG/8 WP/5 – APAC States Cospas-Sarsat has copies of only <del>three</del> <b>four</b> agreements between relevant MCCs and APAC RCCs/SPOCs (Tahiti, <del>Nepal</del> , Cambodia, Lao PDR)

ID	Task Description	Start Date	Expected Finish Date	Resource Names/Remarks
5/2	States to use <b>APSAR/WG/6 WP/04 Attachment A</b> (the International Maritime Organisation's IMO Interim Guidance for SAR Services Regarding Implementation of Autonomous Distress Tracking of Aircraft in Flight) as a means to have their aeronautical and maritime SAR services coordinate to develop national and regional response procedures for ADT	APSAR/WG/5	Closed	APSAR/WG/6/WP04 – APAC States
6/1	Adapt ADT Implementation Guidance from APSAR/WG/6 WP/04 Attachment A for inclusion in updated Regional SAR Plan	APSAR/WG/6	Completed	APSAR/WG/6 WP/04 – USA APSAR/WG/7: incorporated in Revised SAR Plan at Appendix E to the Report Also to be considered for inclusion in checklist of items for consideration under Action Item 7/5
6/2	Develop a generic version of the MOU between the SAR Service and the Accident Investigation Authority for inclusion in updated Regional SAR Plan	APSAR/WG/6	Completed	APSAR/WG/6 WP/09 – Australia, Singapore, USA (includes WP to ICAO/IMO JWG September 2021 to seek input). APSAR/WG/7: incorporated in Revised SAR Plan at Appendix E to the Report
6/3	2022 Update of Regional SAR Plan	APSAR/WG/6	Completed	APSAR/WG/6 WP/10 – Australia, Singapore, USA, coordinated by ICAO Regional Office, including coordination with other ICAO Regions for updated SAR plans. APSAR/WG/7: Completed apart from residual action item 7/6
7/1	Provide feedback to Cospas-Sarsat by not later than 03 June 2022 on the draft model/template for use by MCCs to inform State SAR SPOCs on GADSS, ELT(DT)s and alerts originating from aircraft in a distress condition	APSAR/WG/7	<del>03 June 2022</del> Completed	APSAR/WG/7: Direct feedback to Cospas-Sarsat to avoid double handling due to the short timeframe. <b>APSAR/WG/8 Report Appendix C</b>

ID	Task Description	Start Date	Expected Finish Date	Resource Names/Remarks
7/2	Establish what global activities such as workshops, training or guidance for ADT, including ELT(DT), and within the scope of ICAO, may be planned	APSAR/WG/7	<del>03 June 2022</del> Completed	APSAR/WG/7: ICAO APAC to follow up with HQ. Feedback to be taken into account in consideration/planning in response to action item 7/3
7/3	Examine whether a further workshop or seminar on GADSS, including alert/notification distribution, LADR and coordination procedure development, may be programmed for APAC Region before the end of 2022 in 2023/2024, possibly in conjunction with APSAR/WG/9.	APSAR/WG/7	<del>31 August 2022</del> APSAR/WG/9	APSAR/WG/7: ICAO to see if/where a further workshop may be added to the work programme. Subject also to feedback from HQ to action item 7/2 and responses to survey under action item 7/6 APSAR/WG/8: updated as consequence of meeting discussion. Dependent on availability of experts (State SAR and ATS experts, EUROCONTROL, Cospas-Sarsat, IATA, ICAO HQ expert), and on the availability of the LADR.
7/4	Develop brief guidance in the form of a checklist of considerations for actions by Regulators, Airlines, SAR Services and ANSPs when an ADT is activated	APSAR/WG/7	<del>03 June 2022</del> Completed	APSAR/WG/7: To be completed for inclusion as Appendix D to the Report. ICAO, Chair, Australia, USA, IATA, Cospas-Sarsat. Include Regulatory input
7/5	Update SAR Plan paragraphs: a) 5.14 to 5.20 to include ELT(DT) information b) 6.1 to 6.6 to include latest USOAP and Regional SAR status	APSAR/WG/7	<del>03 June 2022</del> Completed	APSAR/WG/7: a) Cospas-Sarsat in coordination with ICAO; b) ICAO
7/6	ICAO APAC State Letter; a) Remind states of applicability date; b) Remind them of the OPS CTRL and LADR registration process and encourage them to register; c) Include survey of APAC States on readiness for applicability of ADT 01 January 2023	APSAR/WG/7	<del>31 August 2022</del> Completed	APSAR/WG/7: ICAO Subject to completion of guidance in action item 7/5, to be used as the basis of the survey.
8/1	Explore availability of a copy of EUROCAE Doc ED-237 for the information of APSAR/WG	APSAR/WG/8	02 June 2023	APSAR/WG/8 Report 3.29 ICAO
8/2	Coordinate with SURICG and Secretariat on ICAO Aircraft Address use in ELT and ELT(DT)	APSAR/WG/8	02 June 2023	APSAR/WG/8 Report 3.30 ICAO

ID	Task Description	Start Date	Expected Finish Date	Resource Names/Remarks
8/3	Revise Checklist of Considerations for Readiness for ADT, and conduct re-survey	APSAR/WG/8	28 July 2023	APSAR/WG/8 Report 4.4 to 4.6 Australia, Chair, ICAO
8/4	Coordinate with ICAO EUR/NAT Regional Office and ICAO Headquarters on NAT DISTREX planning and outcomes, with a view to potential APAC DISTREX	APSAR/WG/8	28 July 2023	APSAR/WG/8 Report 4.10 ICAO
8/5	Provide comments and any proposed enhancements to Aircraft Electronic Night Search Guidance to ICAO/IMO JWG-SAR	APSAR/WG/8	08 July 2023	APSAR/WG/8 Report 4.16 All APSAR/WG/8 Administrations, through APSAR/WG JWG Member (Australia), or ICAO Secretariat for relay
8/6	1. Explore what ICAO/IMO global response is being considered to respond to proliferation of technology and services for emergency satellite communications and automatic crash detection (non-ICAO applications) 2. Submit WPs on experience to APSAR/WG/9	APSAR/WG/8	APSAR/WG/9	APSAR/WG/8 Report 4.23 1. ICAO, ICAO/IMO JWG-SAR Chairs. 2. All APSAR/WG/8 Administrations
8/7	Seek clarification on LADR progress, and on notification distribution design (FIR, SRR and/or other?)	APSAR/WG/8	ATM/SG/11	APSAR/WG/8 Report 4.37 ICAO
8/8	Expedite finalisation of SAR agreements, and inform APSAR/WG of barriers to progress.	APSAR/WG/8	APSAR/WG/9	APSAR/WG/8 Report 4.45 All APAC States