International Civil Aviation Organization

Tenth Meeting of the ICAO Asia/Pacific Search and Rescue Workgroup (APSAR/WG/10)

Siem Reap, Cambodia, 27 – 30 May 2025

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.

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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/9 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).

Approved by APANPIRG/26 in Decision APANPIRG/26/24, September 2015

APSAR/WG - TASK LIST

(Last amended APSAR/WG/9, 10 May 2024)

ACTION ITEM	DESCRIPTION	TARGET DATE	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	STATUS	REMARKS
4/2	ICAO requested that States monitor and report the effectiveness of their false alert education programmes.	Ongoing	All APAC States	Open	Updated to 'ongoing' at APSAR/WG/6
5/1	Cospas-Sarsat requested States to provide feedback on notifications about system developments; a) provide feedback on the Cospas-Sarsat Video Library; b) participate in the development of modifications to distress alert message format; and c) provide details of any existing MCC-SPOC agreements/arrangements, and proposals for improving MCC-SPOC communications during tests and real alerts. d) provide feedback to Cospas-Sarsat on the status of the registration systems that were maintained by individual States (prev task 4/1)	Ongoing	All APAC States	Open	APSAR/WG/4 Task 4/1 APSAR/WG/5/WP03 APSAR/WG/6 WP/05 APSAR/WG/7 WP/04 APSAR/WG/8 WP/5 APSAR/WG/9 WP/4 Cospas-Sarsat has copies of only four agreements between relevant MCCs and APAC RCCs/SPOCs (Tahiti, Nepal, Cambodia, Lao PDR)
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.	~~August 2022~~ APSAR/WG/9	State SAR and ATS experts, EUROCONTROL, Cospas-Sarsat, IATA, ICAO HQ expert	~~Open~~ Closed	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.

ACTION ITEM	DESCRIPTION	TARGET DATE	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	STATUS	REMARKS
8/1	Explore availability of a copy of EUROCAE Doc ED-237 for the information of APSAR/WG	02 June 2023	ICAO	~~Open~~ Completed	APSAR/WG/8 Report 3.29
8/2	Coordinate with SURICG and Secretariat on ICAO Aircraft Address use in ELT and ELT(DT)	02 June 2023	ICAO	~~Open~~ Completed	APSAR/WG/8 Report 3.30
8/3	Revise Checklist of Considerations for Readiness for ADT, and conduct re-survey	28 July 2023	Australia, Chair, ICAO	~~Open~~ Completed	APSAR/WG/8 Report 4.4 to 4.6
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	~~28 July 2023~~ APSAR/WG/10	ICAO	Open	APSAR/WG/8 Report 4.10
8/5	Provide comments and any proposed enhancements to Aircraft Electronic Night Search Guidance to ICAO/IMO JWG-SAR	08 July 2023	All APSAR/WG/8 Administrations, through APSAR/WG JWG Member (Australia), or ICAO Secretariat for relay	~~Open~~ Completed	APSAR/WG/8 Report 4.16
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/9~~ APSAR/WG/10	ICAO, ICAO/IMO JWG-SAR Chairs. and All APSAR/WG/8 Administrations	Open	APSAR/WG/8 Report 4.23
8/7	Seek clarification on LADR progress, and on notification distribution design (FIR, SRR and/or other?)	ATM/SG/11	ICAO	~~Open~~ Completed	APSAR/WG/8 Report 4.37
8/8	Expedite finalisation of SAR agreements and inform APSAR/WG of barriers to progress.	~~APSAR/WG/9~~ APSAR/WG/10	All APAC States	Open	APSAR/WG/8 Report 4.45
9/1	Participate in and provide submissions to ICAO/IMO JWG meetings	JWG31	All APAC States	Open	APSAR/WG/9 Report 2.11

ACTION ITEM	DESCRIPTION	TARGET DATE	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	STATUS	REMARKS
9/2	Provide outcome of APSAR/WG/9 to the next JWG and EUR/SAR TF	JWG31 EUR/SAR TF	ICAO	Open	APSAR/WG/9 Report 2.12
9/3	Report the specific reasons of false alerts during collection of operational data of ELT(DT)	APSAR/WG/10	All APAC States	Open	APSAR/WG/9 Report 3.29
9/4	Submit returns for the revised SAR implementation reporting form with 42 elements by 28th February 2025	28 February 2025	All APAC States	Open	APSAR/WG/9 Report 4.35 All APAC States
9/5	Participate in the ICAO EUR/APAC SAR Workshop 2024 and invite Air operators to share experience of ELT(DT) devices on board the aircraft	2 October 2025	All APAC States, IATA	Open	APSAR/WG/9 Report 4.60
9/6	Update the Asia/Pacific SAR Plan and prepare a WP for the APSAR/WG/10 in 2025 for further discussion	APSAR/WG/10	Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, United States and ICAO	Open	APSAR/WG/9 Report 5.8