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*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

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**Agenda Item 4: Asia/Pacific and Inter-regional SAR Planning, Coordination and Cooperation**

**CAMBODIA'S CIVIL-MILITARY COOPERATION IN SAR SERVICES**

(Presented by Cambodia)

**SUMMARY**

This paper presents the implementation status of the Asia/Pacific SAR Plan, Cambodia's updated SAR Performance Indicators, and progress in developing the civil-military cooperation framework for SAR services, highlighting Cambodia's compliance with international standards and its ongoing efforts to enhance regional and national search and rescue capabilities.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Cambodia's search and rescue (SAR) services are managed through the national disaster management mechanism under the State Secretariat of Civil Aviation (SSCA). These operations are implemented in full compliance with both national legislation and international standards, including the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

1.2 Civil-military cooperation in SAR operations is legally established and operationally defined, following ICAO provisions while adapting to Cambodia's national context.

**2. DISCUSSION**

2.1 Civil-military coordination serves as the operational backbone of Cambodia's SAR system, enabling optimal resource utilization, combined expertise from both sectors, and enhanced emergency response effectiveness.

International Cooperation

2.2 As an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member, Cambodia will host the ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Exercise 2025 (ARDEX-25) in collaboration with the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre), strengthening regional disaster response coordination, enhancing multilateral cooperation mechanisms, and standardizing SAR procedures across member states.

2.3 The annual ARDEX program rotates among ASEAN Member States to test and improve regional coordination protocols, evaluate resource-sharing mechanisms, and develop interoperable response systems.



### National Cooperation

2.4 Cambodia's national exercise program incorporates regular table-top simulations and full-scale civil-military SAR drills, all conducted in compliance with national regulations and international best practices.

2.5 Recent major exercises were conducted at three international airports: AIPEX-23 in Phnom Penh focused on RCC-ATC-SRU coordination, KOS EX24 in Sihanoukville tested cross-domain response capabilities, and SAI-EX2 in Siem Reap evaluated unified command systems—all employing standardized assessment methodologies across operational domains and unit classifications.



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

3.1 The meeting is invited to note the information contained in this paper.

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