



ICAO

International Civil Aviation Organization

Eleventh Meeting of the ICAO Asia/Pacific Search and Rescue Workgroup (APSAR/WG/11)

Bangkok, Thailand, 5 – 8 May 2026

Agenda Item 7: APSAR/WG Task List

APSAR/WG TERMS OF REFERENCE AND TASK LIST

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the Terms of Reference (TOR) and Task List of the Asia/Pacific Search and Rescue Workgroup (APSAR/WG) for review and update by the meeting.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This working paper provides the APSAR/WG TOR and Task List for review and update by the meeting.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The current APSAR/WG TOR is provided in **Appendix A**.

2.2 The Task List, last updated by the Tenth Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Search and Rescue Workgroup (APSAR/WG/10), is provided in **Appendix B**.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) review and update APSAR/WG TOR at **Appendix A**;
- b) review APSAR/WG Task List at **Appendix B**; and
- c) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate.

APPENDIX A

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 organizations 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

APPENDIX B

APSAR/WG - TASK LIST

(Last updated: APSAR/WG/10, 30 May 2025)

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 APSAR/WG/10 WP/14 Cospas-Sarsat has copies of only four agreements between relevant MCCs and APAC RCCs/SPOCs (Tahiti, Nepal, Cambodia, Lao PDR)
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/10	ICAO	Open Completed	APSAR/WG/8 Report 4.10 APSAR/WG/10 Report 2.8
8/6	1. Explore what ICAO/IMO global response is being considered to respond to proliferation of technology and services for emergency	APSAR/WG/10	ICAO, ICAO/IMO JWG-SAR	Open Closed	APSAR/WG/8 Report 4.23 APSAR/WG/10 Report 4.29

ACTION ITEM	DESCRIPTION	TARGET DATE	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	STATUS	REMARKS
	satellite communications and automatic crash detection (non-ICAO applications) 2. Submit WPs on experience to APSAR/WG/9		Chairs and All APSAR/WG/8 Administrations		
8/8	Expedite finalisation of SAR agreements and inform APSAR/WG of barriers to progress	APSAR/WG/10 APSAR/WG/11	All APAC States	Open	APSAR/WG/8 Report 4.45 APSAR/WG/10 Report 4.43 and 4.46
9/1	Participate in and provide submissions to ICAO/IMO JWG meetings	JWG31 Ongoing	All APAC States	Open	APSAR/WG/9 Report 2.11 APSAR/WG/10 Report 2.10 APSAR/WG/10 agreed this action item to be considered as ‘ongoing’
9/2	Provide outcome of APSAR/WG/9 to the next JWG and EUR/SAR TF	JWG31 EUR/SAR TF	ICAO	Open Completed	APSAR/WG/9 Report 2.12 Outcomes provided at the ICAO EUR/APAC SAR Workshop 2024
9/3	Report the specific reasons of false alerts during collection of operational data of ELT(DT)	APSAR/WG/10 APSAR/WG/11	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 Completed	APSAR/WG/9 Report 4.35 APSAR/WG/10 Report 4.15
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 Completed	APSAR/WG/9 Report 4.60 APSAR/WG/10 Report 2.7
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 Completed	APSAR/WG/9 Report 5.8 APSAR/WG/10 WP/08
10/1	Organize a workshop in conjunction with the APSAR/WG/11	APSAR/WG/11	ICAO	Open	APSAR/WG/10 Report 2.25 and 8.2

ACTION ITEM	DESCRIPTION	TARGET DATE	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	STATUS	REMARKS
10/2	Step up efforts to conduct the various actions required for ADT implementation	Immediate	All APAC States, ICAO	Open	APSAR/WG/10 Report 4.22
10/3	Submit SRU capability information by 28 February 2026	28 February 2026	All APAC States	Open	APSAR/WG/10 Report 5.10, 5.11 and Appendix E
10/4	Submit revised SAR Plan implementation using digital form by 28 February 2026	28 February 2026	All APAC States	Open	APSAR/WG/10 Report 5.11 and Appendix F

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