



ICAO

U.S. Coast Guard



# ICAO EUR/NAT and ACAAO SAR Workshop 19-21 November 2025

ICAO/IMO Joint Working Group  
(JWG) on SAR - Updates

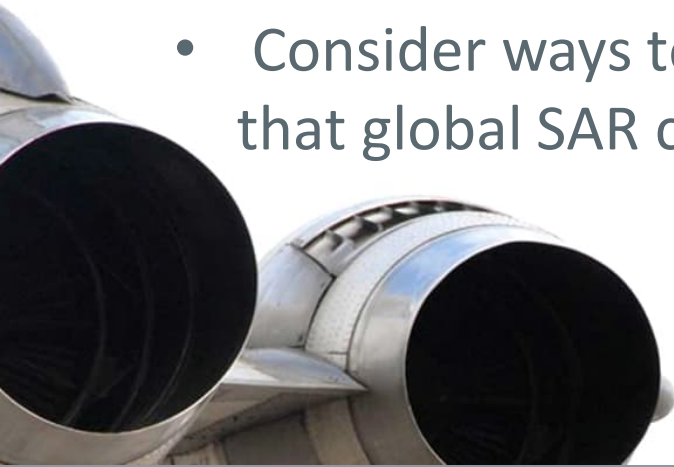
Chair ICAO/IMO JWG





## The JWG

- ICAO/IMO Joint Working Group on **Harmonization of Aeronautical and Maritime** Search and Rescue (JWG) founded 1993.
- Assist in developing provisions on new SAR techniques and procedures.
- Maintain credibility and accuracy of the IAMSAR Manual
- Consider ways to assist States with less-developed SAR services so that global SAR capacity and capability continue to grow





## The JWG

- ICAO provides a Secretariat (ICAO HQ has one SAR Technical Officer)
- IMO provides a Secretariat (IMO HQ has a small staff with SAR expertise)
- Members serve as individual SAR experts rather than State representatives
- Members in accordance with ICAO rules for panels: maximum of 16 (8 aeronautical and 8 maritime SAR)





## General JWG Member Qualifications

- Expertise in SAR
- Participation as an observer for some years
- Active participation
- Your State enables dependable attendance and submission of papers

But, **Observers** are essential for a productive JWG meeting



**Aeronautical, 8 members**

AUS, CAN, **FRA**, FIN, SGP,  
**SWE, UK**, US

**Maritime, 8 members**

IRL, CHL, **SWE**, NZL,  
**UK**, US, CHN, ZA

## ICAO/IMO JWG

on Harmonization of Aeronautical  
and Maritime Search and Rescue

**Observers**





## What does the JWG work on:

- 2025 edition of IAMSAR Manual will be published soon (applicable 1 January 2026)
- In second year of three-year review cycle to finalize proposed amendments for the 2028 edition of the IAMSAR Manual
- Support IMO technical cooperation program regional SAR workshops (Caribbean in August 2025 and Pacific island States in November 2025)





## What does the JWG work on continued:

- Assist ICAO and IMO in developing documents and participate in relevant correspondence groups/panels
  - Follow-on autonomous distress tracking work
  - IMO circulars
- Assist in maintaining regional SAR plans
- Assist States to implement IAMSAR Manual and ICAO Annex 12 amendments





## JWG 32 held 3-7 November 2025 in Australia

- Psychological first aid – mental health concerns for victims and SAR responders, including SAR mission coordinator
- Framework for IAMSAR Manual content on autonomous craft, aeronautical and maritime
- Simplify search planning process for manual and computer solutions
- Sharing experiences of autonomous distress tracking incidents





## JWG 32 held 3-7 November 2025 continued

- Submarine and passenger submersible SAR response – manage expectations, fill in gaps, coordinate with NATO
- International Maritime Rescue Federation initiatives
- “General overview of SAR issues” – emerging SAR matters
- Reports from regional SAR meetings:
  - ICAO Asia/Pacific SAR WG
  - ICAO EUR SAR TF
- SAR system cybersecurity
- Final report





ICAO | UNITING AVIATION

NO COUNTRY LEFT BEHIND



## Host country may have limits on seats but...

Consider attending future JWG sessions

- Next session 9-13 November 2026 in Sweden
- Need to request copy of IMO or ICAO invitation letter (IMO Circ. in IMOdocs website)

JWG member could provide copy



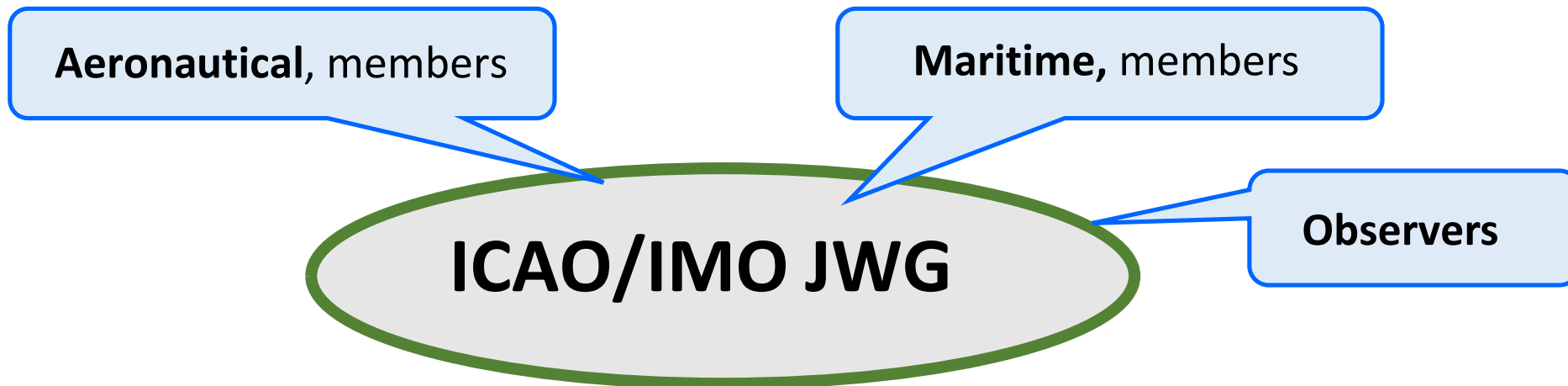


ICAO UNITING AVIATION

NO COUNTRY LEFT BEHIND



THANK YOU!



- **NO countries left behind** – we do this together!

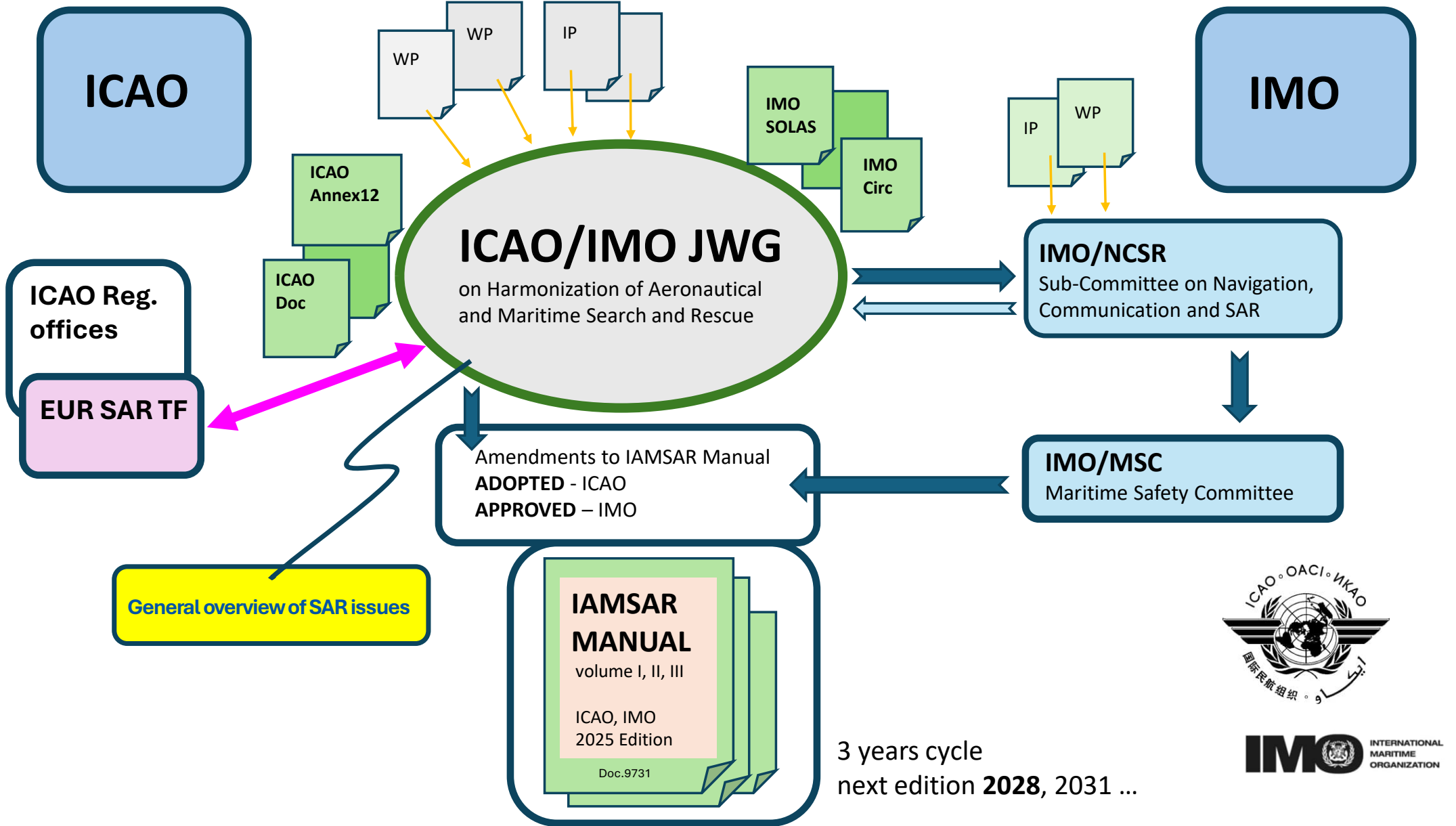
- We all have a **responsibility** to take an active part in involving all Member States in the development and harmonization of SAR globally.

- Share good examples and experiences
- Co-ordinate and communicate

- ICAO EUR SAR TF - **Important role** - inputs to JWG – participate!

**JWG33, 9-13 November 2026 in Malmö Sweden**







ICAO | UNITING AVIATION

NO COUNTRY LEFT BEHIND



**Thank you!**

