



WORKING PAPER

THIRTEENTH AIR NAVIGATION CONFERENCE

Montréal, Canada, 9 to 19 October 2018

COMMITTEE A

Agenda Item 4: Implementing the global air navigation system and the role of planning and implementation regional groups (PIRGs)

4.4: Implementing search and rescue (SAR) processes and procedures

**STRENGTHENING THE SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR) SERVICE
BY COORDINATING THE CAPACITIES OF STATES**

(Presented by Colombia)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The most efficient way to meet the community's expectations for providing search and rescue (SAR) service, under the conditions established in Annex 12 — *Search and Rescue*, is achieved through cooperation among the region's States. Rationalisation of resources is achieved through cooperation and coordination at the regional level in accordance with the technical and operational capacity of each State. These capacities can focus on an agreed specialty in order to provide the response to an SAR event within the required conditions.

Action: The Conference is invited to agree to the recommendation in paragraph 3.1.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The main objective of the search and rescue (SAR) service is to provide assistance to aircraft in distress and to survivors of aircraft accidents. It is a service that must be available on a 24-hour basis and be fully planned based on cooperation agreements at the national and regional levels.

1.2 Cooperation is the cornerstone for effectiveness in SAR provision, considering that organizations do not singlehandedly possess all the capacity required to respond to an SAR event. At the State level, the air navigation services provider (ANSP) provides SAR, supported through agreements with other entities that have specialized resources that must be mobilized when required

¹ Spanish version provided by Colombia.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 As occurs at the national level, States could specialize themselves at the regional level based on different theatres of operations: seas, mountains, deserts and jungles; where SAR should be provided.

2.2 Through SAR coordination at the regional level, each State would contribute in a planned manner, with resources and personnel, making the provision of this service more cost-effective.

2.3 If this technical/operational cooperation between States is achieved beyond geographical boundaries through active regional coordination (planning and implementation regional groups (PIRGs)), it is possible to ensure planning, risk management, the development of procedures aimed at SAR effectiveness and the implementation of joint exercises required for measuring true capacity to provide the service.

2.4 There currently exists a multilateral SAR agreement for the Central and South American region, which includes: Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

2.5 Furthermore, the SAR service has been strengthened among the rescue coordination centres (RCCs) of the region through operational letters of agreement (LoAs). There is significant progress towards the approval and signature of the LoA between Colombia and Panama, as well as one between Colombia and Central American Corporation for Air Navigation Services (COCESNA).

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 The most efficient way to meet the community's expectations for providing the SAR service, under the conditions established in Annex 12 — *Search and Rescue*, is achieved through cooperation at the State and regional levels. Rationalization of resources is achieved through cooperation and coordination at the regional level in accordance with the technical and operational capacity of each State. These capacities can be increasingly specialized in order to provide the response to an SAR event within the required conditions.

For the above reasons, the Conference is invited to agree to the following recommendation:

Recommendation 4.4/x — Implementing search and rescue (SAR) processes and procedures

That States:

- a) through the PIRGs, promote SAR regional agreements in order to improve SAR effectiveness by combining the different capacities of States; and
- b) participate actively in order to conclude regional cooperation agreements on SAR matters.

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