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DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION CONFERENCE ON A GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR AVIATION SAFETY

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Theme 2: Improving Aviation Safety

Topic 2.3: Unified strategy to resolve safety-related deficiencies

CONSOLIDATION OF ICAO AND CONTRACTING STATES ACTIVITIES IN ORGANIZATION OF SEARCH FOR THE LOST HELICOPTER THAT FULFILLED THE MISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

(Presented by Turkmenistan)

SUMMARY

This document contains the information on aircraft accident when none of the Contracting States took responsibility to organize and carry out investigation in connection with uncertainty of accident location.

The search of helicopter and aircraft accident investigation is in need of consolidation of ICAO and Contracting States activities to reveal proper causes and to prevent similar aircraft accidents in the future.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 International co-operation is a key element in making air transport system more safe. Ensuring the compliance with ICAO international Standards and Recommended Practices requires the mobilization of ICAO resources, efforts of most of the Contracting States in separate specific case, and in some regions.

1.2 The State of Turkmenistan proposes to the Director General of Civil Aviation Conference on a Global Strategy for Aviation Safety to consider the matter of SAR organization of aircraft owned by Turkmenistan, which has been lost in border territories of the Contracting States of Pakistan and Afghanistan, and also of rendering assistance from ISAF and Coalition Forces of terrorism control in Afghanistan.

¹ English and Russian versions provided by Turkmenistan.

2. ARGUMENT

2.1 Helicopter MI-8MTV, registration number EZ-L481, operated the flight with seven crew members on board to its base location in Ashgabat on 20 January 2006 after the completion of earthquake relief operations provided to the people of Pakistan suffered from the earthquake.

2.2 The flight was operated on route Peshawar (OPPS) - Turkmenabat (UTAV) - Ashgabat (UTAA) under call sign RED144. The helicopter took off from Peshawar (OPPS) airport at 07:00 (UTC) and it crossed over the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan in geographic point "KOTAL" at 07:13 (UTC) reporting to Peshawar ATC controller. Further there was no communication with the crew and up to present moment, in spite of undertaken measures, the location of helicopter and crew has not been established.

2.3 Because of the fact that the communication with the helicopter was lost within the period of helicopter transfer from ATC Pakistan to ATC Afghanistan and also due to interruption of radar service within the same period of time, it was not possible to determine the location of helicopter. The searching operations of the lost helicopter have produced no positive results due to probably improper activities or due to other reasons unknown to Turkmenistan.

2.4 In this existing situation the Contracting States of likely event location, considering that this accident did not take place on their territory and they did not take the responsibility to arrange the investigation of aircraft accident.

2.5 Moreover, according to objective causes, the aviation administration of Afghanistan cannot conduct the necessary SAR.

2.6 The International Committee of the Red Cross participating in certain search operations, under the umbrella of which the relief aids were provided to the people of Pakistan, is also limited with the possibilities to continue its mission in arranging the search.

2.7 In Turkmenistan's opinion, information related to investigation that is available for ISAF and Coalition Forces of terrorism control in Afghanistan, including true data on the scope of the works performed by them and the search results are not available up to date.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 On behalf of the International Civil Aviation Organization to appeal to the Contracting States of Pakistan and Afghanistan with the imperative request to liven up the search of helicopter and its crew.

3.2 At the same time to appeal to the governments of the European Community countries, ISAF participants, United States Armed Services Command Headquarters in Coalition Forces of terrorism control in Afghanistan, International Committee of Red Cross with the request of rendering the maximum assistance to the Contracting States in arranging the search of the lost helicopter.

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