



SPECIAL AFRICA-INDIAN OCEAN (AFI) REGIONAL AIR NAVIGATION (RAN) MEETING

Durban, South Africa, 24 to 29 November 2008

Agenda Item 6: Development of a set of comprehensive work programmes in the air navigation field, aimed at improving efficiency of the air navigation system (Efficiency Committee)

STATUS OF BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL SAR AGREEMENTS

(Presented by South Africa)

SUMMARY

This paper provides the status of search and rescue (SAR) bilateral and multilateral agreements initiated or coordinated by South Africa.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Chapter 3.1 of Annex 12 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation deals with co-operation between States. Recommendation 3.1.2 provides that Contracting States should, whenever necessary, co-ordinate their search and rescue operations with those of neighbouring States especially when these operations are proximate to adjacent search and rescue regions. South Africa identified about 13 countries bordering on her search and rescue region for the purpose of entering into agreements to strengthen search and rescue co-operation and co-ordination in compliance with recommendation 3.1.5 of Annex 12. The relevant states are listed in Annexure “A” attached hereto.

2. DISCUSSIONS

Bilateral Agreements

2.1 The table attached hereto and marked Annexure “A” depicts the status of bilateral agreements on a country to country basis. It will be realized from the table that out of the 13 countries identified for this purpose, 7 agreements were signed, 4 agreements have been concluded and are ready for signature, 1 has been negotiated and 2 are still to be negotiated.

Regional Cooperation/ Multilateral Agreements

2.2 Regional cooperation is critical to the efficient and effective provision of SAR services. Through it, duplication of efforts and facilities can be eradicated, services provision can be more uniform across large areas and most importantly, services can be provided even near and within States with limited resources. A regional approach therefore ensures greater cost-effectiveness and relieves the unnecessary sense of obligation otherwise imposing on some States unable to provide a State-wide service.

2.3 The 2000 IMO Florence Conference on Search and Rescue and GMDSS, sought to establish regional maritime SAR arrangements in Africa and invited all African coastal States to agree to the establishment of sub-regional RCCs. South Africa was identified as one of the five countries to host a regional MRCC. In pursuance of these resolutions, a multilateral agreement on the co-ordination of maritime search and rescue services was concluded and signed by 5 countries out of the 6 identified for this purpose in February 2007. The countries that signed the multilateral agreement are the Comoros, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa. Angola still has to consider signing the Agreement.

2.4 Encouraged by the developing events in the maritime SAR fraternity, in particular, the signing of the above multilateral agreement and guided by the provisions of the SADC Protocol, the delegates that attended the 2007 Port Elizabeth Consultative Conference on the integration of SAR services resolved to pursue a similar arrangement for the aeronautical component. To this end, South Africa was requested to co-ordinate the process and a draft multilateral agreement was therefore developed for this purpose. The agreement is currently under consideration by countries that would be Party to the Agreement, in particular SADC member countries.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 The meeting is therefore invited to take note of the information contained in this paper and take action as it deems appropriate.

**CURRENT STATUS OF BILATERAL SEARCH AND RESCUE AGREEMENTS
OCTOBER 2008**

Annexure “A”

COUNTRY	NEGOTIATED	STATUS	SIGNED	REGISTERED
Angola	Not yet	<i>Several attempts to negotiate an agreement with Angola were unsuccessful.</i>	No	
Argentina	Agreement concluded and signed	<i>A mechanism that would assist in ensuring that the Agreement is implemented needs to be found. This will be a subject of discussion between official of the Parties</i>	Yes, 8 September 2006	Yes, ICAO and IMO
Australia	Arrangement concluded and signed	<i>A mechanism that would assist in ensuring that the Agreement is implemented needs to be found. This will be a subject of discussion between official of the Parties</i>	Yes, 23 September 1998	Yes, ICAO and IMO
Botswana	Agreement concluded and signed	<i>There is a need to establish a Joint Bilateral SAR Co-ordinating Committee (JBSARCOM) to oversee the implementation of the Agreement.</i>	Yes, 25 October 2005	Yes, ICAO
Brazil	Negotiated on	<i>Both Parties busy complying with their respective constitutional requirements where after the agreement will be prepared for signature</i>	No	
France La Reunion	Agreement concluded and signed	<i>A JBSARCOMM was established on 11-12 March 2008 to oversee the implementation of the Agreement.</i>	Yes, 31 May 2001	Yes, IMO
Lesotho	Agreement concluded and signed	<i>A Joint Bilateral Search and Rescue Committee (JBSARCOMM) was established on 12-13 February 2008 to oversee the implementation of the Agreement.</i>	Yes, 22 July 2006	Yes, ICAO
Mauritius	Agreement concluded and ready for signature	<i>A proposal from Mauritius that the agreement be signed in Mauritius at a date still to be determined is being considered by South Africa</i>	No	

Mozambique	Agreement was concluded and signed	<i>There is a need to establish a Joint Bilateral SAR Co-ordinating Committee (JBSARCOM) to oversee the implementation of the Agreement. Attempts towards this drew a blank.</i>	Yes, 10 May 2002	Yes, ICAO and IMO
Namibia	Agreement concluded and signed	<i>A JBSARCOM established on and functional</i>	Yes, 8 September 2000	Yes, ICAO and IMO
Swaziland	Agreement ready for signature	<i>A suitable date and venue to sign the Agreement still to be determined and agreed upon between the Parties</i>	No	Yes, ICAO
Zimbabwe	Agreement ready for signature	<i>A suitable date and venue to sign the Agreement still to be determined and agreed upon between the Parties</i>	No	
United States of America	Not yet	<i>A new draft agreement being compiled</i>		

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