



Agenda Item 4: Specific Air Navigation Activities and Developments
4.2 Search and Rescue (SAR)

STATUS OF SAR AGREEMENTS IN THE ECAR

(Presented by the Secretariat)

Summary This working paper presents status of SAR agreements in the Eastern Caribbean.
References: • Annex 12 – Search and Rescue. • International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual (IAMSAR – Doc.9731). • Report of 29th ECAR WG Meeting.

1. Introduction

1.1 Annex 12, Chapter 3 – Cooperation, establishes that the contracting States shall coordinate their search and rescue organizations with those of the neighbouring States, subject to the conditions prescribed by their own authorities. Regional cooperation should be fostered by the States for an effective SAR system.

2. Analysis

2.1 Fundamental for SAR service is that civil and military authorities, aeronautical and maritime agencies, all combine efforts through multi-lateral agreements to provide SAR service over a determined area. The purpose is to enable the RCC to carry out coordination with all parties concerned regarding localization and assignment of equipment and personal through a communication network, ensuring an easy operational coordination with SAR units.

2.2 It is necessary that States and Territories of the ECAR continue working toward a regional SAR system through agreements with neighbouring States and providing entry conditions of SAR brigades of one State into the territory of another State. Agreements should also facilitate the entrance of SAR brigades with a minimum of formalities to the location where an aviation accident occurred for the sake of expeditious rescuing of accident survivors.

- 2.8 The SAR agreements should include the following:
- general information on SAR organizations;
 - level clearance so that an RCC may allow SAR units to enter territorial areas;
 - establishment of common procedures;
 - pooling of facilities, when appropriate;
 - cooperation on international SAR projects of common interest;
 - liaison visits; and
 - joint training exercises.
- 2.9 More comprehensive SAR agreements also include:
- identification of SAR areas;
 - information on RCCs and SAR communications;
 - agreements to exchange SAR information;
 - procedures for requesting and providing SAR assistance;
 - directories of SAR facilities;
 - lists of special SAR services available;
 - scope of SAR coordination, research, testing and technical assistance.

Contingency planning

2.10 In accordance with requirements of Annex 11, Trinidad and Tobago presented in the 29th ECAR WG Meeting the ATM contingency plan for PIARCO FIR, which needs to be updated with the name of the point of contact in each State and Territory of the ECAR responsible for carrying out coordination of contingency measures. It is expected that the meeting will provide this updated information.

2.11 Contingency planning is a part of SAR service, the intent of which is to prevent air navigation disruptions due to human or natural disasters and to provide procedures to mitigate their consequences. Its purpose is to avoid emerging risks to civil aviation. The Caribbean region is located in an earthquake zone and has a significant record of hazards caused by hurricanes, both types of natural disasters causing great loss to human life and infrastructure. The Meeting should encourage additional SAR measures to address these factors in the PIARCO contingency plan.

3. **Suggested action**

- 3.1 The meeting is invited to:
- a) present an up-to-date report of the SAR agreements;
 - b) encourage bilateral and/or multilateral agreements between States, Territories and International Organizations; and
 - c) submit to the ICAO NACC Office a report on the progress attained in this regard.