



Agenda Item 2: Air Navigation Matters
2.1 Implementation of the NAM/CAR Regional Performance-Based Air Navigation Implementation Plan (NAM/CAR RPBANIP)

SAR COMMITTEE REPORT

(Presented by Trinidad and Tobago for the Rapporteur SAR Committee)

1. Introduction

1.1 The SAR Committee had not met since the last Eastern Caribbean Working Group Meeting, which was held in Antigua and Barbuda - 2009 October. The Eastern Caribbean Directors of Civil Aviation at their Twenty-second Meeting, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago - 2009 December had received a status report of the SAR Committee activities.

1.2 The Chair of the Thirty-Second Eastern Caribbean Working Group Meeting appointed an Ad-hoc Group to deal with matters relating to SAR in the Eastern Caribbean Working Group. Most of the participants at the Ad-hoc SAR Group were not SAR experts and therefore Trinidad and Tobago provided an update to participants from the States of Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States of America who were in attendance at the Ad-hoc Group Meeting.

2. Discussion

2.1 Following presentation of WP 31 recorded under Item 2.2.1; SAR Activities - Report of ECWG 31; The Ad-hoc Group noted *Conclusion 31/2 – E/CAR High level SAR Meeting*:

That the E/CAR SAR Committee was required to among other matters was required to:

- a) review and update existing SAR Agreements as well as to seek permission for SAR Units from other States to provide SAR assistance within the jurisdiction of another State;*
- b) establish proper Coordination between civil and military authorities for efficient use of all available resources;*
- c) review SAR staffing requirements and response capacity within Piarco Flight Information Region (FIR); and*
- d) review other related activities to improve SAR service in the E/CAR and the Piarco FIR.*

2.2 It is to be noted the Rapporteur of the SAR Committee emailed Point of Contacts in the various States requesting information and providing guidance material but had not received any feed back from the States/Territories/International Organizations, save Barbados who provided information which was contained in its AIP.

2.3 This latest information on the status of SAR matters was reported to the DCAs at their 22nd Meeting, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago in WP 18 - Agenda 5.1. That meeting concluded via *Conclusion 22/2*:

That States/Territories/International Organizations shall:

- a) *Designate an SAR Point of Contact and inform the E/CAR SAR Committee (Rapporteur: Trinidad and Tobago) by 31 January 2010; and*
- b) *Complete the SAR Matrix/Checklist (Appendix B to the report on Agenda Item 2 of the E/CAR/WG/31 Meeting), and submit this to the E/CAR SAR Committee by 28 February 2010, present an updated report to E/CAR/WG/32 Meeting (June 2010) and report if need be to the E/CAR/DCA/23 Meeting (November/December 2010) for analysis*

2.4 The Rapporteur as per this conclusion sought information from the States on their Point of Contact and requested that they complete the several documents provided in order that an analysis and presentation on the regional SAR status could be reported to the ECAR WG/32 and DCAs/ 23 Meetings.

2.5 Unfortunately no information has been received to date.

2.6 It is to be noted that the Rapporteur attended a follow up meeting in January 2010 on Maritime SAR jointly organised by International Maritime Organisation. Since the ECAR comprises several island States and Territories and that SAR support is in the main through their respective Coast Guard with the T&T Coast Guard as the ‘chief player’ there were several issues raised with the Aeronautical Organisations that were common to the Maritime Organisation, clearly showing that there may be a duplication of efforts. In this regard, efforts are being made to maintain links with the Maritime Agencies, the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard and the US Coast Guard to advance the work of regional SAR through collaborative efforts of the Maritime and Aeronautical Organizations.

2.7 Further attempts will also be made by the Rapporteur SAR Committee once again to receive the required information from the individual States and Territories concerned. Said the SAR Matrix/Checklist (Appendix B to the report on Agenda Item 2 of the E/CAR/WG/31 Meeting) will be sent again via e-mail.

3. Suggested Action

3.1 The Thirty-second Meeting of the Eastern Caribbean Working Group takes note of the information contained in this Discussion Paper.

3.2 States/Territories/International Organizations are invited to use approved Regional Performance Objective # 9 when carrying out planning and implementation activities in the SAR domain; See details in *Appendix B, Page - B5 - of E/CAR/WG/32/WP02*.

3.3 That the Meeting take whatever actions it considers necessary to assist Rapporteur of the SAR Committee in progressing its work