



## INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

### Eighth Meeting of the AASPG Airspace and Aerodrome Operations Sub-Group (AAO/SG8)

Dakar, Senegal, 14-18 July 2025

#### Agenda Item 3: Achievements in AOP and ATM/SAR

#### ACTIVITIES OF THE AFI SEARCH AND RESCUE PMT

*(Presented by PTC SAR Project)*

SUMMARY
<p>This Working Paper aims to highlight the objectives, achievements, activities, and challenges faced by the SAR Project Management Team in implementing the directives by APIRG to provide support in the implementation of ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) related to Search and Rescue in the AFI Region.</p> <p><b>Action by the meeting is provided in paragraph 3.</b></p>
<p><b>REFERENCE(S):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP)</li> <li>▪ ICAO Annex 12 - Search and Rescue</li> <li>▪ Doc 9731 - International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual (IAMSAR, Vol 1, 2 and 3)</li> <li>▪ AASPG Procedural Handbook</li> <li>▪ AAO/SG7 Report</li> </ul>
<p><b>Related ICAO Strategic Objective(s):</b></p> <p>A-Aviation Safety B- Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency</p>

#### 1. INTRODUCTION (HISTORY)

1.1 The SAR Technical Expert Team (SAR TET) was established in 2014, based on the recommendations made in the APIRG Conclusions 19/22 and reconstituted in 2024 to manage the AFI SAR project that aims to support the effective and harmonized implementation of SAR within the AFI Region. The objective of the reconstituted SAR TET is to ensure that States establish and maintain a robust and effective SAR system by providing technical assistance, in addition to monitoring and assessing the progress of States in the implementation of ICAO SARPs.

1.2 The SAR TET activities kick-off meeting was held in May 2024. The activities conducted by the SAR TET include:

- a. validation of the AFI PLAN SAR Project document – July 2024;
- b. review and amendment of Gap Analysis Questionnaire - December 2024;

- c. drafting of Generic SAR documents - December 2024;
- d. conduct of Gap Analysis and Review of responses to identify the level of compliance and deficiencies of States within the region - January, 2025;
- e. development of technical material to support States in SAR implementation – March 2025; and
- f. conduct of SAR validation Workshops – April 2025.

## **2. DISCUSSION**

### *2.1 Activities conducted and achievements*

- a. The AFI plan SAR project document has been validated by the SAR TET for use by both the ICAO ESAF and WACAF regions and it was agreed that it should be presented as a single project to the AFI Plan Steering Committee for approval. The document is still awaiting approval.
- b. The gap analysis questionnaire developed by SAR TET1 was reviewed and amended to include Amendments 19 to Annex 12 and the training and qualifications of SAR Inspectors, increasing the total number of questions from 82 to 92.
- c. The gap analysis questionnaire was disseminated to all 48 States in the AFI Region by electronic correspondence, and the responses received, processed through a consolidated Excel sheet, with the use of a SAR Capability Matrix to extract key responses from the States' feedback. Out of the 48 States, responses were received from 41 States, with 7 States yet to submit their responses.
- d. The team developed a total of 54 generic documents, in both English and French versions, in addition to reviewing and amending the already existing 10 documents developed by SAR TET 1.
- e. The SAR Validation workshop, which was organized in Dakar from the 15 to 18 April 2025 for the English-speaking countries, and 22 to 24 April 2025 for the French-speaking countries, was attended by 25 States and ASECNA. 54 documents were validated (26 in English and 28 in French). One document is still being developed.

### *2.2 Main challenges*

- a. The availability and effective participation of several members of the SAR TET, especially French-speaking members.
- b. The determination of the SAR profile of some States, due to inconsistent responses received from the SAR gap analysis questionnaire.

### *2.3 Planned activities from AAO SG/8 to AAO SG/9)*

- a. Finalization of the development of SAR documents
  - consider the required corrections and submit the documents to AASPG for consideration.
- b. Determination of States SAR profiles
  - coordinate with States focal points to clarify inconsistent responses and determine the States SAR profiles

c. SAR assistance to States

- Provide remote and onsite SAR assistance to States.

**3. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the progress made so far regarding the AFI SAR Project deliverables ;
- b) Encourage States participation in the AFI SAR Project ; and
- c) Encourage the remaining States to respond to the SAR gap analysis questionnaire.

-----

APPENDIX-

- A. ToR
- B. Roadmap of the PMT
- C. Status of responses to the SAR gap analysis questionnaire

## **APPENDIX A**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE SEARCH AND RESCUE TECHNICAL EXPERT TEAM (SAR TET)**

#### **1. Mandate**

The Search and Rescue Technical Expert Team (SAR TET) is established and mandated by APIRG to provide support in the Implementation of ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) related to search and rescue in African States. The SAR TET aims at working in accordance with the SAR project framework of activities with specific focus on African states including AFI states, Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, and Tunisia.

#### **2. Key functions**

To conduct its function, the SAR TET shall, as guided by the project framework:

- Foster the implementation of an effective SAR system in African states.
- Assist African States in the planning and implementation of the national SAR system.
- Design capacity building strategy to support the establishment of an effective SAR system.
- Monitor and assess the progress of States in SAR system implementation.
- Report the status of SAR system in all African states to the SAR PMT.
- Conduct specific assistance to states when requested.

#### **3. Tasks**

The SAR TET shall conduct the following tasks to fulfil its mission:

- conduct a gap analysis of SAR organization, legal framework, SAR Plan of operation, SAR Agreements and SAR Manual in each beneficiary State by means of a structured questionnaire jointly validated by the ICAO Regional offices;
- provide assistance to States to determine areas in need of further improvements and assist in the development of Corrective Action Plan (CAP);
- assist the beneficiary States to develop and update their SAR documents and provide templates for such documents where required in accordance with ICAO SARPs pertaining to SAR;
- provide SAR awareness and education to State SAR stakeholders when required through workshops, seminars, meetings;
- promote collaboration through signing of SAR agreements or Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by developing SAR agreement or MoU templates and facilitating coordination meetings between States on SAR.
- Promote the pooling and sharing of resources for more efficiency in the provision of SAR services. The SAR TET may draw a list of available resources (equipment, qualified 2 technical Staff) in each States to be shared with all African States as a facilitation tool for the signing of SAR agreements.
- promote joint SAR exercises (SAREX) involving all Stakeholders at national level, extending to adjacent SAR agencies. SAR TET will identify potential States with adequate SAR capabilities and willing to hold at least SAREX level 2 and coordinate the organization and conduct of such activities.
- hold regular meetings to assess the level of SAR implementation in each beneficiary

State;

- Draft and submit periodic reports to relevant PIRGs during the mandate of the team, including regulatory and operational performances.

#### **4. Working methods**

The SAR TET shall convene physically at least once a year. It shall make use of available means of digital communication, including teleconferencing, to prepare and progress its work in between meetings as well as to discuss specific issues.

#### **5. Composition**

The SAR TET is made of Technical Experts from African States and ICAO serving as secretariat. The size of the team shall not exceed twenty (20) members for efficiency reasons.

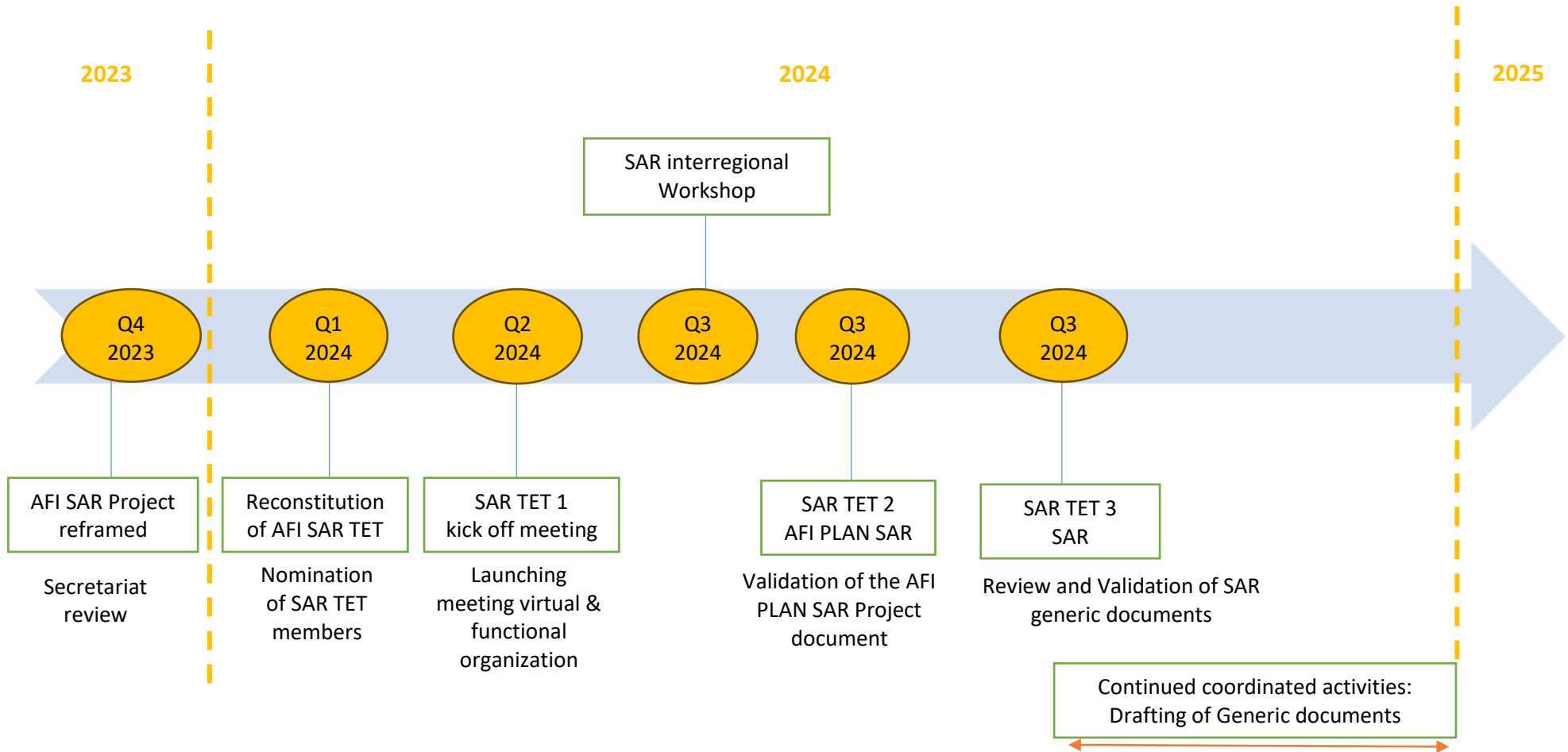
#### **6. Duration**

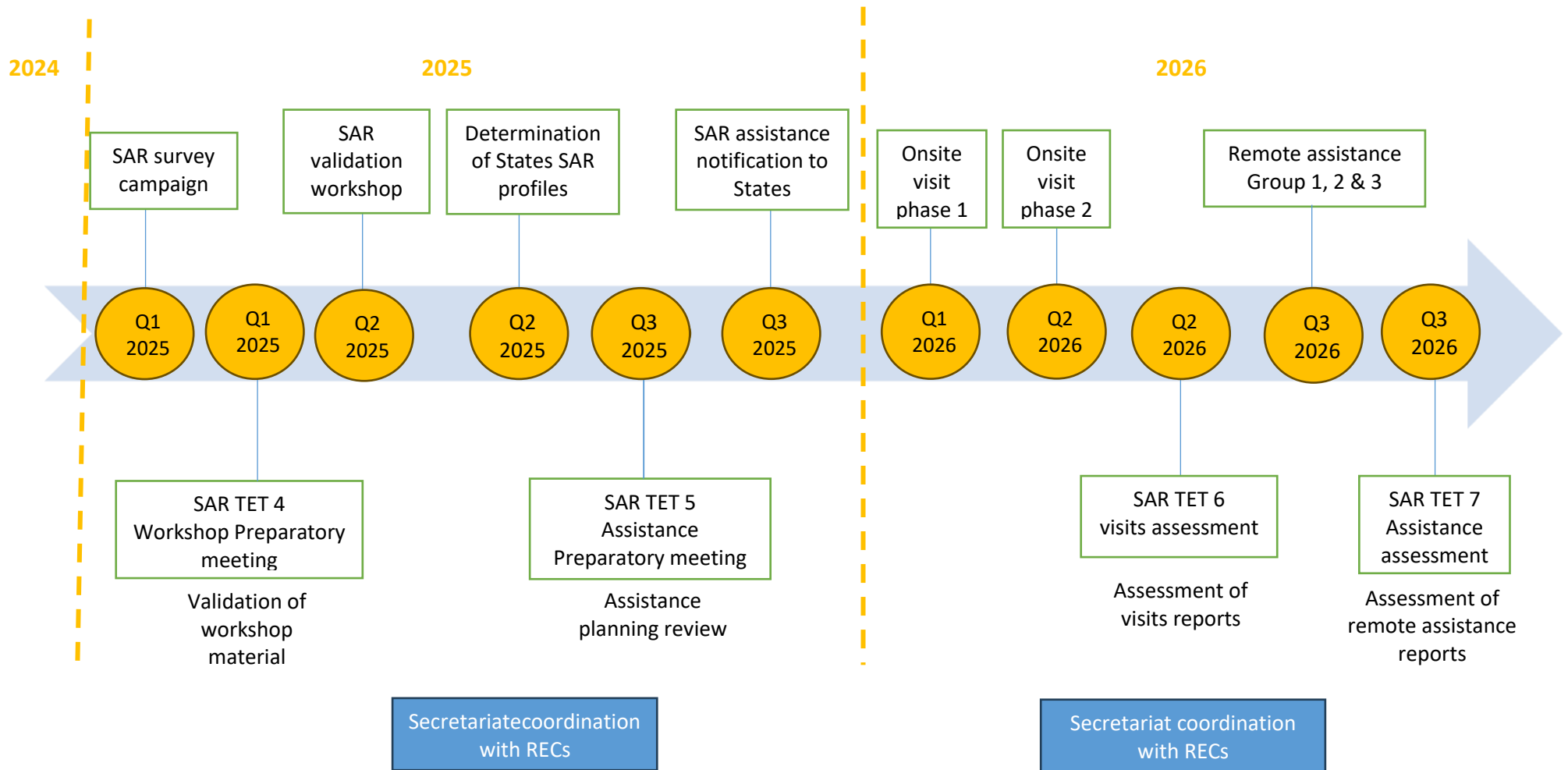
The duration of the mandate of the SAR TET is determined by APIRG.

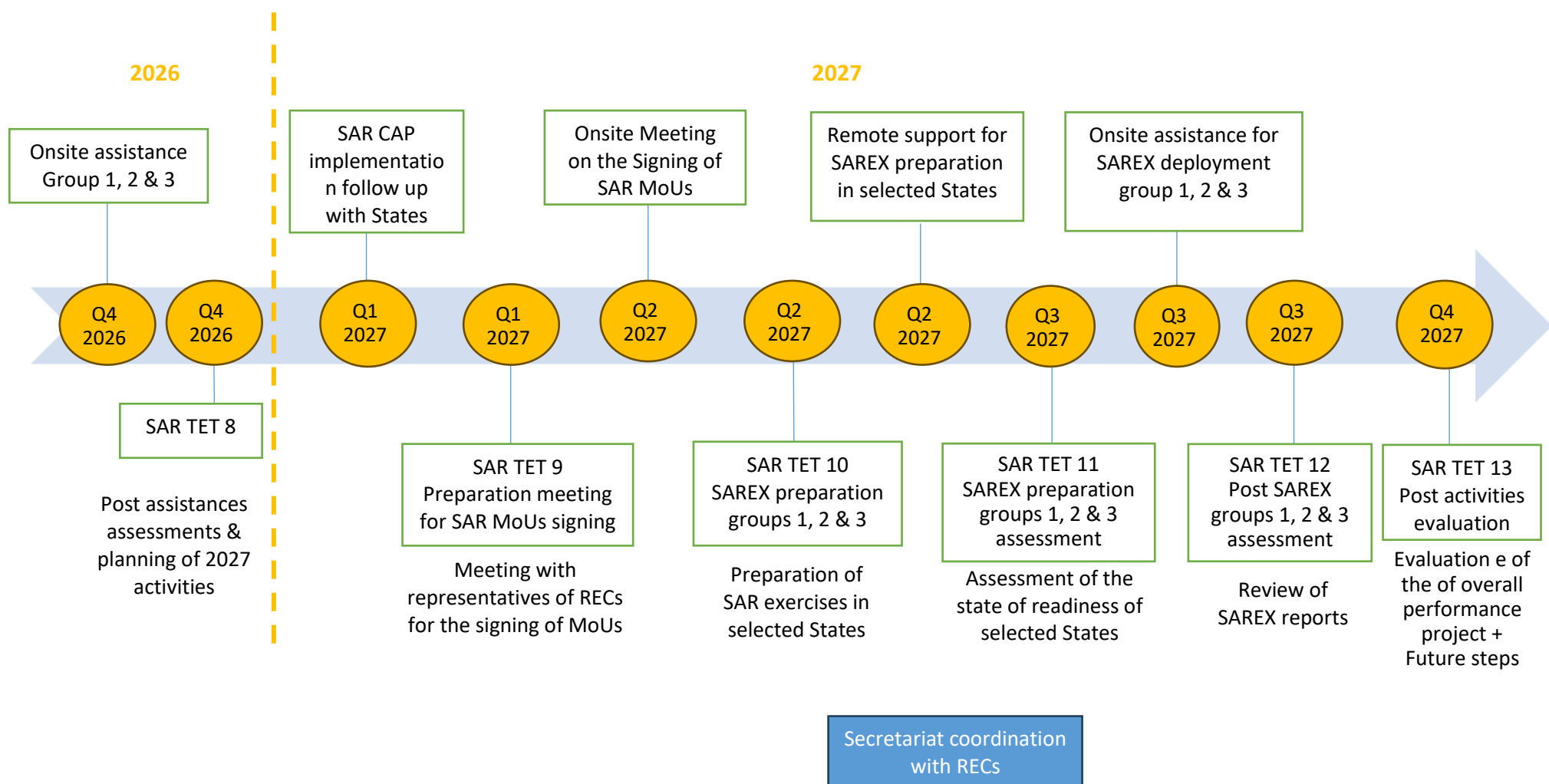
#### **7. Quality assurance**

The SAR TET will undergo a periodic performance assessment review with the aim of ensuring continuous improvement. Its members may benefit from regular refresher training, when needed, on specific aspects of the SAR project management.

**APPENDIX B**  
**AFI SAR PROJECT ROADMAP**









## DESCRIPTION OF GROUPS

GROUP	LEI (SAR survey)
<b>GROUP 1</b>	$LEI \geq 80\%$
<b>GROUP 2</b>	$80\% > LEI \geq 50\%$
<b>GROUP 3</b>	$LEI < 50\%$

## APPENDIX C

### STATUS OF RESPONSES TO THE SAR GAP ANALYSIS QUESTIONNAIRE

#### WACAF STATES

STATE	STATUS
Benin	Submitted
Burkina Faso	Submitted
Cameroon	Submitted
Cabo Verde	Submitted
CAR	Submitted
Chad	Submitted
Congo	Not submitted
Cote d'Ivoire	Submitted
DRC	Submitted
Equatorial Guinea	Submitted
Gabon	Submitted
Gambia	Submitted
Ghana	Submitted
Guinea	Submitted
Guinea Bissau	Not submitted
Liberia	Submitted
Mali	Submitted
Mauritania	Submitted
Niger	Submitted
Nigeria	Submitted
Sao Tome and Principe	Submitted
Senegal	Submitted
Sierra Leone	Submitted
Togo	Submitted

92%

#### ESAF STATES

STATE	STATUS
Angola	Submitted
Botswana	Submitted
Burundi	Submitted
Comoros	Submitted
Djibouti	Not submitted
Eritrea	Not submitted
Eswatini	Submitted
Ethiopia	Not submitted
Kenya	Submitted
Lesotho	Submitted
Madagascar	Submitted
Malawi	Submitted
Mauritius	Submitted
Mozambique	Submitted
Namibia	Submitted
Rwanda	Not submitted
Seychelles	Submitted
Somalia	Submitted
South Africa	Submitted
South Sudan	Not submitted
Tanzania	Submitted
Uganda	Submitted
Zambia	Submitted
Zimbabwe	Submitted

79%