



## INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

### Eighth Meeting of the Airspace and Aerodrome Operation Subgroup (AAO-SG/8) of the AASPG

Dakar, Senegal, from 14 to 18 July 2025

#### Agenda Item 3.2: Achievement of project teams and States/Organizations

#### REVISED AFI SEARCH AND RESCUE PLAN

*(Presented by Secretariat)*

SUMMARY	
<p>This working paper presents the proposed revision of the AFI Search and Rescue (SAR) Plan, initially endorsed during APIRG/24, in accordance with the revision cycle established by APIRG. The revision reflects recent developments in SAR and aligns the plan with the Sixth Edition of the Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP) and the revised Volume III of the AFI Air Navigation Plan.</p> <p>The action by the Meeting is in <b>paragraph 3</b></p>	
<b>REFERENCES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AASPG Procedural Handbook</li> <li>• Report of the APIRG/24</li> </ul>	
<b>Strategic Objectives</b>	<b><i>A – Safety, B – Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency</i></b>

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Africa-Indian Ocean Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG 24) through Decision 24/10, endorsed the first edition of the AFI SAR Plan as the main guidance for the AFI Region in the planning and implementation of Search and Rescue.
- 1.2 The AFI SAR plan was endorsed with a three-year revision cycle to align with the GANP cycle and considering new developments in global and regional air navigation.
- 1.3 The proposed revision aims at updating information in the AFI SAR plan which were dated back to 2018 and align with the changes to the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Global Air Navigation Plan, as well as the AFI Air Navigation Plan volume III. The revision also aims at devising a new performance framework to steer the harmonious SAR implementation in the AFI Region.

- 1.4 The proposed plan revision was reviewed and validated during the 2025 AFI SAR workshops on the validation of SAR generic documentation held in April 2025 in Dakar, Senegal. The proposed new plan includes English and French versions.

## 2 DISCUSSIONS

- 2.1. The revision work carried out on the AFI SAR Plan was coordinated by the Secretariat with contributions from the AFI SAR Technical Expert Team (AFI SAR TET). The review process consisted of the identification of outdated elements of the plan, the collection and assessment of data and information to be incorporated in the plan, the amendment of the plan and the validation by States' focal points.
- 2.2. The scope of the revision included all parts of the plan such as the record of amendment, the plan structure, the scope, the plan review policy, the executive summary, the background information with refreshed current status of global and regional SAR implementation, the move from the improvement plan to the performance framework, the update of the milestones, timelines and implementation actions as well as the introduction of new guidance materials in the appendix.
- 2.3. The revised SAR implementation status included in the plan was derived from the 2025 AFI SAR survey conducted in Q1 2025 in all 48 AFI States. Additional information provided on the status of effective implementation of SAR Protocol Questions were extracted from the USOAP CMA Online framework for the year 2024.
- 2.4. The first edition of the plan focused on SAR improvement strategies and provided some key guidance and best practices for an effective establishment of national SAR system as well as cross-border SAR cooperation. However, it was observed that the proposed harmonized implementation was not supported by tangible key performance indicators and targets that will support the regular assessment of the level of progress achieved by the region. The plan, therefore, proposes a new performance framework with six (06) performance areas and 21 key performance indicators to which a set of targets were proposed for the period 2026-2028.
- 2.5. The plan also includes a State's SAR capability matrix which is a set of key performance indicators that apply at national level. The matrix aims at supporting the States in performing their self-assessment of the status of their SAR system. It will also serve as a feedback tool for the State to keep AASPG informed of progress achieved in SAR through the accredited ICAO Regional Office. It is expected that each State will complete the matrix and submit to ICAO on an annual basis. The information derived from the matrix will be consolidated to measure the attainment of the regional SAR targets.
- 2.6. It was noticed that the AFI SAR plan was only published in the English language. Being given that 23 States out of 48 in the AFI region have French as official language, it was deemed important to develop a French version of the plan. This observation is also valid for all AAO projects and may require a change of approach to the publication of regional documentation.

### **3 ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1. The meeting is invited to:

- a) Take note of the information provided in this working paper;
- b) support the proposed draft decision related to the endorsement of the amended English version of AFI SAR Plan for the cycle 2025-2028 and the new French version of the same document;
- c) Provide guidance as appropriate.

*AAPSG 1 Draft Decision 01/XX: AFI SAR PLAN UPDATE*

*That to enhance and harmonize SAR implementation in the AFI region*

*The amended English version and the new French version of the AFI SAR Plan for the cycle 2025-2028 are endorsed*

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**APPENDIX A- AFI SAR Plan Second Edition, English**

**APPENDIX B- AFI SAR Plan First Edition, French**