

**INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION
SOUTH AMERICAN REGIONAL OFFICE**

**INFORMAL MEETING ON SEARCH AND RESCUE SERVICES FOR THE SAM REGION
(SAM 90/03 SAR)**

(Lima, Peru, 8 to 12 September 2003)

Agenda Item 2: Review of SAR National Plans for its harmonization at a regional level

(Presented by Argentina)

Summary

This working paper proposes the need to prepare a Regional Plan to establish the standards and integrate the Search and Rescue (SAR) services in the Region.

1. Background

1.1. During the current year, Argentina has been engaged in the integration of the Region with respect to the facilitation there should be among neighboring countries, especially in Search and Rescue Services (SAR).

2. Analysis

2.1. Aware of the importance of cooperation among neighboring countries for the provision of assistance between States SAR services, and in accordance with ICAO Annex 12 (7th. Edition), Chapter 3 – Cooperation, Argentina, with the aim that SAR services be provided more speedily and efficiently, has held coordination and understanding meetings with Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay.

2.2. SAR letters of agreement have been signed with Bolivia and Brazil, respectively, being the intention of this administration to reach agreements with the remaining States of the Region.

2.3. In addition, Argentina has elaborated a SAR Regional Plan, which is presented herein, for its analysis.

2.4. The main objective of the plan is to join efforts and incorporate the South American and Caribbean States in order to ease a reciprocal exchange as regards SAR matters.

2.5. Under this premise, the agreements reached between various States of the Region, and the respective national plans, should form part of the South American and Caribbean Search and Rescue Regional Plan. The aim of these letters of agreements would be to facilitate the procedures, doctrines, communications means and personnel training with the purpose of: "Improving the distribution of S.O.S. alerts, services and coverage, as well as reduce costs and provide an efficient regional search and rescue service".

3. **Action suggested**

3.1 With the purpose of integrating the States of the Region and easing the exchange of information, it is recommended to:

- 3.1.1 Elaborate a SAR Regional Communications Plan complementary to the SAR Regional Plan.
- 3.1.2 Elaborate a National Search and Rescue Plan in accordance with Conclusion 11/35 of GREPECAS/11 Meeting (Manaus, Brazil, 3-7 December 2002).
- 3.1.3 Sign SAR Operational Letters of Agreement between neighboring countries, in accordance with their legislations.
- 3.1.4 Carry out visits to each other's SAR services.
- 3.1.5 Exchange information related with SAR services and procedures.
- 3.1.6 Carry out combined SAR training exercises (between States involved).
- 3.1.7 Favour exchange of SAR services personnel of the region (training and education), to unify and standardize SAR procedures to be used in the Region.
- 3.1.8 Keep the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (IAMSAR) Manual– Volume I (Doc. 9731) – First Edition 1999, as guidance material.
