



International Civil Aviation Organization

**The Second Meeting of the ICAO Asia/Pacific Search and Rescue Task Force  
(APSAR/TF/2)**

Singapore, 27 – 30 January 2014

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**Agenda Item 3: Global update**

**ICAO ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS IN FORCE – SEARCH AND RESCUE**

(Presented by Australia)

**SUMMARY**

This paper presents current ICAO Assembly Resolutions in Force for the provision of search and rescue services globally. These resolutions directly relate to the APSAR/TF Terms of Reference and are submitted for Task Force consideration during discussions and formulation of the Asia/Pacific Regional SAR Plan.

This paper relates to –

**Strategic Objectives:**

A: *Safety – Enhance global civil aviation safety*

**Global Plan Initiatives:** not applicable

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 ICAO Assembly Resolutions in Force, currently published as of 8 October 2010 (Doc 9958), contains resolutions adopted by the Assembly across the spectrum of ICAO air navigation policies and associated practices, including for the provision of SAR services (Appendix N). These Resolutions were reviewed during the recently held 38<sup>th</sup> Session of the ICAO Assembly, Montreal, 24 September – 4 October 2013, with a Provisional Edition of Resolutions published (November 2013).

1.2 The 38<sup>th</sup> Assembly did not amend any of the Resolutions for the provision of SAR services, now contained within Appendix H, other than some minor terminology changes. A copy of Appendix H, Provision of search and rescue services, is attached to this paper.

1.3 Associated links:

Resolutions Adopted by the Assembly (38<sup>TH</sup> SESSION), Provisional Edition 2013 -  
[http://www.icao.int/Meetings/a38/Documents/Resolutions/a38\\_res\\_prov\\_en.pdf](http://www.icao.int/Meetings/a38/Documents/Resolutions/a38_res_prov_en.pdf)

Assembly Resolutions in Force (as of 8 October 2010), ICAO Doc 9958 -  
[http://www.icao.int/publications/Documents/9958\\_en.pdf](http://www.icao.int/publications/Documents/9958_en.pdf)

**2. DISCUSSION**

2.1 The current ICAO Assembly Resolutions applicable to the provision of SAR services align closely with the APSAR/TF Terms of Reference. The Resolutions provide opportunities to guide Task Force considerations and possibly assist with facilitating agreement during discussions on Task Force issues where differences of opinion may arise. The Resolutions may also assist States to influence support from their respective governments or other potential support organisations for the development of their national SAR systems.

2.2 It is proposed that Appendix H of the Provisional Resolutions, November 2013, be reviewed and discussed during APSAR/TF/2 as guidance to facilitate and ensure implementation of the respective policies as part of the development of the Asia/Pacific Regional SAR Plan.

**3. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper;
- b) review and discuss the Resolutions and Associated Practices contained within the attached extract from the ICAO Assembly Resolutions, Provisional Edition, November 2013, Appendix H as they relate to the development of the Asia/Pacific Regional SAR Plan, and
- c) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate.

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**Extract from ICAO 38<sup>th</sup> Assembly Resolutions, Provisional Edition, November 2013**

**APPENDIX H**

**Provision of search and rescue services**

*Whereas* in accordance with Article 25 of the Convention each Member State undertakes to provide such measures of assistance to aircraft in distress in its territory as it may find practicable and to collaborate in coordinated measures which may be recommended from time to time pursuant to the Convention;

*Whereas* Annex 12 to the Convention contains specifications relating to the establishment and provision of search and rescue services within the territories of Member States as well as within areas over the high seas;

*Whereas* Annex 12 to the Convention specifies that those portions of the high seas where search and rescue services will be provided shall be determined on the basis of regional air navigation agreements, which are agreements approved by the Council usually on the advice of regional air navigation meetings;

*Whereas* Annex 12 to the Convention recommends that search and rescue regions should, insofar as practicable, be coincident with corresponding flight information regions and, with respect to those areas over the high seas, maritime search and rescue regions;

*Whereas* Article 69 of the Convention specifies that, if the Council is of the opinion that the air navigation services of a Member State are not reasonably adequate for the safe operation of international air services, present or contemplated, the Council shall consult with the State directly concerned, and other States affected, with a view to finding means by which the situation may be remedied, and may make recommendations for that purpose; and

*Whereas* the air navigation services referred to in Article 69 of the Convention include, inter alia, search and rescue services;

*The Assembly resolves that:*

1. search and rescue regions, whether over States' territories or, in accordance with regional air navigation agreement, over an area greater than a State's sovereign airspace or over the high seas, shall be delimited on the basis of technical and operational considerations, including the desirability of coincident flight information regions, search and rescue regions, and, with respect to areas over the high seas, maritime search and rescue regions, with the aim of ensuring safety, and optimizing efficiency with the least overall cost;
2. States shall ensure the closest practicable cooperation between maritime and aeronautical search and rescue services where they serve the same area and, where practical, establish joint rescue coordination centres to coordinate aeronautical and maritime search and rescue operations;
3. if any search and rescue regions need to extend over the territories of two or more States, or parts thereof, agreement thereon should be negotiated between the States concerned;
4. the providing State in implementing search and rescue services over the territory of the delegating State shall do so in accordance with the requirements of the delegating State, which shall establish and maintain in operation such facilities and services for the use of the providing State as are mutually agreed to be necessary;

5. any delegation of responsibility by one State to another or any assignment of responsibility over the high seas shall be limited to technical and operational functions pertaining to the provision of search and rescue services in the area concerned;

6. remedies to any inadequacies in the provision of efficient search and rescue services, including over the high seas, should be sought through negotiations with States which may be able to give operational or financial assistance in search and rescue operations, with a view to concluding agreements to that effect;

and, furthermore, *declares* that:

7. any Member State which delegates to another State the responsibility for providing search and rescue services within its territory does so without derogation of its sovereignty; and

8. the approval by Council of regional air navigation agreements relating to the provision by a State of search and rescue services within areas over the high seas does not imply recognition of sovereignty of that State over the area concerned.

#### **Associated practices**

1. Member States should, in cooperation with other States and ICAO, seek the most efficient delineation of search and rescue regions and consider, as necessary, pooling available resources or establishing jointly a single search and rescue organization to be responsible for the provision of search and rescue services within areas extending over the territories of two or more States or over the high seas.

2. The Council should encourage States whose air coverage of the search and rescue regions for which they are responsible cannot be ensured because of a lack of adequate facilities, to request assistance from other States to remedy the situation and to negotiate agreements with appropriate States regarding the assistance to be provided during search and rescue operations.