



International Civil Aviation Organization

**Third Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Regional Search and Rescue Task Force
(APSAR/TF/3)**

Maldives, 25 – 29 January 2015

Agenda Item 3: Global update

ICAO Headquarters Technical Officer – Search and Rescue

(Presented by Australia)

SUMMARY

This paper presents information regarding the secondment of a SAR technical expert to ICAO Headquarters, Montreal to assist ICAO increase its resources dedicated to global SAR issues.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 One of the items listed in the Conclusions and Recommendations of the special ICAO Multi-disciplinary Meeting regarding Global Tracking, Montreal, 12-13 May 2014, was that ICAO should increase its resources allocated to Search and Rescue in order to improve the effectiveness across national and regional boundaries.

1.2 This follows a similar call by the Second Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Regional SAR Task Force (APSAR/TF/2), Singapore, 27-31 January 2014 where a Draft Conclusion was submitted to the Twenty-Fifth Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APANPIRG/25), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 8-11 September 2014. APANPIRG/25 agreed to the following Conclusion:

Conclusion APANPIRG/25-20: Global SAR Coordination

That, considering the need for global and inter-regional Search and Rescue (SAR) coordination, ICAO be urged to:

- a) consider securing the necessary technical resources for managing global SAR policy development and inter-regional coordination; and*
- b) include SAR as part of the Aviation System Block Upgrades (ASBU).*

2. DISCUSSION

Technical Officer – Search and Rescue, ICAO Headquarters, Montreal

2.1 At the ICAO Multi-disciplinary Meeting regarding Global Tracking, Montreal, 12-13 May 2014, ICAO indicated that to increase its current resources to Search and Rescue it would require short term support from States whilst it considered a longer term solution. The government of Australia subsequently submitted a proposal to ICAO for the secondment of one of Australia’s aeronautical Search and Rescue experts to ICAO Headquarters, Montreal to work fulltime on SAR matters for a 2 year period to provide the requested support. The Secretary General of ICAO accepted Australia’s offer and one of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority’s (AMSA’s) Aeronautical Joint Rescue Coordinator Centre (JRCC Australia) Chiefs will be commencing work in the role at ICAO Headquarters, Montreal at the end of January 2015 for a 2 year period. This position is being fully funded by the government of Australia.

Purpose of the role

2.2 Aligned with Annex 12 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, Search and Rescue, the Technical Expert will provide high level technical policy advice and support to the ICAO Air Navigation Bureau in the development of Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs), procedures, guidance material for Search and Rescue related services and their global implementation.

2.3 The Technical Expert will also support ICAO and International Maritime Organization (IMO) joint efforts towards the ongoing harmonisation of the global aeronautical and maritime Search and Rescue system, including provision of ICAO Headquarters support to the ICAO/IMO Joint Working Group on Harmonisation of Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue.

Duties of the role

2.4 The Technical Expert will play a key role in coordinating various aeronautical Search and Rescue initiatives with the goal of developing common applicable standards and issuing guidance material to promote the implementation of innovative, effective and efficient standards and policies. The role’s main functions include facilitating and supporting the development and implementation of Annex 12 SARPs and the global SAR plan and leading and contributing to the development, improvement and/or implementation of efficient processes and procedures for the conduct of global SAR services.

Key Relationships

2.5 The Technical Expert will collaborate regularly with the ICAO Air Navigation Bureau and ICAO Regional Offices to promote discussions and provide technical advice and support on SAR matters, and maintain contacts with Contracting States and relevant international and regional organisations to obtain views, feedback and advice to identify emerging SAR related issues relevant to ICAO and to coordinate the development of common strategies to address such issues. The Technical Expert will also have positive relationships with Cospas-Sarsat and the IMO.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

- 3.1 The meeting is invited to:
- a) note the information contained in this paper; and
 - b) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate.

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