



DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION-MIDDLE EAST REGION

Third Meeting (DGCA-MID/3) (Doha, Qatar, 27-29 April 2015)

Agenda Item 4: Air Navigation

SEARCH AND RESCUE

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the global and regional developments related to Search and Rescue and seeks support for the improvement of SAR services in the MID Region.

Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.

REFERENCES

- ATM SG/1 Report
- ANSIG/1 Report
- HLSC 2015
- MIDANPIRG/14 Report

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Many deficiencies related to Search and Rescue (SAR) have not been eliminated since many years.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The meeting may wish to note that the SAR deficiencies in the MID Region concern mainly the following:

- a) lack of signature of SAR agreements;
- b) lack of plans of operations for the conduct of SAR operations and SAR exercises;
- c) training of SAR personnel and SAR inspectorate staff;
- d) lack of provision of required SAR services; and
- e) non-compliance with the carriage of Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) requirements.

2.2 The meeting may wish to note that, based on the outcome of the ATM SG/1 meeting, the First meeting of the Air Navigation Systems Implementation Group (ANSIG/1) (Cairo, Egypt, 10-12 February 2015) noted that the ATM SG/1 meeting established a MID SAR Action Group (SAR AG) composed of SAR Experts from volunteer States and ICAO to develop a draft simplified SAR bilateral Arrangements Template to be used by the adjacent ACCs in the MID Region. The meeting agreed to attach the Template developed by the SAR AG to the ACC Letter of Agreement Template, which will be presented to MIDAMIPRG/15 for endorsement.

2.3 The meeting may wish to note that the ICAO/ International Maritime Organization (IMO) Search and Rescue-Global Maritime Distress and Safety System Conference (ICAO/IMO SAR GMDSS Conference), was successfully held in Bahrain 21-22 October 2014. The Conference was hosted by Bahrain and dedicated to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States. The Conference was attended by a total of sixty two (62) participants from five (5) States (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and UAE).

2.4 The ICAO/IMO SAR GMDSS Conference provided a forum for sharing experiences and discussing relevant matters to SAR between Civil/Military Aeronautical and Maritime representatives. The Conference Recommendations related to civil aviation are at **Appendix A**.

2.5 The meeting may wish to note that ACAC and ICAO were planning to organize a joint SAR Workshop in Morocco, in May 2015, back-to-back with a full scale exercise. However, due to unforeseen reasons, ICAO was informed that the Workshop could not be organized jointly. Accordingly, the ICAO MID Regional Office will schedule a SAR Regional Workshop in 2016, which might be held jointly with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to foster the implementation of SAR provisions in the MID Region and enhance cooperation between concerned stakeholders.

2.6 The ANSIG/1 meeting was apprised of the global developments related to SAR, such as the recommendations emanating from the Multidisciplinary Meeting on Global Flight Tracking (MMGFT) (Montreal, Canada, 12-13 May 2014) related to flight tracking issues, and the outcome of the Second High Level Safety Conference 2015 (HLSC 2015) (Montreal, Canada, 2-5 February 2015) related to SAR.

2.7 The ANSIG/1 meeting noted the developments related to global flight tracking, which were initiated during the MMGFT following the disappearance of the Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370. The MMGFT meeting concluded that global flight tracking should be pursued as a matter of urgency and as a result, two groups were formed; the ICAO ad hoc Working Group, which developed a concept of operations to support future development of a Global Aeronautical Distress and Safety System (GADSS) and the Aircraft Tracking Task Force (ATTF), an industry-led group under the ICAO framework that identified near-term capabilities for normal flight tracking using existing technologies.

2.8 In connection with the above, the ANSIG/1 meeting emphasized the importance of the conduct of regional/sub-regional SAR training exercises. Accordingly the meeting agreed to the following Draft Decision:

DRAFT DECISION 1/8: MID REGIONAL/SUB-REGIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE TRAINING EXERCISES

That, the ATM Sub-Group develop an action plan for the conduct of regional/sub-regional SAR training exercises

2.9 The meeting may wish to note that the first exercise might be held back-to-back with the planned SAR Regional Workshop for 2016.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to urge States to:

- a) take necessary measures that ensure the implementation of the ICAO provisions related to SAR;
- b) take into consideration the Recommendations emanating from the ICAO/IMO SAR GMDSS Conference related to Civil Aviation at **Appendix A** and the Montréal Declaration on Planning for Aviation Safety Improvement (February 2015)- Recommendation 1/2 related to SAR; and
- c) support the conduct of regional/sub-regional SAR training exercises.

APPENDIX A

THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS EMANATING FOR THE ICAO/IMO SAR GMDSS CONFERENCE RELATED TO CIVIL AVIATION, INVITING GCC STATES TO:

- provide IMO and ICAO with information related to the availability of SAR services, including information on the areas of responsibility, taking into account IMO's and ICAO provisions, as soon as possible if not already done so, and keep the information up to date on a regular basis;
- noting that close cooperation between maritime and aeronautical SAR services is essential, establish a national SAR Coordinating Committee;
- develop a national SAR Plan, to the extent possible, ensuring harmonization with SAR Plans of the neighboring States, for the benefit of effective and efficient SAR cooperation;
- consider the development of a multilateral agreement on the cooperation of aeronautical and maritime SAR and the establishment of a Regional SAR Coordinating Committee, in the framework of the GCC;
- sign the SAR Letters of Agreement (LoAs) to facilitate and expedite the efficient conduct of SAR operations;
- evaluate SAR and GMDSS facilities and identify actions to be taken to improve the existing situation, including the establishment of Rescue Coordination Centres, as appropriate;
- keep record of all SAR activities and as such built up statistics for national use as well to be used in communication with IMO and ICAO, as appropriate;
- share lessons learned related to SAR activities;
- develop a short and long term programme for training of SAR personnel, including those involved in the oversight of SAR;
- conduct national, bilateral and multilateral SAR exercises and use lessons learned to identify capacity building needs; and
- request, as appropriate, either individually or in cooperation with other GCC States, IMO and/or ICAO to provide technical assistance, in particular to:
 - a) assess the existing situation and provide recommendations for improvement; and
 - b) support the training of personnel involved in SAR.

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