



ICAO

International Civil Aviation Organization  
North American, Central American and Caribbean Office

**Second NAM/CAR Air Navigation Implementation  
Group Search and Rescue Implementation  
Task Force Meeting  
(ANI/WG/SAR/TF/02)**

**Final Report**

On line, 7 to 9 September 2021

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of ICAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

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## **HISTORICAL**

### **ii.1 Place and Date of the Meeting**

The Second NAM/CAR Air Navigation Implementation Group Search and Rescue Task Force Meeting (ANI/WG/SAR/TF/02) was held on line from 7 to 9 September 2021.

### **ii.2 Opening Ceremony**

Mr. Calvin Zúniga (COCESNA), SAR/TF Rapporteur provided opening remarks, welcomed the participants and officially opened the meeting.

### **ii.3 Officers of the Meeting**

The ANI/WG/SAR/TF/02 Meeting was held with the participation of Mr. Calvin Zúniga (COCESNA), SAR/TF Rapporteur, Mr. Zúniga chaired the meeting plenary. Mr. Eddian Méndez, Regional Officer, Air Traffic Management and Search and Rescue, served as Secretary of the Meeting, assisted by Messrs. Ernie Snyder, Regional Officer, Air Traffic Management and Search and Rescue, and Rubén Martínez Lino, Regional Officer, Accident Investigation, all from the ICAO NACC Regional Office.

### **ii.4 Working Languages**

The working languages of the Meeting were English and Spanish. The working papers, information papers and draft report of the meeting were available to participants in both languages.

### **ii.5 Schedule and Working Arrangements**

It was agreed that the working hours for the sessions of the meeting would be from 09:00 to 12:00 hours daily with adequate breaks.

**ii.6            Agenda**

**AGENDA**

**Agenda Item 1:            Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Schedule**

**Agenda Item 2:            Review of the SAR Part of the CAR/SAM Regions Air Navigation Plan**

- 2.1     Review of the Electronic Air Navigation Plan of the CAR/SAM Regions
- 2.2     Review of the SAR Plan of the CAR Region
- 2.3     Follow up on valid SAR Conclusions/Decisions and Deficiencies

**Agenda Item 3:            SAR Agreements and Civil-Military Coordination**

- 3.1     ICAO requirements on SAR agreements
- 3.2     Civil-military coordination in the provision of Air Navigation Services

**Agenda Item 4:            Work Programme and Activities of the Task Force**

- 4.1     Global and Regional Search and Rescue (SAR) Affairs
- 4.2     Follow-up to the recommendations of the 2019 NAM/CAR Search and Rescue (SAR) and Civic-Military Coordination Implementation Meeting
- 4.3     SAR coordination and emergency response to natural disasters
- 4.4     Approval of the Work Programme and Activities of the Task Force

**Agenda Item 5:            Other Business**

**ii.7            Attendance**

The Meeting was attended by 23 States/Territories from the NAM/CAR Regions and 1 International Organization, totalling 102 delegates as indicated in the list of participants.

**ii.8 Draft Conclusion and Decisions**

The Meeting recorded its activities as Draft Conclusions and Decisions as follows:

**DRAFT**

**CONCLUSIONS:** Activities requiring endorsement by Directors of Civil Aviation of North America, Central America and Caribbean (NACC/DCA).

**DECISIONS:** Internal activities of NAM/CAR Air Navigation Implementation Working Group (ANI/WG).

An executive summary of these conclusions/decisions is presented in **Appendix** to this report.

**List of Conclusions/Decisions**

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**ii.9 List of Working and Information Papers and Presentations**

*Refer to the Meeting web page:*

<https://www.icao.int/NACC/Pages/meetings-2021-sartf2.aspx>

**WORKING PAPERS**

Number	Agenda Item	Title	Date	Prepared and Presented by
WP/01	1	Provisional Agenda and Schedule	21/07/21	Secretariat
WP/02	4.1	September 2021 – Report on COSPAS-SARSAT System Status, Operations and Future Developments	30/08/21	United States
WP/03	2.2	Update on Implementation of the Global Aeronautical Distress and Safety System (GADSS)	30/08/21	United States
WP/04	3.1	Challenges for Signing and Updating SAR Agreements in the CAR Region	03/09/21	Secretariat

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INFORMATION PAPERS				
Number	Agenda Item	Title	Date	Prepared and Presented by
IP/01	--	List of Working, Information Papers and Presentations	30/08/21	Secretariat
NI/02	4.3	Coordinación SAR y respuesta de Emergencia para Desastres Naturales <i>(available in Spanish only)</i>	30/08/21	Dominican Republic
IP/03	3.2	SAR Coordination Protocol from the Dominican Republic	30/08/21	Dominican Republic
NI/04	5	Ausencia de Procedimientos Aprobados y Establecidos en Declaraciones de Mayday por Controladores Aéreos <i>(available in Spanish only)</i>	06/09/21	COBUSA

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PRESENTATIONS			
Number	Agenda Item	Title	Presented by
P/01	2.1	Review of the SAR Part of the CAR/SAM Regions Air Navigation Plan	Secretariat



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**Agenda Item 1:           Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Schedule**

1.1           The Secretariat presented WP/01 and invited the Meeting to approve the Provisional Agenda and Schedule. The Meeting approved the Agenda and Schedule as presented.

**Agenda Item 2: Review of the SAR Part of the CAR/SAM Regions Air Navigation Plan**

2.1 *Review of the Electronic Air Navigation Plan of the CAR/SAM Regions*

2.1.1 Under P/01 the Secretariat provided information regarding the CAR/SAM Air Navigation Plan (ANP) and its update process.

2.1.2 The presentation described the SAR parts of the CAR/SAM ANP, Volumes I and II, explained the project to update this document and the required involvement to review and provide information to be included in the Part VI *Search and Rescue* of both volumes.

2.1.3 The Meeting agreed on the need to support this update project and the following Draft Conclusion was adopted:

<b>DRAFT CONCLUSION</b>	
<b>ANI/WG/SAR/TF/02/01</b>	<b>SUPPORT TO THE UPDATE OF THE CAR/SAM ANP</b>
<p><b>What:</b></p> <p>That, in order to support the project to review and update the CAR/SAM ANP, States and Territories of the CAR Region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) send update information regarding the Search and Rescue Regions (SRR) for which they are responsible, including the description of the lateral limits with coordinates by 31 December 2021;</li> <li>b) send updated information regarding their Rescue Coordination Centres (RCCs) and Rescue Sub-centres (RSCs), including the SAR points of contact (SPoC) and other Supplementary information by 31 December 2021; and</li> <li>c) take the appropriate actions to use the information received as input for a proposal to amend the CAR/SAM ANP Vols. I and II.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Expected impact:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political / Global</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Inter-regional</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Economic</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Environmental</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Operational/Technical</li> </ul>
<p><b>Why:</b></p> <p>update the CAR/SAM ANP Vol. I Table SAR-I-1 and Vol. II Table SAR-II-1</p>	
<p><b>When:</b> 31 December 2021</p>	<p><b>Status:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Valid / <input type="checkbox"/> Superseded / <input type="checkbox"/> Completed</p>
<p><b>Who:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> States <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICAO <input type="checkbox"/> Other:</p>	

2.2 *Review of the SAR Plan of the CAR Region*

2.2.1 Under this Agenda Item, United States presented WP/03 with an update for the ICAO's Global Aeronautical Distress and Safety System (GADSS), to be reviewed by the Task Force for content that should be included within the next update of the Central America and the Caribbean Region SAR Plan.

2.2.2 The text for the 2022 edition of the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (IAMSAR) Manual, Appendix V, *Autonomous Distress Tracking (ADT) of aircraft in flight*, will provide the most accurate, concise background information for review by SAR services, aircraft operators and Air Traffic Services Units (ATSUs).

2.2.3 The Meeting noted the information provided and recognized the impact that the GADSS implementation will have for Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs) globally, and need for adequate guidance for the CAR Region in particular. The Meeting agreed the Task Force should closely monitor the development of this guidance material and work to enhance the CAR Region Search and Rescue Plan, as required.

2.2.4 The Meeting noted that the GADSS related Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) would be effective on 1 January 2023, while the update for the relevant guidance of the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (IAMSAR) Manual is expected to be published by July 2022, leaving a very short window of time for States to prepare accordingly. It was decided to use the draft material for *Autonomous Distress Tracking (ADT) of Aircraft in flight* to be included as part V of the IAMSAR Manual Volume I, to prepare a regional workshop to raise awareness of the required changes in Air Navigation Services (ANS) procedures to address the implementation of this new technology.

2.2.5 ICAO will make the necessary arrangements, with the support of the United States Coast Guard and other agencies, to prepare a virtual workshop for ADT, tentatively to be held from 7-11 February 2022.

<b>DECISION</b>	
<b>ANI/WG/SAR/TF/02/02</b>	<b>GADSS REGIONAL WORKSHOP</b>
<p><b>What:</b></p> <p>That, considering that the effective date of GADSS-related SARPs is 1 January 2023, and to date ICAO has not yet officially published guidance material related to it, ICAO NACC Regional Office:</p> <p>a) take the necessary measures to organize activities to raise awareness on the impact this new technology will have on aircraft operators, ANS and SAR operational procedures; and</p>	<p><b>Expected impact:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Political / Global</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Inter-regional</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Economic</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Environmental</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Operational/Technical</p>

b) jointly with the support of the United States Coast Guard and relevant related agencies, organize a virtual GADSS workshop to provide the NAM/CAR Regions with preliminary information that would allow adequate preparation while official ICAO guidance material is published by 31 July 2022.	
<b>Why:</b> To raise awareness and provide initial information regarding the GADSS	
<b>When:</b> By 31 July 2022	<b>Status:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Valid / <input type="checkbox"/> Superseded / <input type="checkbox"/> Completed
<b>Who:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> States <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICAO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:	United States Coast Guard

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**Agenda Item 3: SAR Agreements and Civil-Military Coordination**

3.1 *ICAO requirements on SAR agreements*

3.1.1 Under this Agenda Item, the Secretariat presented WP/04 to summarize ICAO requirements regarding the establishment of agreements for the provision of SAR services and to provide information on current challenges regarding signing and updating them.

3.1.2 Currently, several States and Territories of the CAR region have pending signing of the corresponding SAR agreements mentioned in said WP. The causes that prevent the completion of these agreements are various and of different nature. The involvement of various organizations and the lack of clear understanding of the context of SAR operations remain the main obstacle.

3.1.3 Although the nature of SAR agreements related to inter-unit coordination is the same as other ANS operational agreements, for example, between air traffic services units, these SAR agreements cannot be materialized, facing the same difficulties as other more complex agreements and with other implications.

3.1.4 During the Third Virtual Meeting of the GREPECAS Programmes and Projects Review Committee (CRPP) (eCRPP/03), held online, from 31 August to 1 September 2021, the Secretariat presented WP/18 *Challenges for SAR Implementation in the CAR/SAM Regions*, which addressed the difficulties related to the signing of SAR agreements in the CAR/SAM Regions. In response to this Paper, the Meeting decided to instruct the ICAO NACC and SAM Regional Offices to take the pertinent actions to promote regional coordination that allows the signing and/or updating of the SAR agreements, considering their signature remotely. Definitely, high-level support from States is necessary to fulfil this task.

3.1.5 During the discussion of this Paper, the following States detailed their pending SAR agreements:

- Honduras explained that has pending SAR agreements with El Salvador and Belize;
- Costa Rica explained that has pending SAR agreements with Panama and Nicaragua;
- Mexico has pending SAR agreements with Cuba, Guatemala and Belize; and
- Cuba has pending SAR agreements with Mexico, Jamaica, Haiti and COCESNA.



3.1.6 The Meeting agreed the Task Force should take actions to address this issue and the following Decision was adopted:

<b>DECISION</b>	
<b>ANI/WG/SAR/TF/02/03</b>	<b>REGIONAL SAR COORDINATION AD-HOC GROUP</b>
<p><b>What:</b></p> <p>That, taking into consideration the importance coordination and collaboration for an effective SAR system, the ANI/WG SAR TF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) to establish an Ad hoc Group that:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Identify the States of the CAR Region with pending SAR agreements;</li> <li>ii. Develop a regional strategy to enhance regional coordination that allows the signing and/or updating SAR agreements; and</li> <li>iii. Draft a proposal for a SAR Implementation Support Project to be included as part of the Regional Projects of GREPECAS by December 2021; and</li> </ul> </li> <li>b) this Ad hoc Group is composed by Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, and COCESNA.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Expected impact:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Political / Global</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inter-regional</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Economic</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Environmental</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Operational/Technical</li> </ul>
<p><b>Why:</b></p> <p>In order to better support SAR Implementation and effective operation in the CAR Region</p>	
<p><b>When:</b> By December 2021</p>	<p><b>Status:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Valid / <input type="checkbox"/> Superseded / <input type="checkbox"/> Completed</p>
<p><b>Who:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> States <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICAO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:</p>	<p>Ad-hoc Group</p>

3.2 *Civil-military coordination in the provision of Air Navigation Services*

3.2.1 Under this Agenda Item, Dominican Republic presented IP/03 to inform on the Air SAR Coordination Protocol signed between the Dominican Institute of Civil Aviation (IDAC), the Dominican Republic Navy (ARD), the Dominican Republic Air Force (FARD) and the Naval Auxiliaries Dominicans (AND).

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**Agenda Item 4: Work Programme and Activities of the Task Force**

4.1 *Global and Regional Search and Rescue (SAR) Affairs*

4.1.1 Under this Agenda Item, United States presented WP/02, with the September 2021 report on COSPAS-SARSAT system status, operations and future developments. The information applies to current SAR operations and may influence new content for the CAR Region SAR Plan.

4.1.2 During the discussion on this Paper, Dominican Republic drew attention that many States have not made the transition from the distress beacons transmitting in 121.5 MHz to 406 MHz. The 406 Mhz beacon are the only one captured by satellites since 2009. Another point is that some States do not change the data when selling an aircraft to another State.

4.1.3 Honduras drew attention to the lack of registration and updated information of the 406MHz Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs). ICAO and International Maritime Organization (IMO) must work together to have a State database for local use and for COSPAS-SARSAT, which includes the Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT), EPIRB and Person Locator Beacon (PLB), since the expense in the units is quite high and most of the alerts are false, even doing the precom and nextcom.

4.3 *SAR coordination and emergency response to natural disasters*

4.3.1 Dominican Republic presented NI/02 to inform on the project for the establishment of a specialized body of the Dominican Republic Ministry of Defence to address emergencies and disasters within its territory.

4.4 *Approval of the Work Programme and Activities of the Task Force*

4.4.1 Under this Agenda Item, an analysis was made regarding the Task Force Work Programme, an assignment pending since SAR/TF/01 Meeting, taking into consideration the draft decision related to the development of the SAR project for GREPECAS, the Meeting understood that, in order to ensure alignment with this project, the conclusion of the presentation of this project should be expected to formalize the Work Programme of the task force. In the meantime, the task force could attend to the following activities:

1. Conduct a thorough review of the CAR Region SAR Plan and identify content that requires updating
2. Support the updating of the SAR part of the CAR/SAM Regions Air Navigation Plan
3. Support the organization of the GADSS workshop

4. Support the work of the Ad hoc Group to improve SAR coordination
5. Support the work to prepare and present the draft SAR project to GREPECAS for subsequent approval
6. Finalize the approval of the Work Programme to the NACC/WG, after the approval of the corresponding project by GREPECAS.

**Agenda Item 5:           Other Business**

5.1           Under IP/04 the COBUSA (Search and Rescue Central American Committee) presented information regarding actions to establish procedures to enhance SAR services in the Region.

**APPENDIX  
EXECUTIVE LIST OF CONCLUSIONS/DECISIONS**

Number	Conclusion/Decision	Responsible for action	Deadline
C/01	SUPPORT TO THE UPDATE OF THE CAR/SAM ANP		
	That, in order to support the project to review and update the CAR/SAM ANP, States and Territories of the CAR Region:		
	a) send update information regarding the Search and Rescue Regions (SRR) for which they are responsible, including the description of the lateral limits with coordinates by 31 December 2021;	States and Territories, ICAO	31 December 2021
	b) send updated information regarding their Rescue Coordination Centres (RCCs) and Rescue Sub-centres (RSCs), including the SAR points of contact (SPoC) and other Supplementary information by 31 December 2021; and		
c) take the appropriate actions to use the information received as input for a proposal to amend the CAR/SAM ANP Vols. I and II.			
D/02	GADSS REGIONAL WORKSHOP		
	That, considering that the effective date of GADSS-related SARPs is 1 January 2023, and to date ICAO has not yet officially published guidance material related to it, ICAO NACC Regional Office:		
	<p>a) take the necessary measures to organize activities to raise awareness on the impact this new technology will have on aircraft operators, ANS and SAR operational procedures; and</p> <p>b) jointly with the support of the United States Coast Guard and relevant related agencies, organize a virtual GADSS workshop to provide the NAM/CAR Regions with preliminary information that would allow adequate preparation while official ICAO guidance material is published by 31 July 2022.</p>	States and Territories, ICAO, United States Coast Guard	31 July 2022

Number	Conclusion/Decision	Responsible for action	Deadline
D/03	REGIONAL SAR COORDINATION AD-HOC GROUP		
	That, taking into consideration the importance coordination and collaboration for an effective SAR system, the ANI/WG SAR TF:		
	a) to establish an Ad hoc Group that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Identify the States of the CAR Region with pending SAR agreements;</li> <li>ii. Develop a regional strategy to enhance regional coordination that allows the signing and/or updating SAR agreements; and</li> <li>iii. Draft a proposal for a SAR Implementation Support Project to be included as part of the Regional Projects of GREPECAS by December 2021; and</li> </ul>	Ad hoc Group, ICAO	December 2021
	b) this Ad hoc Group is composed by Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, and COCESNA.		