



International Civil Aviation Organization
Eastern and Southern African Office

**Eleventh Meeting of the Air Traffic Services/Aeronautical Information
Service/Search and Rescue Sub-Group (ATS/AIS/SAR SG/11)
(Nairobi, Kenya, 26 - 30 April 2010)**

Agenda Item 9: Search and Rescue (SAR) and Civil/Military Coordination

SEARCH AND RESCUE

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper discusses implementation of (search and rescue)SAR in the Region, and invites attention to relevant ICAO Assembly Resolutions Air Navigation Plan (ANP) provisions, Regional Air Navigation and APIRG Recommendations, Conclusions/Decisions relating to SAR implementation..

Action by the meeting is at **paragraph 3**.

REFERENCES:

Report of the 36th Assembly Session
AFI 7 Report
SP AFI RAN 2008 Report
APIRG 15 &16 Reports

This Working Paper is related to Strategic Objectives: **A**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 States' obligations with regard to SAR are rooted, specifically, in Article 25 of the Convention. In support of the provision of Annex 12, the basic principles, operational requirements and planning criteria regarding search and rescue services, have been developed for the AFI Region and are indicated in the Basic Air Navigation Plan (ANP) (Doc 7474). Some of the provisions in the ANP are the outcome of Regional Air Navigation (RAN) meetings, in particular the seventh AFI Regional Air Navigation Meeting (AFI 7) in Abuja, Nigeria 12-23 May 1997.

1.2 On discussing issues related to SAR, the AFI 7 meeting adopted a comprehensive (eight) set of Recommendations, aimed at fostering implementation of current and future imperatives in the field of SAR:

- Recommendation 6/1 – Carriage of 406 MHZ ELTs
- Recommendation 6/2 – Satellite-aided search and rescue
- Recommendation 6/3 – Cooperation between States
- Recommendation 6/4 – Coordination with maritime SAR authorities
- Recommendation 6/5 – Training of SAR personnel
- Recommendation 6/6 – Search and rescue seminars
- Recommendation 6/7 – Search and rescue exercises
- Recommendation 6/8 – Search and rescue facilities

1.3 At its 15th meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, 26 – 30 September 2005, APIRG adopted the following Conclusion and Decision aimed at fostering implementation in the field of SAR:

CONCLUSION 15/97: SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR)

That States:

- a) participate in the ICAO/AFCAC SAR evaluation programme;*
- b) after having received a SAR evaluation mission, implement the evaluation recommendations, either with their own resources, or with technical assistance offered by the project;*
- c) organize regular SAR exercises; and*
- d) implement the SAR management principles adopted by the conference on SAR funding held in Saly-Portudal, Senegal, from 25 to 28 October 2004 and reflected in the Saly Declaration on SAR.*

DECISION 15/98: SAR FUNDING

That APIRG endorse the Declaration on Search and Rescue (SAR) Funding adopted by the Conference on SAR Funding held in Saly-Portudal, Senegal, from 25 to 28 October 2004 (Appendix W refers).

1.4 In order to support and facilitate States in discharging their responsibilities under Article 25 of the Convention, the Assembly has adopted Resolution 36-13: *Consolidated statement of continuing ICAO policies and associated practices related specifically to air navigation*, which is reviewed and updated as necessary at every Assembly Session for which a Technical Commission is established. Appendix N of the Resolution is about *Provision of Search and Rescue Services*, and the resolving clauses of Appendix N address various elements that are pertinent to implementation: delimitation of areas, cooperation with maritime search and rescue services, agreements with other States, delegation of responsibilities, and remedies to inadequacies in the provision of efficient SAR services. The text of Appendix N to Resolution A36-13 is reproduced at **Appendix A** to this working paper.

1.5 The Special AFI RAN Meeting Durban, South Africa 24-29 2008 adopted Recommendation 6/22 – *Establishment of sub regional search and rescue (SAR) arrangements*, the text of which is reflected hereunder:

Recommendation 6/22 — Establishment of sub-regional search and rescue (SAR) arrangements

That APIRG:

- a) adopt the SAR Performance Objective: Establishment of Sub-regional SAR Arrangements as contained in the performance framework form in Appendix H to the Report on Agenda Item 6;
- b) adopt as policy the general concept of sub-regional SAR provision from joint aviation/maritime RCCs as a key strategy in the improvement of the Africa-wide SAR system;
- c) support the establishment of a task force to progress the initiative taken at the Port Elizabeth Consultative Conference of October 2007 on the integration of SAR services in the southern African Region; and
- d) cooperate with ICAO and IMO in their continuing collaboration with African States to implement sub-regional, joint RCCs at strategic locations on the African continent.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The meeting will recall that the International Cospas-Sarsat System ceased satellite processing of 121.5/243 MHz beacons on 1 February 2009. As such, for continued sole users of the 121.5/243 MHz beacons (who have not installed 406 Mhz beacons), this brings the alert services conditions to the pre-1985 era, when there was no satellite coverage service for the beacons.

2.2 The meeting will realize that the abovementioned AFI 7 Recommendations relating to SAR continue to have high relevance and most their content is in support of the SARPs, particular Annexes 10, 12 and 15.

2.3 Based on the above, the meeting may wish to agree that more effort should be expended by the Sub-Group in its next meeting, to foster implementation of the SARPs. Furthermore, the meeting may wish to establish a task force pursuant to SP AFI RAN Recommendation 6/22 (b), and accordingly agree on the following Draft Decision:

DRAFT DECISION 11/XX AFI SAR SERVICES INTEGRATION TASK FORCE (ASSI TF)

That, in order to progress the initiatives taken at the Port Elizabeth Consultative Conference of October 2007 on integration of SAR services and similar other initiatives in the AFI Region, the AFI SAR Services Integration Task Force (ASSI TF) is established with the terms of reference at Appendix XX to the report on agenda item 9 (TOR to be developed by the meeting).

2.4 The meeting may also wish to re-formulate ATS/AIS/SAR SG/10 Conclusion 10/37: *Search and Rescue Services as follows:*

DRAFT CONCLUSION 11/XX SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR) SERVICES

That, with the objective to foster the implementation and of SAR services, and improvement of SAR systems in the Region, AFI States are:

- a) urged to establish joint aviation/maritime rescue coordination centres (RCCs) in order to optimize usage of resources and coordination;*
- b) encouraged to establish sub-regional task forces to progress the development SAR cooperative arrangements and integration of SAR services; and*
- c) urged to consider entering into agreements with States that have adequate facilities (within or outside the sub-region) to assist in SAR operations.*

(This Draft Conclusion supersedes ATS/AIS/SAR SG10 Conclusion 10/37) (refer to WP 2 Appendix C)

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information in this working paper;
- b) agree to increased focus on SAR issues in its next meeting; and
- c) agree on Draft Decision and Draft Conclusion under paragraphs 2.3 and 2.4.

APPENDIX A

Resolution: 36-13	Consolidated statement of continuing ICAO policies and associated practices related specifically to air navigation
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APPENDIX N

PROVISION OF SEARCH AND RESCUE SERVICES

Whereas in accordance with Article 25 of the Convention each Contracting 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 Contracting 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, in so far 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 Contracting 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 Contracting 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. Contracting States should, in cooperation with other States and the Organization, 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.
