



# **REPORT OF THE AFRICA-INDIAN OCEAN (AFI) INTERREGIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR) WORKSHOP, 2024.**

**17 to 21 JUNE 2024**

**Held at  
BAI Academy  
LUANDA, ANGOLA**

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## 1. BACKGROUND

- a) The National Civil Aviation Authority (ANAC) in coordination with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) through its Southern and East Africa Region Office (ESAF), will hold the Interregional Workshop on Search and Rescue Services (SAR), at the BAI Academy, in Luanda, from 17 to 21 June 2024, under the motto harmonize SAR resources to ensure rescue.
- b) This Workshop aims to provide Member States with tools that enable them to respond to the sector's calls effectively, and is based on the high level of performance established by ICAO.
- c) At the opening ceremony of the event, the Chairwoman of the Board of Directors of ANAC, Amélia Domingues Kuvíngua, expressed a warm welcome to the participants and highlighted the enthusiasm of the Republic of Angola in hosting the Workshop, having emphasized that internally, the achievement of the best provision requires a robust coordination and alignment of all services that are part of the National Integrated Search and Rescue System (SNIBS). For her part, Ms. Keziah Ogutu on behalf of the ESAF-ICAO Regional Director, highlighted the need for cooperation between Member States in search and rescue.
- d) The opening speech of the Workshop was given by His Excellency. Secretary of State for the Civil, Maritime and Port Aviation Sectors, Dr. Rui Carreira, who stressed the importance of holding this Workshop in the country, due to the fact that the Republic of Angola is one of the member countries of ICAO that recently promulgated, through Presidential Decree 96/23, of 6 April, in order to promote cooperation in the area of Search and Rescue services, with the establishment and implementation of the National Integrated Search and Rescue System
- e) The program of the event includes a practical exercise called SAREX to be conducted by Angola, which will serve to measure and verify the organizational capacity, coordination and resources of all subsystems called for participation in SAR missions
- f) Representatives of the Ministries of Transport, Health, Mineral Resources, Oil and Gas, Territorial Administration, National Defence, Former Combatants and Veterans of the Homeland, Interior, Social Action, Family and Promotion of Women, National Maritime Agency, Angolan Navy, National Air Force, Angolan National Police, National Civil Protection and Fire Service, National Institute of Medical Emergencies of Angola, National Institute for Investigation and Prevention of Transport Accidents, National Air Navigation Company, as well as delegates from nineteen (19) African countries, with emphasis on the Republics of South Africa, Botswana, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Mauritania, Namibia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Chad, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

## 2. WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the workshop were to;

- a) Provide Member States with tools that will enable them to respond to Search and Rescue in the AFI Region,
- b) Provide guidance to States on the implementation and/or improvement of SAR service with the aim helping the aircraft in distress and to save lives.

- c) Initiate the process of ensuring that States Sign the SAR Letters of agreements
- d) Highlight challenges faced by States in the implementation Search and rescue in the Region
- e) Make recommendation that will help Member state implement effective and efficient SAR in the AFI region.

### 3. SAR WORKSHOP PROGRAM – 2024

- a) The Civil-Military Cooperation in ATM Workshop was facilitated by Ms. Keziah Ogutu from the ICAO ESAF Office.
- b) The program included Workshop Exercises which were centred on Identifying at least three main challenges AFI region may have in carrying out Search and Rescue and recommendations to address these challenges.
- c) Panel Discussions and presentations were made by Angola, Cameroun, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, and South Africa including SAR Experts.
- d) The Panel Discussions and Presentation by States were related on highlighting SAR developments, lessons learnt and challenges by States.

### 4. SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE - ANGOLA

- a) Angola conducted a successful Full SAR exercise during the period of the workshop with the aim of assessing the States preparedness in handling SAR activity and create an opportunity for the member States who were in attend to learn lessons on Conducting the SAREX.
- b) The Event was also an occasion to share experiences, including exploring ways of ensuring the smooth implementation of SAR services. It is requirement for member states to carry out a simulation exercise (SAREX) aim of familiarizing participants with operational aspects.
- c) The holding of SAREX by Angola demonstrated the commitment of the Angolan State, with increasing levels of effective implementation of ICAO SARPs, which are intrinsically linked to the increase in Air Safety in the AFI Region and the Luanda FIR.

### 5. CHALLENGES FACED BY STATES IN IMPLEMENTING SAR

- a) The workshop deliberated and identified the main challenges being faced by AFI States and all key stakeholders as follows;
  - i. **Lack of Adequate SAR resources** – There is currently a lack of Adequate SAR resources vis-a-vis Financial and SAR equipage of are SRUs.
  - ii. **Lack of Adequate SAR Training** – Lack of qualified personnel and the maintenance of their qualification through training and awareness raising among stakeholders, provision of specialized equipment and appropriate technology and the organization of exercises.
  - iii. **Lack of signed SAR MoUs** – The lack of Signed MoUs between member states. Lack of MoUs may lead to lack of coordination in SAR operations. Furthermore, coordination with

neighbouring States is essential, particularly when these operations take place near adjacent search and rescue regions.

- iv. **Lack of SAR Exercises** – the workshop noted that lack of exercises exposed SAR personnel to risk of delayed SAR operations, slows down operations and could result in loss of life.
- v. **SAR False alerts** – The growing number of false alerts will place increasing strain on the SAR system, bring increasing risk to SAR personnel, and harm the credibility of alerting systems needed to inform the SAR system when help is needed.
- vi. **Mind-set Change** – There was need to consider the mind-set change towards the implementation of SAR by member States.

## 6. WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

- a) The workshop presented the following recommendations;
- b) Promote inter-ministerial meetings to sensitize governments on the importance of the SAR system in the States and on the significant activities;
- c) senior authorities ensure the establishment of a legal framework for a sustainable and adequate financing mechanism for SAR systems and services;
- d) Consider support from ICAO and AFCAC to help States obtain funding from regional economic communities (ECOWAS, EAC, ECAC, SADEC)
- e) The need to drive political will and buy in of our political leaders and regional bodies such as Southern African Development Community (SADC), African Union (AU), and East African Community (EAC).
- f) Encourage States to develop and implement training programs and plans for capacity building of SAR personnel, including those involved in the supervision of SAR services;
- g) Plan and organize training seminars for the benefit of national public and private organizations that support the SAR system.
- h) States are encouraged to conduct SAR exercises for the RCC/RSC in order to determine the state's preparedness.
- i) Encourage RCC/RSCs to regularly plan, organize exercises for the training of their staff and SRUs, and organize joint exercises with other RCCs/RSCs and other SRUs.
- j) Establish a database for maintaining ELTs, EPIRBs, PLBs and distress beacons at 406 MHz;
- k) Raise awareness among operators and users of these beacons and conduct awareness measures on how to avoid false alert transmissions.

## 7. CONCLUSION

- a) The workshop was successfully hosted with participants from sixteen (17) African countries from ESAF and WACAF regions and international representation from the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO),

- b) The workshop had a total of 150 participants drawn from various organisations. These included from the Ministries of Transport, Health, Mineral Resources, Oil and Gas, Territorial Administration, and National Defense. Also in attendance were participants from organisations like Former Combatants and Veterans of the Homeland Security; Interior; Social Action; Family and Promotion of Women; Maritime Agency; Navy; Air Force; Police; Fire Service; Medical Emergency services; Investigation and Prevention of Transport Accidents, Air Navigation Service Providers, air operators and private support systems. The participants extensively deliberated on the challenges faced by AFI SAR Region and drew up recommendations in order to counter the identified challenges.
- c) ICAO thanked the Angola for successfully hosting the workshop and was impressed with the high turnover of military personnel and the commitment shown by Participating AFI States.

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