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Международная  
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منظمة الطيران  
المدنى الدولى

国际民用  
航空组织

Ref: AN 13/14 – 14/229

24 August 2014

**Subject: ICAO/IMO Search and Rescue Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (SAR GMDSS) Sub-Regional Conference (Bahrain, 21-22 October 2014)**

**Action required: Reply not later than 1 October 2014**

I have the honour to invite your Administration/Organization to participate in the ICAO/IMO Search and Rescue Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (SAR GMDSS) Sub-Regional Conference, Bahrain, **21-22 October 2014**. The conference, dedicated to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States, will be organized by the Kingdom of Bahrain, in cooperation with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO). In this respect, I would like to express my appreciation to the Ministry of Transportation of the Kingdom of Bahrain for supporting the ICAO/IMO activities by hosting this important SAR event.

The Bulletin describing the venue of the Conference, administrative arrangements for the event and other useful information for participants, including the Hotel List is at **Attachment A**.

This letter and all its relevant attachments will be posted in PDF format on the ICAO MID Website at [https://portal.icao.int/RO\\_MID](https://portal.icao.int/RO_MID)

The Conference objective is to provide the participants with an update on the status of SAR services in each GCC Member State and to discuss the possible enhancement of national cooperation in the field of maritime and aeronautical SAR and ways to enhance SAR cooperation regionally. For further information you are invited to refer to the event Provisional Programme at **Attachment B**.

Based on the above, time slots have been allocated for each State to present their SAR System. Accordingly, you are kindly invited to share your experience related to SAR through the contribution to the event with a Power Point Presentation, using the Guidelines for presenting the National SAR System at **Attachment C**. I would be grateful to receive your presentation, **prior to 3 October 2014**. It is to be highlighted that other SAR Stakeholders (Military, Coast Guard, and Maritime) have been invited to the event. Therefore, you are kindly requested to coordinate as necessary to agree on the Party that will present the SAR status of your State.

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The Conference is expected to reach an agreement on the way forward. This could be for instance the development of a regional agreement on co-operation in respect of maritime and aeronautical SAR, providing a training course for SAR Administrators, or organising a regional SAR Seminar where other bordering countries will be invited. Other outcomes would be considered during the Conference.

Please note that the Department of Ports and Maritime Affairs of the Ministry of Transportation of Bahrain has sent an advanced notification of this Conference at an earlier stage, indicating that the targeted audience are experts from the Civil Aviation Authorities, the Coast Guard and those in charge of SAR services to take part in this conference.

I would appreciate if you could, as soon as possible, preferably not later than **1 October 2014** confirm the participation of your Administration/Organization by submitting the Nomination Form at **Attachment D** to the ICAO MID Regional Office at the following email address ([icaomid@icao.int](mailto:icaomid@icao.int)) with a copy to ([ekhoury@icao.int](mailto:ekhoury@icao.int)).

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Mohamed R. M. Khonji  
ICAO Regional Director, Cairo

**Attachments**



**ICAO/IMO Search and Rescue Global Maritime Distress and Safety System  
(SAR GMDSS) Sub-Regional Conference**

*Bahrain, 21-22 October 2014*

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**BULLETIN**

**1. LOCATION**

1.1 The ICAO/IMO Search and Rescue Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (SAR GMDSS) Sub-Regional Conference will be held in Bahrain, on 21 and 22 October 2014. The meeting will take place at the Awali Ballroom, Sheraton Bahrain Hotel.

**2. SCHEDULE OF THE MEETING**

- 2.1 The opening session of the meeting will be held at 0900 hours on Tuesday, 21 October 2014.
- 2.2 The daily schedule and the order of the day will be announced at the opening session.
- 2.3 The meeting will be conducted in English.

**3. REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS**

3.1 Participants are requested to register, at the Registration Desk located at the entrance of the Meeting Hall, between 0800 and 0900 hours on the opening day of the meeting. Participants are also requested to wear the Identification Badge which will be issued to them during registration.

**4. DOCUMENTATION**

4.1 Kindly note that no documentation in hard copy will be available. Participants are requested to bring along their own hard copies or their laptops to the Seminar, as appropriate.

**5. HOTEL RESERVATIONS/RETURN AIRLINE BOOKINGS**

5.1 Participants are requested to ensure that their return airline booking is confirmed, soon after their arrival in Bahrain, through their respective hotel reception desk. A list of recommended hotels' with corporate rates is attached for your convenience with the telephone/fax numbers and addresses. Participants will need to arrange their own hotel reservations.

**6. TRANSPORTATION**

- 6.1 Participants are requested to make their own arrangements for transportation from the airport to the city and return.
- 6.2 Airport Taxi Services operate from the Airport to Bahrain downtown costing approximately 5 Bahraini Dinars per vehicle.

## **7. INSURANCE**

7.1 Participants are advised to have insurance coverage for any unexpected contingency including transport hazards (taxi, buses, rented cars etc.) and Medical Coverage.

## **8. SOME USEFUL TRAVEL INFORMATION**

### **PASSPORT**

8.1 All foreign nationals entering Bahrain must possess valid passports or other valid documents for travel.

### **VISA**

8.2 It is mandatory that all participants obtain official visas from the Bahraini Embassy or Consulate in their country prior to their departure for Bahrain.

### **CUSTOMS**

8.3 For a list of Items Prohibited in Bahrain/ Controlled and Restricted Items by Bahrain Customs [www.bahraincustoms.gov.bh](http://www.bahraincustoms.gov.bh). Additional quantities of restricted items may also be purchased from the Airport duty free shop after clearing customs. There is no restriction on the value of personal gifts.

## **9. CURRENCY, CREDIT CARDS AND BANKING SERVICES**

9.1 Currency in Bahrain is the **Bahraini Dinar (BHD)**. Current rate of exchange is:  
US\$ 1 = BHD 0.377 (or BHD 1 = US\$ 2.65) approximately.

9.2 There are no restrictions on import of foreign currency.

9.3 International Credit Cards, such as American Express, Diners Club, Visa, Mastercard, Carte Blanche, etc. are usually accepted at most hotels, department stores and restaurants.

9.4 All commercial banks exchange major foreign currencies and are open from 0800 to 1300 hours, Sundays through Thursdays.

## **10. OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION**

### **SHOPPING**

10.1 Shopping areas are available in Bahrain. Be prepared to bargain in small shops, sidewalk vendors etc. In large stores, however, the prices are fixed.

### **TAP WATER**

10.2 It is recommended that all visitors drink only bottled water/beverages.

### **TELEPHONE AND INTERNET CARDS**

10.3 Cards are available in the Bahrain Market for international calls, and internet connection.

## **11. WEATHER CONDITIONS**

11.1 The main daily minimum and maximum temperatures for the month of October in Bahrain are between 25°C to 30°C.

## **12. OTHER ASSISTANCE**

12.1 The focal point in Bahrain, Mr. Essa Abdulla Yateem of the Ministry of Transportation, will be glad to assist the participants to the meeting with any advice they may require.

12.2 In case of emergency in Bahrain please call Mr. Yateem on:  
**Mobile: +973 39478712 or e-mail: [essa.yateem@mot.gov.bh](mailto:essa.yateem@mot.gov.bh).**

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**LIST OF HOTELS WITH BAHRAIN CORPORATE RATES**

| <b>HOTEL</b>                           | <b>RATE<br/>US \$</b>   | <b>ADDRESS</b> | <b>TELEFAX<br/>NO.</b> | <b>E-MAIL</b>                                | <b>TELEPHONE<br/>NUMBER(S)</b> | <b>TRANSPORTATION<br/>BY TAXI<br/>TO THE MEETING<br/>VENUE<br/>(Minutes)</b> |
|--|---|----------------|------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|
| Sheraton<br>Bahrain Hotel<br>5* hotel  | Single room BD 90<br>US\$ 239<br><br>Double room BD 103<br>US\$ 273 | Manama         | Fax:<br>0097317535366  | Reservations.manama.bahrain@sh<br>eraton.com | 0097317533533                  | Meeting venue  |
| Mövenpick<br>Hotel Bahrain<br>5* hotel | Single room BD 90<br>US\$ 239<br><br>Double room BD 103<br>US\$ 273 | Muharraq       | Fax:<br>0097317460001  | Hotel.bahrain.reservation@<br>movenpick.com  | 0097317460000                  | 15 minutes   |
| Al Safir Hotel<br>& Tower<br>4* hotel  | Single room BD 50<br>US\$ 133<br><br>Double room BD 60<br>US\$ 159  | Juffair        | Fax:<br>0097317827888  | reservation@alsafirhotel.com                 | 0097317827999                  | 15 minutes   |



## SAR-GMDSS SUB-REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Manama, Bahrain, 21 and 22 October 2014

### PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

#### FIRST DAY, Tuesday, 21 October 2014

| Time      | Event   | Speaker                         |
|-----------|---|---------------------------------|
| 0830-0900 | Arrival and registration  |                                 |
| 0900-0930 | Opening remarks and welcome   | Bahrain, IMO, ICAO              |
| 0930-0940 | Introductory comments (explanation of objectives and associated programme of the Conference)  | Chairman                        |
| 0940-0950 | Recent activities in the framework of IMO (including the assessment missions to Bahrain, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates) | IMO<br>(H. Van Der Graaf)       |
| 0950-1000 | Recent activities in the framework of ICAO (including activities employed at the regional level)  | ICAO<br>(E. ElKhoury)           |
| 1000-1015 | SAR System of Bahrain   | Bahrain                         |
| 1015-1030 | SAR System of Kuwait  | Kuwait                          |
| 1030-1100 | <i>Coffee Break</i>   |                                 |
| 1100-1115 | SAR System of Oman  | Oman                            |
| 1115-1130 | SAR System of Qatar   | Qatar                           |
| 1130-1145 | SAR System of Saudi Arabia  | Saudi Arabia                    |
| 1145-1200 | SAR System of United Arab Emirates  | United Arab Emirates            |
| 1200-1230 | Discussion on the status of SAR Services in the Region  | Chairman                        |
| 1230-1400 | <i>Lunch</i>  |                                 |
| 1400-1430 | SAR regulatory regime in IMO  | IMO<br>(K. Koning)              |
| 1430-1500 | SAR regulatory regime in ICAO   | ICAO<br>(F. Robert)             |
| 1500-1530 | Cooperation and coordination between maritime and aeronautical agencies   | Chairman ICAO/IMO<br>JWG on SAR |
| 1530-1600 | <i>Coffee Break</i>   |                                 |
| 1600-1700 | Discussion on the possible enhancement of cooperation in the field of maritime and aeronautical SAR                                       | Chairman                        |

**SECOND DAY, Wednesday, 22 October 2014**

| <b>Time</b> | <b>Event</b>   | <b>Speaker</b>                  |
|-------------|--|---------------------------------|
| 0900-0930   | Introduction to the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), including the role of Cospas-Sarsat's EPIRBs and ELTs  | IMO<br>(K. Koning)              |
| 0930-0945   | SAR Communications, including the use of LRIT information for SAR purposes   | Chairman ICAO/IMO<br>JWG on SAR |
| 0945-1000   | Rescue Coordination Centers, including the JRCC concept, equipment, manning, education, training and exercises   | IMO<br>(H. Van Der Graaf)       |
| 1000-1030   | Discussion on RCCs and communication   | Chairman                        |
| 1030-1100   | <i>Coffee Break</i>  |                                 |
| 1100-1120   | Lessons learned from recent incidents (AF447, MH370, MH17)   | ICAO<br>(F. Robert)             |
| 1120-1140   | Responsibilities of SAR authorities, including dealing with the media  | Chairman ICAO/IMO<br>JWG on SAR |
| 1140-1200   | Continuous improvement of SAR Services   | IMO<br>(K. Koning)              |
| 1200-1230   | Discussion on responsibilities and continuous improvement of services  | Chairman                        |
| 1230-1400   | <i>Lunch Break</i>   |                                 |
| 1400-1415   | An example of regional cooperation: the Regional Maritime RCC concept in Africa  | IMO<br>(H. Van Der Graaf)       |
| 1415-1430   | An example of regional cooperation among the ASEAN countries   | ICAO<br>(E. ElKhoury)           |
| 1430-1530   | Discussion on ways to enhance SAR cooperation in the region, including issues such as establishment of agreements, regular liaison meeting, workshop, joint SAREX, improving existing national SAR services, identification of needs for capacity building | Chairman                        |
| 1530-1600   | <i>Coffee Break</i>  |                                 |
| 1600-1700   | Conference conclusion  | Chairman, IMO, ICAO             |

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## **SAR-GMDSS SUB-REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

**Manama, Bahrain, 21 and 22 October 2014**

### **GUIDELINES FOR PRESENTATIONS ON NATIONAL SAR SYSTEM**

Each country is invited to deliver a presentation on the national SAR system and are kindly requested to take into consideration this information when preparing their presentations:

1. Presentations should not last more than 15 minutes.
  2. Presentations should be prepared using Microsoft Power Point, if available.
  3. The presentation should include, the following information, where applicable:
    1. Delimitation of SAR region
    2. Agency responsible to coordinate aeronautical and maritime SAR;
    3. Introduction of designated SAR units
    4. Agency responsible to provide medical advice to vessels or aircraft
    5. Brief information on Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC), or Joint RCC and sub-RCC, if any.
    6. Procedures for coordinating aeronautical and maritime search and rescue (national SAR Plan for division of responsibilities between government agencies for SAR matters)
    7. Communication facilities in RCC and sub-RCC
    8. Equipment for receiving distress alerts (shore-based GMDSS equipment)
    9. National SAR training capacity
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