

**CONFERENCE ON THE ECONOMICS OF AIRPORTS AND
AIR NAVIGATION SERVICES**

(Montreal, 19 - 28 June 2000)

Agenda Item 2: Organizational issues
Agenda Item 5.2: Elements for consideration with regard to ICAO policy

SEARCH AND RESCUE

(Presented by the African Contracting States)*

SUMMARY

This paper underlines the position of the African States on the future organization and the possibilities of the funding of search and rescue activities.

1. Background

1.1 Recent aircraft accidents in some parts of Africa have revealed inadequacies in the area of search and rescue which need to be addressed.

1.2 In accordance with the recommendations of the Seventh Africa-Indian Ocean Regional Air Navigation Meeting (AFI/7) (Abuja, 12-23 May 1997) and Conclusion 12/30 of the Twelfth APIRG Meeting (Tunis, 21-25 June 1999), the States concerned must assign high priority to the implementation of the ICAO specifications relating to search and rescue services.

* Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

1.3 In view of the current, serious shortcomings (lack of human and material resources, statutory instruments not updated, non-existent cooperation agreements, ...), it is essential that a regional or continental approach be adopted in order to allow the African States to meet their obligations.

1.4 In spite of the very low response by States to the ICAO questionnaire (letter EC 2/86-99/98 of 3 September 1995) inviting States to provide information on their policies and practices with respect to the recovery of search and rescue costs (33 States worldwide, 5 in Africa: Botswana, Burundi, Gambia, Morocco and South Africa), any proposal or guidance that would go along the lines of more regular funding at the subregional or continental levels and improved recovery of search and rescue costs by the structures in charge must be supported.

2. Action by the Conference

2.1 The Conference is invited to note this paper and to agree to recommend to the Council that ICAO:

- a) give more guidance on the establishment of an organization at the regional level for search and rescue activities;
- b) conduct a study on the establishment of a regional/sub-regional mechanism with the possibility of funding through a charge to be established or through the international aeronautical fund which has to be established.

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