



# ICAO

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

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WORKING PAPER

NACC/DCA/07 — WP/22  
11/09/17

**Seventh Meeting of the North American, Central American and Caribbean Directors of Civil Aviation  
(NACC/DCA/07)**

Washington, D. C., United States, 19 – 21 September 2017

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**Agenda Item 5: NAM/CAR Regional Safety/Air Navigation/Aviation Security Implementation Matters**

**5.2 Effectiveness of air navigation implementation mechanisms**

**SEARCH AND RESCUE REPORT**

(Presented by the Ad hoc ANI/WG SAR Rapporteur)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
This discussion paper presents the justification for the establishment of a SAR Implementation Task Force taking into consideration deliberations of the Ad hoc SAR Task Force during the NACC/WG/5.	
<b>Action:</b>	The suggested action is presented in Section 4.
<b>Strategic Objectives:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Safety</li><li>• Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency</li></ul>
<b>References:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NAM/CAR/SAM Search and Rescue (SAR) Implementation and Civil-military Coordination Meeting, Piarco, Trinidad and Tobago, 25-28 October 2016</li><li>• Fifth North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group Meeting (NACC/WG/5) Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 22-26 May 2017</li><li>• NAM/CAR Search and Rescue Civil and Military Coordination Presentation by the ICAO Secretariat (RO ATM/SAR) at the NACC/WG/5</li></ul>

**1. Introduction**

1.1 During the NAM/CAR/SAM Search and Rescue (SAR) Implementation and Civil-military Coordination Meeting held in Trinidad and Tobago, (25-28 October 2016) it was concluded that “the Meeting consider working with other ICAO Regional Groups (ANI/WG) to prepare a formal paper on SAR activity and the need for implementation assistance for consideration at the next NACC/DCA meeting in September 2017.”

1.2 At the Fifth Meeting of North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group (NACC/WG/5), an Ad hoc SAR Implementation Task Force was formed. The Ad hoc group considered that a SAR Implementation Task Force should be formed in order to streamline related air navigation implementation activities. This Task Force shall improve SAR efficiency and regional coordination, as well as update and report progress to the ANI/WG based on the Terms of Reference (ToR) for these tasks.

## **2. Discussion**

2.1 The NAM/CAR/SAM Search and Rescue (SAR) Implementation and Civil-military Coordination Meeting held in Trinidad and Tobago, (25-28 October 2016) noted needed attention for successful Annex 12 – Search and Rescue requirements, especially in terms of training, harmonization of SAR regulations and standard procedures, signing of appropriate letter of agreements and the provision of adequate resources to support SAR.

2.2 At the Fifth Meeting of North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group (NACC/WG/5), the Secretariat made a presentation regarding the status of the NAM/CAR Search and Rescue implementation and Civil-Military Coordination. The presentation highlighted that the NACC States have been active in SAR matters for the past several years; however, much work remains to be done. The Secretariat cited Trinidad and Tobago A-SAR and AN-SEC Operations Centre as an example of good practice and proper investment.

2.3 The Effective Implementation (EI) of the SAR related Protocol Questions (PQs) shows a different scenario throughout the region. With a regional EI for the ANS field of 60.52%, the EI for SAR is 53.25%. This shows that a regional effort in the SAR area is urgently needed.

2.4 The NACC/WG/5 noted that the SAR activities are not properly addressed under the current structure, and deferred to an Ad hoc SAR Implementation Task Force to provide recommendations.

2.5 The Ad hoc SAR Implementation Task Force discussed and proposed a ToR to assist States in meeting its Air Navigation Implementation initiatives, ICAO Universal Safety Audit Programme (USOAP) Audit requirements and State's Regulatory Audits.

2.6 The Ad hoc group considered that a SAR Implementation Task Force should be formed in order to streamline related air navigation implementation activities. This Task Force shall improve SAR efficiency and regional coordination, as well as update and report progress to the ANI/WG based on the ToR for these tasks.

2.7 The Task Force should be responsible for:

- a) work programme management;
- b) supporting States with implementing an effective SAR system;

- c) periodically requesting statistics from States to monitor implementation status;
- d) harmonizing A-SAR services through resource sharing and the exchange of technical expertise; and
- e) providing assistance to States to satisfy ICAO's USOAP Audits and States Regulatory Oversight Audits.

2.8 The Task Force should:

- a) present its work programme containing activities in terms of objectives, responsibilities, deliverables and timelines;
- b) avoid duplicating work within the ANI/WG and maintain close coordination among the existing entities to optimize use of available resources and experience;
- c) designate, as necessary, Ad hoc groups to work on specific topics and activities and organize clearly defined tasks and activities;
- d) coordinate tasks to maximize efficiency and reduce costs via electronic means including emails, telephone and teleconference calls, and convene meetings as necessary; and
- e) report on and coordinate the progress of assigned tasks to the ANI/WG.

2.9 The meeting noted that, even if it was agreed on the need to establish the Task Force, for this to be effective other organizational tasks needed to be completed. Among those were cited drafting of ToRs, identify membership and Rapporteur, for which it would be required to identify activities related to Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) from ASBU and RPBANIP.

2.10 Accordingly, it was agreed to present the preliminary results of this tasks to the upcoming NACC/DCA/7 meeting to formalize the creation of this Task Force, as well to engage high level commitment for this activities.

2.11 The meeting agreed to nominate Mr. Rohan Garib as the Ad hoc group Rapporteur to complete the preliminary work to be presented to the NACC/DCA/7 meeting. The following decision was formulated:

**DECISION****NACC/WG/5/20****SAR AD HOC GROUP TASK**

*That, in order to seek the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of forming a dedicated Task Force on SAR, the SAR Ad hoc Group to draft the ToRs and preliminary work to be presented to the NACC/DCA/7 meeting.*

2.12 The ToRs (See Appendix I) was created and circulated to the Ad hoc SAR Implementation Task Force in order to meet the following objectives:

- a) Support States in developing and implementing contingency plans in the event of disruption or potential disruption of Air Traffic Service (ATS) or related supporting services;
- b) Ensure that States establish an entity which provides, on a 24 hour basis, SAR services within its territory and the areas where the State has accepted responsibility to provide SAR to ensure that assistance is rendered to persons in distress, or
- c) If the State has not established a SAR entity to provide 24hour services, ensure that the State arranges with another Contracting State or group of States to provide such SAR services;
- d) Support States with establishing a joint rescue coordinator centre to coordinate aeronautical and maritime SAR operations, or otherwise, when separate aeronautical and maritime RCCs serve the same area, ensure that there is the closest practicable coordination between the centres;
- e) Ensure that States SAR services include the basic elements of:
  - i. a legal framework,
  - ii. a responsible authority,
  - iii. organized available resources,
  - iv. communication facilities, and
  - v. workforce skilled in coordination and operational functions.
- f) Assist States with the development of LOAs;
- g) Assist States with the development of their Training Programme; and
- h) Assist States with the development of their SAR Operations Manual.

### **3. Recommendations**

3.1 The Ad hoc SAR Implementation Task Force recommends the formation of the SAR Implementation Task Force under the Air Navigation Implementation Working Group (ANI/WG).

3.2 The ICAO NACC Regional Office continues to support and assist States with the development of Search and Rescue in the NACC States.

3.3 States/Territories/Organizations provide the necessary support to ensure that the members are provided with the resources to engage in and contribute to the activities of the Task Force.

3.4 States provide the required Air Navigation Services Provider's personnel to carry out the necessary functions for effective implementation of SAR.

3.5 States budget for and provide the resources required to assist the selected personnel to participate in teleconferences, training, meetings and conferences.

3.6 States facilitate high level meetings between Civil Aviation Organizations and SAR stakeholders in order to enable effective Civil/Military Coordination.

3.7 States/Territories/International Organizations increase their participation to assist with the requirements of SAR.

### **4. Suggested Actions**

4.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) take note of the recommendations of the Ad hoc SAR Implementation Task Force;
- b) approve the SAR Implementation Task Force under the Air Navigation Implementation Working Group (ANI/WG); and
- c) propose any other action or task as deemed necessary.

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**APPENDIX**  
**PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE AIR NAVIGATION IMPLEMENTATION WORKING GROUP SEARCH**  
**AND RESCUE TASK FORCE**

**1. Background**

1.1 During the NAM/CAR/SAM Search and Rescue (SAR) Implementation and Civil-military Coordination Meeting held in Trinidad and Tobago, (25-28 October 2016) it was concluded that “the Meeting consider working with other ICAO Regional Groups (ANI/WG) to prepare a formal paper on SAR activity and the need for implementation assistance for consideration at the next NACC/DCA meeting in September 2017.”

1.2 At the Fifth Meeting of North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group (NACC/WG/5), an Ad hoc SAR Implementation Task Force was formed. The Ad hoc group considered that a SAR Implementation Task Force should be formed in order to streamline related air navigation implementation activities. This Task Force shall improve SAR efficiency and regional coordination, as well as update and report progress to the ANI/WG based on the Terms of Reference (ToR) for these tasks.

**2. Responsibilities**

2.1 The Task Force is responsible for:

- a) work programme management;
- b) supporting States with implementing an effective SAR system;
- c) periodically requesting statistics from States to monitor implementation status;
- d) harmonizing A-SAR services through resource sharing and the exchange of technical expertise; and
- e) providing assistance to States to satisfy ICAO’s USOAP Audits and States Regulatory Oversight Audits.

**3. Working Methods**

3.1 The Task Force will:

- a) Present its work programme containing activities in terms of objectives, responsibilities, deliverables and timelines;
- b) Avoid duplicating work within the ANI/WG and maintain close coordination among the existing entities to optimize use of available resources and experience;
- c) Designate, as necessary, ad hoc groups to work on specific topics and activities and organize clearly defined tasks and activities;

- d) Coordinate tasks to maximize efficiency and reduce costs via electronic means including emails, telephone and teleconference calls, and convene meetings as necessary; and
- e) Report on and coordinate the progress of assigned tasks to the ANI/WG.

4. **Work Programme:** (Will be included)

5. **Membership:** (To be determined)

Task Force Member	State/Territory/International Organization	EMAIL