



ICAO

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WORKING PAPER

NACC/WG/SAR/TF/4 — WP/05  
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**Fourth NAM/CAR North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group  
Search and Rescue Implementation Task Force (NACC/WG/SAR/TF/4) Meeting**  
ICAO NACC Regional Office, Mexico City, Mexico, 9 to 11 August 2023

**Agenda Item 5: Other Business**

**EASTERN PACIFIC SAR FORUM**

(Presented by United States)

<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	
This paper discusses the Eastern Pacific Search and Rescue (SAR) Forum, a recurring regional meeting.	
<b>Action:</b>	Suggested actions are included in Section 3
<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Safety</li></ul>

**1. Introduction**

1.1 The Eastern Pacific Search and Rescue Forum (EPAC SAR Forum) is a voluntary, informal forum among Eastern Pacific (EPAC) rescue coordination centers (RCCs) with the goal to promote and facilitate cooperation and to exchange information on best practices and experiences regarding maritime SAR.

**2. Background**

2.1 The second meeting of the EPAC SAR Forum was held online on 13 June 2023. The intent is to make this an annual recurring regional meeting, in-person, and hosted by a different country each time to enable better participation and understanding of local views and concerns. Eleven States participate, most of them are also represented in the NACC/WG/SAR/TF:

Mexico	Guatemala	El Salvador	Nicaragua	Costa Rica	Panama
Colombia	Ecuador	Peru	Chile	United States (JRCC Alameda)	

2.2 The EPAC SAR Forum has twelve objectives, many of which align with the intent of the NACC/WG/SAR/TF:

- (1) Promote regional standardization and best practices in SAR mission execution.
- (2) Foster cooperation and teamwork between RCCs.
- (3) Building mutual commitment to cooperate and support the conduct of SAR operations, and exchange of information.
- (4) Resolving conflicting SAR procedures and sensitive matters in advance of time-critical distress situations.
- (5) Align and confirm SAR regions coordinates and adjust for International Maritime Organization (IMO) dissemination.
- (6) Facilitate the establishment of SAR agreements between neighboring States.
- (7) Identify types of cooperative matters and efforts that may enhance or support the conduct of SAR operations.
- (8) Improve SAR capabilities in procedures, techniques, communications, and survival equipment.
- (9) Develop cooperative relationships and professional exchanges between RCCs.
- (10) Cooperate on SAR projects of common interest.
- (11) Cooperate on SAR training and exercise efforts.
- (12) Conduct regional SAR conferences.

2.3 There is a natural association between the NACC/WG/SAR/TF and the Eastern Pacific SAR Forum based on factors such as States with SAR regions in both areas, COCESNA coverage, and more.

### **3. Suggested Actions**

3.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper;
- b) consider the level of mutual support and linkage between the NACC/WG/SAR/TF and the Eastern Pacific SAR Forum; and
- c) discuss how the NACC SAR regions in the Eastern North Pacific Ocean should be reflected in the Caribbean Region SAR Plan.