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منظمة الطيران
المدني الدولي

国际民用
航空组织

Bureau Afrique Occidentale et Centrale / Western and Central African Office

T15/8-0292

26 July 2021

Subject: Invitation to attend the ICAO Seminar on Satellite-Aided Distress Tracking, 15-16 September 2021

Action required: To confirm participation and register no later than 6 August 2021

Sir/Madam,

I have the honour to inform you that ICAO, in cooperation with Cospas-Sarsat, will be holding a Seminar on Satellite-Aided Distress Tracking hosted by the ICAO Western and Central African Office, from 15 to 16 September 2021.

The Seminar is intended to inform participants on the methods by which Cospas-Sarsat delivers distress alerts to Search And Rescue (SAR) services, and the critical function undertaken by SAR Points of Contact (SPOCs) in this delivery. In particular, the Seminar will address topics relating to interactions between SPOCs and Rescue Coordination Centres (RCCs), regional SPOCs, integration of Cospas-Sarsat into a RCC, observed deficiencies in the responsiveness of SPOCs and methods to improve SPOCs response rates.

Attendance is recommended for Officials responsible for oversight of RCCs, those holding the role of SPOCs, and those responsible for procedures within RCCs, including military personnel. Participants will be provided with a tailored template agreement/arrangement between the relevant Cospas-Sarsat mission control centre and the SPOC to formalize the exchange of distress alerts received through the satellite system of the International Cospas-Sarsat Programme. Participants are expected to complete the agreement/arrangement by 31 December 2021. A generic example of such an agreement/arrangement is attached.

The Seminar will be conducted by Officials from ICAO and Cospas-Sarsat, with support from Experts drawn from the ICAO/IMO Joint Working Group on Harmonization of Aeronautical and Maritime SAR (JWG-SAR), utilizing the Zoom platform. Participants are kindly requested to register online at the following link: https://icao.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwodO-spjoiGNUVqw5eWL799_Nxel8ahq9s

The Seminar will be conducted in English and French languages with simultaneous interpretation. Kindly note that, due to technical limitations, break-out sessions during the Seminar will be conducted in English only, without interpretation. The documentation will be issued in English and made available prior to the Seminar at <https://www.icao.int/WACAF/Pages/SADT.aspx>. You will find in attachment the provisional Agenda.

Please accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

For / Prosper Zo'o Minto'o
Regional Director

Attachments :

- A — Provisional Agenda
- B — Template MCC/SPOC Model agreement/arrangement.
- C — SPOC contact details