

ARRANGEMENT

BETWEEN

THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

FOR

**THE CO-OPERATION
ON SEARCH AND RESCUE SERVICES**

Arrangement between the Royal Government of Bhutan and the Government of India for the Cooperation on Search and Rescue Services

The Royal Government of Bhutan and the Government of India (hereinafter referred to as the Parties)

Recognizing the importance of co-operation in aeronautical search and rescue and the need to ensure expeditious and effective search and rescue services; and

Noting the relevant provisions of the standards and recommended practices contained in Annex 12 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation 1944,

Subject to the legislation of each Party, have made the following Arrangement:

1. DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

For the purposes of this Arrangement, an aircraft is considered to be in distress if the aircraft and its occupants are facing, or presumed to be facing, serious and/or imminent danger for which they require immediate assistance.

The following definitions shall apply:

- 1) **Search and Rescue (SAR):** The international acronym SAR covers all responsibility, activities or means used in the search and rescue of aircraft in distress.
- 2) **Search and Rescue Region (SRR):** An area with defined dimensions, associated with a rescue coordination centre, within which search and rescue services are provided.
- 3) **Rescue Coordination Centre(RCC):** A unit responsible for promoting efficient organization of search and rescue services and for coordinating the conduct of search and rescue operations within a search and rescue region;
- 4) **Rescue Sub-Centre (RSC):** A unit subordinate to a rescue coordination centre established to complement the latter according to particular provisions of the responsible authorities;

- 5) **Search and Rescue Unit (SRU):** A mobile resource composed of trained personnel and provided with equipment suitable for the expeditious conduct of search and rescue operations.

2. IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

The Department of Civil Aviation under the Ministry of Information and Communications of the Royal Government of Bhutan and the Airports Authority of India under the Ministry of Civil Aviation are the National Search and Rescue (SAR) agencies, which will implement these arrangements.

For Bhutan: RSC Paro

For India: Airport Authority of India

3. SCOPE OF COOPERATION/PREPAREDNESS.

Both Parties, through their respective RSC and RCC will:

- 3.1 Promptly and regularly exchange Search and Rescue (SAR) information concerning an actual distress or a potential distress situation;
- 3.2 Assist each other, to the extent possible, in the conduct of SAR missions in their respective Search and Rescue Regions (SRRs) and across their common SRR boundaries;
- 3.3 Take appropriate measures for the entry of SAR units into Bhutan SRR and for the use of the facilities in Bhutan while engaged on a SAR mission.
- 3.4 Exchange information on current SAR resources available to ensure mutual knowledge of each other's SAR capabilities;
- 3.5 Conduct communications checks with each other to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of SAR communications link.
- 3.6 Conduct periodic SAR exercises to test their ability to conduct a SAR response across their common SRR region boundary;
- 3.7 Without prejudicing the ownership of intellectual property and copyright, exchange SAR operational and

procedural manuals with ongoing amendments, and form documents, to develop procedures and practices as nearly common as possible.

4. SEARCH AND RESCUE REGIONS

- 4.1 For the purpose of this Arrangement the SRR Bhutan concerns the territory of the Kingdom of Bhutan.
- 4.2 For the purpose of this Arrangement, the SRR India concerns the territory of the Republic of India.

5. STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR THE RESCUE COORDINATION CENTRES

The following procedures will be followed:

5.1 Determinations of Responsible RCC/RSC

- 5.1.1 The responsibility for initiating all subsequent SAR action rests with the RCC and the RSC respectively. The RCC/RSC responsible for SAR action will be determined as follows:
 - 5.1.2 When the position of the aircraft needing assistance in distress is known, action will be initiated by the RCC/RSC in whose SRR the aircraft is located and this RCC/RSC will remain the responsible RCC/RSC.
 - 5.1.3 When the position of the aircraft is unknown, SAR action will be initiated by the RCC/RSC which first becomes aware that the aircraft may need assistance. The RCC/RSC initiating a SAR operation will remain in charge of the mission until the responsible RCC/RSC takes over. The responsible RCC/RSC will be either.
 - 5.1.4 The RCC/RSC in whose SRR the aircraft was operating when the last contact was made; or
 - 5.1.5 The RCC/RSC into whose SRR the aircraft was proceeding if the last contact was made on the common SRR boundary.

5.2 Transferring Overall Coordination Responsibility or responsibility for part of a SAR mission

- 5.2.1 When a transfer of responsibility for overall SAR coordination is proposed, either from the subsequent establishment of the aircraft's position or movement, or because an RCC/RSC other than the one initiating the action is more favourably placed to assume control of the mission by reason of better communications, proximity to the search area, more readily available SAR units or facilities, or any other reasons, the following procedures will be adopted;
- 5.2.2 Direct discussions or communications will be conducted between the RCC/RSC concerned, to agree on the best course of action.
- 5.2.3 If it is decided that a transfer of responsibility is appropriate for the whole mission, full details of the previous action taken will be exchanged.
- 5.2.4 The initiating RCC/RSC will retain responsibility until the accepting RCC/RSC formally advises the initiating RCC/RSC that it has assumed responsibility for overall SAR coordination.
- 5.2.5 The same procedure will be followed where the responsible RCC/RSC wishes to transfer responsibility for part of the SAR mission to the other RCC/RSC.

5.3 Entry procedures for SAR units

- 5.3.1 Each Party will recognize the established interest of the other Party whose aircraft is the subject of, or participating in a SAR mission. Either Party will be notified without delay about any SAR mission by SAR units of the other Party into its search and rescue region to render assistance.
- 5.3.2 If it becomes necessary for an RCC/RSC to deploy SAR units into the SRR of the other Party, the RCC/RSC will deploy such units for the mission without delay. Simultaneously the adjacent RCC/RSC will be advised by Situation Reports (SITREPs) in accordance with Appendix I, Volume II of International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual (IAMSAR), ICAO Doc 9731-AN/958.

- 5.3.3 The RCC/RSC at the counterpart RCC/RSC will, on receipt, send an acknowledgement to the initiating RCC/RSC and indicate the conditions, if any, under which the intended mission is to be undertaken. All practicable assistance will be rendered to enable the SAR mission to be carried out successfully.

5.4 Liaison during the SAR Mission

During the course of a SAR mission, the RCC/RSC concerned will maintain close liaison in order to ensure the smooth and successful execution of the SAR mission. The RCC/RSC responsible for overall SAR coordination will keep the other RCC/RSC informed at regular intervals of the number of SAR units involved in the mission, areas to be searched, actions taken to date, and the decision to suspend or terminate the SAR mission. This notification will take the form of situation reports (SITREPs) on a regular basis. Direct discussion between the RCC/RSC should be undertaken whenever necessary.

6. USE OF OTHER PARTY'S FACILITIES BY SAR UNITS

- 6.1 SAR units assigned by the RCC/RSC of the other Party which is responsible for overall coordination of the SAR mission will be placed under the direction of the relevant RCC/RSC for the period of their assignment, except that military aircraft or personnel will remain under the command of the military headquarters of their State. As far as direct communications are possible, the responsible RCC/RSC will send directly to the SAR unit all instructions and information relative to the operation and the mission requested. The SAR unit will report directly to the responsible RCC/RSC.
- 6.2 The RCC/RSC of the Party requesting assistance in the form of SAR units or facilities of the other Party will provide all pertinent details of the type and scope of the assistance or facilities required.
- 6.3 A SAR unit of a Party participating in a SAR operation co-ordinated by the RCC/RSC of the other Party will be authorized to call into appropriate aerodromes of this last Party. The RCC/RSC of this Party will make necessary

arrangements, including assistance with logistical support, with public services and other bodies to facilitate this call and will transmit any useful information to the unit involved.

7. SAR OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

The respective Parties of the requesting center shall assume the cost of the following services provided within its territory;

- a) Use of designated aerodromes and their equipment (if the SAR unit concerned is an aeronautical resource);
- b) Assistance services;
- c) Refuelling;
- d) Lodging, meals and transportation of deployed unit personnel

8. RECOVERY OF SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

Recovery of re-useable supplies and survival equipment will be arranged between respective RCC/RSC. When practicable, recovered items will be returned to their owners unless other arrangements for their disposal are mutually determined in specific instances.

9. AMENDMENTS

This Arrangement may be amended by mutual consent of the Parties by exchange of letters.

10. SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

Any dispute between the Parties arising out of the interpretation or implementation of this Arrangement shall be settled amicably by consultation between the Parties.

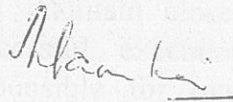
11. ENTRY INTO FORCE

This Arrangement will come into effect on signature of both Parties.

12. TERMINATION

Either party, upon giving the other Party ninety (90) days notice in writing may terminate this Arrangement at any time.

Done at New Delhi on Twenty-Second Day of December 2009 in two originals in English language.



(Shri M. Madhavan Nambiar)
Secretary
Ministry of Civil Aviation
For the Government of India



Maj. Gen. Vetsop Namgyel
Ambassador of Bhutan to India
For the Royal Government of
Bhutan