

3 GLOBAL MARITIME DISTRESS AND SAFETY SYSTEM (GMDSS)

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE GMDSS MASTER PLAN ON SHORE-BASED FACILITIES

3.1 The Sub-Committee noted document COMSAR 16/3/1 (Secretariat) and, in particular, that:

- .1 GMDSS.1/Circ.13 (GMDSS Master Plan) included information provided by several Member Governments;
- .2 the status of shore-based facilities, at the time of issuing GMDSS.1/Circ.13, was given in the annex to document COMSAR 16/3/1; and
- .3 the Secretariat would issue GMDSS.1/Circ.14 in due course.

3.2 Noting the above information, the Sub-Committee reiterated its request for Member Governments to check their national data in GMDSS.1/Circ.13 for accuracy, and provide the Secretariat with any necessary amendments, at their earliest convenience, and to respond to MSC.1/Circ.1382, containing the Questionnaire on Shore-based Facilities for the GMDSS, if they had not already done so.

Revision of MSC.1/Circ.1382

3.3 The Sub-Committee briefly considered document COMSAR 16/3/4 (IHO et al.) providing proposed draft amendments to MSC.1/Circ.1382 on the Questionnaire on Shore-based Facilities for the GMDSS, in particular concerning annex 8 on the International SafetyNET Service.

3.4 After a brief discussion, the Sub-Committee agreed to refer it to the Technical Working Group to prepare a revision of annex 8 of this circular.

CONSIDERATION OF OPERATIONAL AND TECHNICAL CO-ORDINATION PROVISIONS OF MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION (MSI) SERVICES, INCLUDING REVIEW OF THE RELATED DOCUMENTS

3.5 The Sub-Committee noted that MSC 89 had:

- .1 approved the Revised NAVTEX Manual for dissemination by means of MSC.1/Circ.1403 and decided that the amendments would come into force on 1 January 2013; and
- .2 endorsed the action taken by the Sub-Committee at its last session in authorizing the Secretariat to issue future updates of the list of NAVAREA Coordinators upon receipt of changes from either a NAVAREA Coordinator or from IHO and to issue appropriate revisions to the COMSAR circular, informing the COMSAR Sub-Committee accordingly.

3.6 The Sub-Committee further noted that the Secretariat, in consultation with IHO, had issued COMSAR.1/Circ.51/Rev.3 on the List of NAVAREA Coordinators.

Outcome of the third session of the IHO World-Wide Navigational Warnings Service Sub-Committee (WWNWS)

3.7 In considering document COMSAR 16/3/2 (IHO), the Sub-Committee noted with appreciation the matters discussed and decisions taken at the third session of the IHO WWNWS Sub-Committee (13 to 16 September 2011) held at the International Hydrographic Bureau in Monaco.

IMO NAVTEX Coordinating Panel

3.8 The Sub-Committee noted that the Chairman of the IMO NAVTEX Coordinating Panel, Cdr. Tim Sewell, had taken up a new posting and that the members of the Panel had unanimously endorsed Mr. Guy Beale as its new Chairman. The Sub-Committee congratulated Mr. Beale on his appointment and wished him good luck with this new assignment. The Sub-Committee invited the new Chairman of the IMO NAVTEX Coordinating Panel to convey to Cdr. Tim Sewell its sincere thanks and appreciation for all the work done by him as the Chairman of the Panel.

3.9 The Sub-Committee further noted with appreciation the report of the Chairman of the IMO NAVTEX Coordinating Panel (COMSAR 16/3/7) providing a summary of the current operational issues associated with the NAVTEX service worldwide, being addressed by the Panel and its actions/activities since COMSAR 15.

3.10 The Sub-Committee also noted additional information orally provided by the Chairman of the IMO NAVTEX Coordinating Panel on developments since the report had been submitted. With respect to paragraph 2.12.1.12.1 of document COMSAR 16/3/7, the Russian Federation had now completed the change of B1 Transmitter Identification Character for Arkangel'sk, and had also informed the Panel that the change for Murmansk would take place in March this year. This had allowed for the detailed plans mentioned in paragraph 2.1.1.1 for the utilization of a new station in Norway at Jeloya to be rapidly advanced, with full operation status scheduled for 1 May 2012, including the consequential changes to other stations in both NAVAREA I and the BALTIC SEA Sub-Area. To this end, the delegation of Sweden expressed their appreciation for the foreseen utilization of the new station in Norway at Jeloya, which would enable an improved coverage of the Swedish West coast.

COMSAR/Circ.36 on the broadcast of warnings for tsunamis and other natural disasters

3.11 The Sub-Committee considered document COMSAR 16/3/3 (IHO et al.) proposing that, following the revision of the WWNWS documentation, COMSAR/Circ.36 should be revoked on 1 January 2013.

3.12 After a brief discussion and noting from paragraph 1 of the circular that it was circulated pending the review of resolution A.706(17) on World-Wide Navigational Warning Service, the Sub-Committee agreed with the proposal and instructed the Secretariat to take appropriate action to revoke COMSAR/Circ.36 and invited the Committee to endorse the withdrawal of COMSAR/Circ.36 with effect from 1 January 2013.

Interconnection of NAVTEX and Inmarsat SafetyNET Receivers and their Display on Integrated Navigation Display Devices

3.13 The Sub-Committee considered document COMSAR 16/3/5 (United States) as to whether data standards should be defined which would allow Inmarsat C SafetyNET maritime safety information messages to be presented on a navigation display system display similar to NAVTEX information and whether navigation display systems should be required to portray such information, if that information would be available.

3.14 With regard to the proposed revision of performance standards, the Sub-Committee was informed by the Secretariat that there would be a need for an appropriate proposal by a Member Government to the Committee, for a new unplanned output to undertake such a revision.

3.15 After a brief discussion, the Sub-Committee decided to refer this document to the Technical Working Group for detailed consideration and advice, as appropriate.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

3.16 The Sub-Committee established the Technical Working Group under the chairmanship of Mr. Alexander Schwarz (Germany) and instructed it, taking into account decisions of, and comments and proposals made in Plenary, to:

- .1 consider document COMSAR 16/3/4 proposing draft amendments to MSC.1/Circ.1382 on the Questionnaire on Shore-based Facilities for the GMDSS and prepare a revision of annex 8 of this circular; and
- .2 consider document COMSAR 16/3/5 containing the proposal on data standards for Inmarsat C SafetyNET Maritime Safety Information messages to be presented on navigation display system displays, and advise the Sub-Committee, as appropriate,

and submit its report on Thursday, 15 March 2012.

Report of the Technical Working Group

3.17 On receipt of the report of the Technical Working Group COMSAR 16/WP.4, section 3, the Sub-Committee took action as summarized in the ensuing paragraphs.

3.18 The Sub-Committee endorsed the draft revision of annex 8 to MSC.1/Circ.1382, on the International SafetyNET Service, as set out in annex 1, invited the Committee to approve it and to instruct the Secretariat to include this revised annex in the revised draft MSC circular, as set out in document COMSAR 15/16, annex 5 (MSC 90/8, paragraph 2.3 refers).

3.19 The Sub-Committee invited IEC, assisted by IMSO and CIRM, to develop a data interface definition for an Inmarsat C SafetyNET terminal similar to the existing definition for NAVTEX, for use by manufacturers of Inmarsat C terminals and navigation display systems (e.g. INS, ECDIS) on a voluntary basis. The Committee was invited to endorse this action.

SCOPING EXERCISE TO ESTABLISH THE NEED FOR A REVIEW OF THE ELEMENTS AND PROCEDURES OF THE GMDSS

3.20 The Sub-Committee recalled that COMSAR 15 had:

- .1 authorized the establishment of a Correspondence Group on the Scoping exercise, under the coordination of the United States, to continue the work further intersessionally between COMSAR 15 and COMSAR 16 with a view to finalization at COMSAR 16; and
- .2 endorsed the holding of the seventh meeting of the Joint IMO/ITU Experts Group and instructed it, among others, to consider the issue of the Scoping exercise.

3.21 In considering the relevant outcome of the Joint IMO/ITU Experts Group (Experts Group) (COMSAR 16/4), the Sub-Committee:

- .1 noted that the meeting of the Experts Group was held at IMO Headquarters from 13 to 15 September 2011;
- .2 noted the advice prepared by the Experts Group for the Correspondence Group on the Scoping exercise in relation to:
 - .1 the draft Work Plan as given in paragraphs 33 to 46 of the above-mentioned document; and
 - .2 the issue of the process for approving additional GMDSS satellite service providers as given in paragraphs 47 to 57 of the above-mentioned document; and
 - .3 agreed with the proposal from the Experts Group to invite the Committee to bring the Work Plan to the attention of the STW Sub-Committee, in particular, to consider issues related to the Human Element for advice, as appropriate.

3.22 The Sub-Committee considered document COMSAR 16/3 (United States) containing the Report of the Correspondence Group on the Scoping exercise and decided to refer it to the Drafting Group on the Finalization of the Scoping exercise:

- .1 for finalization of the Work Plan to be presented to MSC 90 for approval, along with a proposal for a new unplanned output on the "Review and modernization of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System"; and
- .2 to prepare a draft MSC circular on Guidance to prospective GMDSS satellite service providers.

3.23 The Sub-Committee further considered document COMSAR 16/3/6 (Islamic Republic of Iran) providing information on the reception of false emergency signals in the GMDSS.

3.24 The Sub-Committee noted documents COMSAR 16/3/8 and COMSAR 16/3/9 (Australia) commenting on part of the Report of the Correspondence Group and providing:

- .1 extensive information on changes in radiocommunication and radio navigation since the formal beginning of the implementation phase of the GMDSS in 1992; and
- .2 additional inputs for the compelling need for a new agenda item on the Review and Modernization of the GMDSS, as well as some considerations for future work.

3.25 The Sub-Committee decided to refer these discussions to the Drafting Group for detailed consideration in accordance with the terms of reference set out below.

3.26 The delegation of France expressed the view that some issues reflected in resolution A.918(22), containing the IMO Standard Marine Communication Phrases, might need to be revised. In this context, the Sub-Committee agreed that a revision of this resolution should be taken up at a later stage during the review of the GMDSS, subject to approval by the Committee.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DRAFTING GROUP ON THE FINALIZATION OF THE SCOPING EXERCISE

3.27 The Sub-Committee established the Drafting Group on the Finalization of the Scoping exercise under the chairmanship of Mr. Kim Fisher (IEC) and instructed it, taking into account documents COMSAR 16/3, COMSAR 16/3/6, COMSAR 16/3/8, COMSAR 16/3/9 and COMSAR 16/4, and decisions of, and comments and proposals made in Plenary, to:

- .1 based on document COMSAR 16/3, annex 1, finalize the draft Work Plan along with a proposal for a new unplanned output on the "Review and modernization of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System" for approval by the Committee;
- .2 prepare draft Terms of Reference for the Correspondence Group on the Review of the GMDSS for the intersessional work to be done between MSC 90 and COMSAR 17, subject to approval of the Work Plan by the Committee;
- .3 based on information provided in document COMSAR 16/3, annex 2, finalize a draft MSC circular on Guidance to prospective GMDSS satellite service providers; and
- .4 advise the Technical Working Group on its view on the number of days needed for the eighth meeting of the Experts Group, provisionally scheduled to take place in the week from 8 to 12 October 2012,

and submit its report on Wednesday, 14 March 2012.

Report of the Drafting Group on the Finalization of the Scoping exercise

3.28 On receipt of the report of the Drafting Group on the Finalization of the Scoping exercise (COMSAR 16/WP.6, section 12), the Sub-Committee took action as summarized in the ensuing paragraphs.

3.29 The delegation of South Africa, supported by The Islamic Republic of Iran, raised concerns with regard to the review of the GMDSS, in particular, on the known and unknown implications in terms of affordability by developing countries and that the Sub-Committee and the Committee should take note of these concerns. In this context, the Sub-Committee noted that paragraph 3.20 of the draft Work Plan already indicated "the need to indicate the facilities required for capacity-building".

3.30 The Sub-Committee approved the report, in general, and:

- .1 endorsed the draft revised Work Plan on the "Review and modernization of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System", as set out in annex 2, and invited the Committee to approve it, along with a new unplanned output on the "Review and modernization of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System" with a target completion year of 2017 and include the proposed unplanned output in the biennial agenda of the COMSAR, NAV and STW Sub-Committees and in the provisional agenda for COMSAR 17;
- .2 approved the Terms of Reference, as set out in annex 3, for the Correspondence Group on the Review of the GMDSS, under the coordination of the United States*, for the intersessional work to be done between MSC 90 and COMSAR 17 and invited the Committee to endorse it subject to approval of the Work Plan;
- .3 endorsed the draft MSC circular on Guidance to prospective GMDSS satellite service providers, as set out in annex 4, and invited the Committee to approve it;
- .4 noted the views expressed by the delegation of the United Arab Emirates relating to the application of any new satellite service providers; and
- .5 noted the Group's advice to the Technical Working Group that a period of five working days was sufficient for the eighth meeting of the Experts Group, provisionally scheduled to be held from 8 to 12 October 2012.

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