



## **TRAINING SESSION ON THE ON SCENE COORDINATOR FUNCTION RABAT, 19-21 February 2020.**

### **I / Contexte :**

The maritime safety system was composed of ships' safety and the safety of distressed people only<sup>1</sup>, which was more confined within onboard safety issues. With technological innovations, more and more elements, including maritime search and rescue (SAR), were introduced into the maritime safety system to cope with the increasing risks at sea, due to the greater number, size and faster speed of the vessels engaged in trade thus the higher frequency and the worsening consequences of shipwrecks

No matter where an accident occurs, the rescue of persons in distress at sea will be co-ordinated by a SAR organization and assist ships in distress, not only because of international treaties such as the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) and the SAR Convention of 1979, but also due to moral obligation.

The International Maritime Organization pays particular attention to the training of personnel responsible for carrying out the maritime search and rescue mission, where a maritime accident occurs, endangering human lives.

According to the chapter 2 of the revised Annex to the SAR Convention that was adopted in May 1998 and entered into force in January 2000, Parties are required to establish rescue co-ordination centres and to operate them on a 24-hour basis with *trained staff who have a working knowledge of English*.

The revised technical Annex of the SAR Convention clarifies the responsibilities of Governments and puts greater emphasis on the regional approach and co-ordination between maritime and aeronautical SAR operations.

The international character of the rescue mission and its scope to cases of distress of aircraft at sea, gave birth to the international manual of aeronautical and maritime search and rescue.

1-. Kopacz, W. Morgas and J. Urban Ski. The Maritime Safety System, its Main Components and Elements. WMU maritime PDF database

This Manual, made up of three volumes, constitutes the tool to assist in the establishment and development of the search and rescue mission. Each volume represents the essential guide for each of the three main functions of the rescue system, namely, **mission management, coordination of the land side of operations and coordination of rescue operations at the accident site.**

Jointly published by IMO and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the three-volume IAMSAR Manual provides guidelines for a common aviation and maritime approach to organizing and providing search and rescue (SAR) services.

- **Volume I**, Organization and Management, discusses the global SAR system concept, establishment and improvement of national and regional SAR systems and co-operation with neighbouring States to provide effective and economical SAR services.
- **Volume II**, Mission Co-ordination, assists personnel who plan and co-ordinate SAR operations and exercises.
- **Volume III**, Mobile Facilities, is intended to be carried aboard rescue units, aircraft and vessels to help with performance of a search, rescue or on-scene co-ordinator function, and with aspects of SAR that pertain to their own emergencies

ATLAFCO has since 2017, included in its strategic action plan an axis entitled " **Safety and Maritime Security** " and has since, developed in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Maritime Rescue Federation (IMRF), a program aimed at strengthening African skills in maritime safety and the preservation of life at sea. The program consists of a serie of training sessions.

After having previously organized sessions on the **management functions** on the one hand, then **coordination** on the other hand, of the maritime rescue mission, ATLAFCO continues this training with a session devoted to the **coordination of on-site** operations especially the **On-Scene Coordinator (OSC)**. It constitutes an important component in the maritime rescue chain because its effectiveness depends on the efforts deployed on land.

The session aims to provide knowledge to those who may be designated to perform the duties and responsibilities of a Search and Rescue On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) for a search and rescue incident, as defined in the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual (IAMSAR), Volume III.

By doing so, the purpose of this training session is to assist States in meeting their own SAR obligations they accepted under the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979 and the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974.

## **II / Training objective:**

The objective of the course is to provide the trainees with methods and skills to act as the OSC during SAR operations conducted in close co-operation with the MRCC on the basis of:

1. Allowing participants to better understand the SAR system and its functions;
2. Providing a better rescue service based on OMI methods;
3. Understanding and applying international search and rescue techniques

The session will allow participants to understand and follow advises given by MRCC in conjunction with SAR missions properly, rendering assistance on board of any vessel or additionally requested to undertake the initial duties and responsibilities as OSC, as defined in IAMSAR, Vol. III.

### **III /: Consistency of the training session:**

In providing theoretical and practical training on the important, and potentially very difficult, OSC function in SAR operations, the training session will include the following aspects:

1. Legal basis of the SAR system;
2. Functions of the SAR system;
3. Functions of On Scene Coordinator;
4. Responsibilities of the On Scene Coordinator;
5. Choice of the the On Scene Coordinator
6. Research methods;
7. Communications;
8. Closure and end of operations;
9. Simulation exercises.

### **IV / Dates and venue of the session:**

The training session will take place in Rabat 19-21 February 2020.