

Extract from COMSAR 9/19 – Report of COMSAR 9

REVISION OF RESOLUTION A.888(21)

5.12 The Sub-Committee recalled that MSC 77:

.1 in accordance with operative paragraph 3(c) of resolution A.888(21) on Criteria for the provision of mobile-satellite communication systems in the GMDSS, had authorized the Sub-Committee to review the resolution, under its work programme item “Satellite services (Inmarsat and COSPAS-SARSAT)”, with a view to keeping it updated to secure the long-term integrity of the GMDSS; and

.2 had approved MSC/Circ.1077 on Procedure for evaluation and possible recognition of mobile-satellite systems notified for use in the GMDSS.

5.13 The Sub-Committee also recalled that COMSAR 8 had started consideration of the issue based on the document by the United States (COMSAR 8/5/1) and had invited Member States to provide their comments and proposals to COMSAR 9 for further consideration.

5.14 The Sub-Committee noted that MSC 79 had confirmed that IMSO was the appropriate organization to carry out an oversight of future providers of mobile-satellite communication system services for the GMDSS.

5.15 The delegation of Argentina reserved its position regarding any proposal to amend resolution A.888(21) by removing from Governments the responsibility for ensuring the suitability of services used in the GMDSS and placing it exclusively in the hands of private interests.

5.16 Having considered documents:

.1 COMSAR 9/5/1 (IMSO) proposing principles for reviewing resolution A.888(21);

.2 COMSAR 9/5/2 (United States) suggesting to establish a correspondence group to review resolution A.888(21) and other relevant documents; and

.3 COMSAR 9/5/3 (Denmark and Liberia) proposing that basic principles be established to reflect the policy of the Organization before a review of resolution A.888(21) is undertaken,

the Sub-Committee, after some discussion, established a correspondence group co-ordinated by IMSO* to review resolution A.888(21) with the terms of reference, as set out in annex 9.

ANNEX 9

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE CORRESPONDENCE GROUP ON REVISION OF RESOLUTION A.888(21)

1 The correspondence group should be constituted of representatives of IMO Member States, the Secretariat and organizations with an official IMO observer status.

2 The correspondence group should report to the IMO Sub-Committee on Radiocommunications and Search and Rescue at its tenth session.

3 The correspondence group should:

.1 consider the submissions by IMSO (COMSAR 9/5/1), the United States (COMSAR 9/5/2), Denmark and Liberia (COMSAR 9/5/3) and the report of the Maritime Safety Committee at its seventy-ninth session (MSC 79/23);

.2 invite participation, through their national delegations, by potential providers of mobile-satellite services for the GMDSS;

.3 review resolution A.888(21) in the light of events that have occurred since its adoption;

.4 provide a draft of the resolution suitable for approval by COMSAR 10;

.5 incorporate in the draft resolution a complete, expeditious and effective procedure for the evaluation, recognition and oversight of new satellite providers; and

.6 co-ordinate its work with IMSO.
