



International Mobile Satellite Organization

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Twentieth Session

11 – 13 December 2007

Agenda item 4

IMSO/AC/20/4.1

Origin: Director

Date: 28 November 2007

DIRECTORATE ACTIVITIES

<i>Executive Summary:</i>	this document sets out substantive Directorate activities since the last Session of the Committee
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	to note the substantive activities of the Directorate
<i>Related documents:</i>	none

At its Nineteenth Session, the Committee expressed its appreciation for the information provided in the Director's report on the activities of the Directorate, and agreed that this should be a standard agenda item but that only substantive issues should be reported in the future.

1. **Travel and Meetings**

The following travel to attend different meetings has been undertaken since the Nineteenth Session of the Committee:

1.1 **International Hydrographic Organization Commission on Promulgation of Radio Navigational Warnings**

Monaco, 10 to 14 September 2007

The Deputy Director attended the 9th meeting of the IHO Commission on Promulgation of Radio Navigational Warnings (CPRNW) at the Headquarters of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) in Monaco. The CPRNW is the operational/technical policy and management body for navigational warning services world-wide. Membership of the Commission includes all NAVAREA Co-ordinators and representatives of the

International Maritime Organization (IMO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and IMSO.

The CPRNW received reports from each NAVAREA Co-ordinator, plus status reports from IMO, WMO, IMSO and Inmarsat (on the international SafetyNET service). In addition, the Commission progressed work on:

- implementation of new NAV/MET Areas for the Arctic region;
- contingency planning to ensure continuity of MSI broadcast services in the event of a total or partial communication failure;
- the possible extension of the SafetyNET broadcast to some other waters of the globe; and
- potential use of emerging technologies for MSI delivery (including other satellite services within the context of IMO resolution A.888, use of LRIT information, and e-navigation).

IMSO agreed to convene an expert correspondence group to finalise decisions on a revised NAVAREA geographical matrix to be coded into future Inmarsat C terminals. A number of other operational and technical action items have also been directed towards IMSO for resolution before the next session and will be taken up as resources permit.

The next session of the CPRNW will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in August 2008.

The Deputy Director also met the President of the International Hydrographic Organization, Admiral Alexandros Maratos, and discussed a number of issues of mutual interest, including capacity building measures for the provision of MSI services world-wide.

1.2 Joint ICAO/IMO Working Group on Harmonization of Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (JWG-14)

La Reunion, France, 10 – 14 September 2007

The Director attended the 14th Joint ICAO/IMO Working Group (JWG-14) on Harmonization of Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue.

The Director also met with the Acting Prefect of Reunion, *Sous Préfet Didier Perocheau, Directeur de Cabinet du Préfet de la Réunion, Délégué du Gouvernement pour action de l'Etat en mer.*

JWG-14 discussed different issues related to the provision of GMDSS, as the status of the GMDSS in relation with SAR communications; future trend in SAR communications including non-GMDSS systems; and alignment of the IMO SAR Plans with the GMDSS Master Plan and the ICAO Air Navigation Plan. The JWG-14 also discussed the effects of measures to enhance maritime and aeronautical security on SAR services, and in particular, the use of the LRIT system in SAR operations.

IMSO actively participated in the deliberations of JWG-14 providing information on the different issues under its competence. Report of the JWG-14 will be considered by COMSAR-12.

1.3 **ICAO Assembly (A-36)**

Montreal, 18 to 20 September 2007

The Director attended the plenary sessions of the thirty-sixth session of the Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal (Canada) on 18 to 20 September 2007, and had the opportunity to address the opening session of the Assembly. In his statement, the Director referred to the latest amendments to the IMSO Convention and the status of the current Agreement of Cooperation between IMSO and ICAO, in particular the role of IMSO ensuring that Inmarsat takes into account the applicable ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) in line with the Public Services Agreement. Document ICAO A36-WP/265 contains the full statement of the Director.

The Director specifically drew the attention of the ICAO Assembly to the fact that the current IMSO Convention and the draft reference PSA do not address oversight of aeronautical safety services. He stated that ICAO would need to consider how oversight of new providers of mobile satellite safety communications should be carried out in order to ensure that they comply with applicable ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices and to ensure there are fair and equal expectations on each relevant provider of aeronautical safety services.

The Director met the ICAO Secretary-General Dr Taïeb Chérif, and the President of the ICAO Council, Mr Roberto Kobeh González, having the opportunity to discuss personally the above mentioned issues.

The Director also took the opportunity to meet with the Head of COSPAS-SARSAT Secretariat, Mr. Daniel Levesque, to discuss different issues of common interest, in particular in relation with the participation of COSPAS-SARSAT in the GMDSS and its long term plans.

The Director also attended different events hosted by the Minister for Transport, Infrastructures and Communities of Canada, and had contacts with Canadian officials responsible of IMSO activities.

1.4 **IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC-83)**
Copenhagen, 3 to 12 October 2007

The Director and Deputy Director attended the Eighty-Third Session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) held in Copenhagen, Denmark, from 3 to 12 October 2007.

The outcome of MSC 83 is discussed in documents AC/20/5 and AC/20/6.

1.5 **ITU World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC-07)**
Geneva, 22 October to 16 November 2007

The Director attended the ITU World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC-07) in Geneva from 23 to 27 October 2007.

The agenda of the Conference contained several issues related to the operational procedures and requirements of GMDSS and other related provisions of the Radio Regulations, and the continued transition to the GMDSS, the experience since its introduction, and the needs of all classes of ships (Agenda item 1.14); as well as consideration of the regulatory and operational provisions for Maritime Mobile Service Identities (MMSIs) for equipment other than ship borne mobile equipment (Agenda item 1.16).

WRC-07 successfully reviewed international regulations related to the maritime mobile service, bringing them in line with current maritime

communications technology, including distress and safety transmissions within the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS).

Additionally, the Conference considered under agenda item 1.4 frequency-related matters for the future development of International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT-2000) and systems beyond IMT 2000 taking into account the results of ITU-R studies. In particular the possibility of sharing the frequency ranges 3.400 – 4.200 Mhz and 4.500-4.800 Mhz (C Band) used now exclusively for down link mobile satellite transmissions that provide a wide range of services, including the GMDSS, by third generation (3G) wireless communications.

The Directorate was involved in coordinating with IMO and Inmarsat a document relating to GMDSS, and the Director participated with industry representatives during the conference.

Radio Regulations governing the use of the radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbits were revised and updated by WRC-07 to achieve the global connectivity goals of the 21st Century. A globally harmonized spectrum was identified for use by International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) which is not expected to affect the use of C Band by mobile satellite transmissions.

Outcome of the Conference is reported in ITU documents that will be made available to the Committee.

During the event, the Director met Mr. Valery Timofeev, Director of ITU Radiocommunications Bureau, and Mr. Christian Roisse, EUTELSAT IGO Executive-Secretary, having the opportunity to discuss issues of mutual interest. The Director also attended different events connected to the Conference, and had contacts with government delegates and industry representatives.

1.6 **United Nations**

In response to a request from the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs of the United Nations, the Director submitted for the ninth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea: "Maritime security and safety", for inclusion in its report, information on the activities of IMSO in the fields of maritime security and

safety and information on matters which may require further action and any suggested recommendations with an emphasis on areas where coordination and cooperation at intergovernmental and inter-agency levels could be enhanced.

Copies of the submission will be made available to the Committee.

1.7 **Other meetings**

In addition, the Director and/or Deputy Director have attended the following IMO meetings in London:

- MSC WG on LRIT 9-13 July
- IMO MEPC 9-13 July
- 23-27 July NAV 53
- 19 – 28 November IMO Assembly

The Director also participated as visiting professor in the Master in Maritime Law and Business Programme (Polytechnic University of Catalonia, Spain) at the expense of the University.

2. **Website and Information on IMSO**

At its Nineteenth Session, the Committee noted a presentation on the architecture of the IMSO website. The new website should be available imminently and, although incomplete, will continue to be enhanced on a regular basis.
