

## **UNITED NATIONS - INDIA WORKSHOP ON SATELLITE AIDED SEARCH AND RESCUE (SASAR)**

### **1. ACTION REQUIRED**

The Joint Committee is invited to:

- a) note the detailed Report of the workshop provided as a separate document; and
- b) consider and decide as appropriate on any action to take in regards the recommendations of the workshop specific to Cospas-Sarsat.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

A regional workshop, jointly hosted by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), was held at Bangalore, India from 18 to 22 March 2002. The prime objective of the workshop was to promote awareness of the international Cospas-Sarsat Search & Rescue system, and to establish a formal interface with user countries in the Indian Mission Control Centre (INMCC) Service area, for better understanding and coordination of the programme activities and operations. Representatives from 15 countries including speakers and sponsors attended the workshop.

The workshop program included presentations on various components of the Cospas-Sarsat system, and focused on providing an understanding of the Cospas-Sarsat distress alerts (data formats and distribution procedures). A live activation of a 406 MHz beacon was undertaken and the dot plot and distress alert messages generated were presented in real time.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKSHOP**

The recommendations of the workshop of relevance to the Cospas-Sarsat were:

1. The workshop recommended that Cospas-Sarsat should continue their efforts towards developing low cost 406 MHz beacons.
2. An urgent need was felt to develop International beacon registration database for smooth operations of the Cospas-Sarsat system.
3. An awareness and promotional programme should be continued to allow more users worldwide to benefit from the Cospas-Sarsat system, and to encourage countries to participate in this humanitarian programme. It is recommended that Cospas-Sarsat in association with the participants may workout a comprehensive plan to host such workshop in different parts of the world.

4. Following potential areas identified during the workshop may be considered for hosting future workshops by exploring possibilities for funding through UNOOSA and other organisations:
  - i. Central America and Caribbean
  - ii. Middle East
  - iii. South East Asia
  - iv. Southern Africa
  - v. South West Pacific