

ARTICLE 3:
GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE SYSTEM

3.1 The System comprises:

- (a) a Space Segment made up, under normal operating conditions, of at least four compatible satellite assemblies each comprising three basic units:
 - (i) a platform moving in low earth polar orbit as a mounting for the other units,
 - (ii) a receiver-processor and memory unit designed to receive, process and store signals received on 406 MHz for retransmission, and
 - (iii) a repeater unit relaying radiobeacon signals on 121.5 MHz;
- (b) a Ground Segment comprising:
 - (i) Local User Terminals established by the Parties and other States to receive signals relayed by the satellites and process them to determine radiobeacon location, and
 - (ii) Mission Control Centres established by the Parties and other States to accept the output from the Local User Terminals and convey distress alert and location data to appropriate authorities;
- (c) radiobeacons, which are designed to be activated in a distress and to transmit a radio signal on frequencies of 406 MHz and/or 121.5 MHz, the characteristics of which comply with appropriate provisions of the International Telecommunication Union and COSPAS-SARSAT specifications.

3.2 The COSPAS-SARSAT Space Segment configuration may be enhanced in accordance with decisions of the Council established pursuant to Articles 7 and 8.

ARTICLE 4:
COOPERATING AGENCIES

- 4.1 Each Party shall designate a Cooperating Agency which shall be responsible for the implementation of the Programme.**
- 4.2 Each Party shall inform the other Parties of its designated Cooperating Agency and of any subsequent changes.**