

## ARTICLE 1: DEFINITIONS

- 'Party' means a State for which this Agreement has entered into force;
- 'Programme' means those activities carried out by the Parties to provide, operate and coordinate the COSPAS-SARSAT System, in accordance with this Agreement;
- 'Cooperating Agency' means an organization designated by a Party for the purpose of implementing the Programme;
- 'System' means the COSPAS-SARSAT System comprising a Space Segment, a Ground Segment and Radiobeacons, all as described in Article 3;
- 'Ground Segment Provider' means any State which establishes and operates Ground Segment equipment under the terms of Article 11.2;
- 'User State' means any State that avails itself of the System under the terms of Article 12.2 and Article 12.3.

## ARTICLE 2: PURPOSE OF THE AGREEMENT

In fostering international cooperation for search and rescue, the purpose of this Agreement is to:

- (a) assure the long term operation of the System;
- (b) provide distress alert and location data from the System to the international community in support of search and rescue operations on a non-discriminatory basis;
- (c) support, by providing these distress alert and location data, the objectives of the International Maritime Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization, concerning search and rescue; and
- (d) define the means by which the Parties shall coordinate the management of the System and cooperate with other national authorities and relevant international organizations in the operation and coordination of the System.