



## 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of INSARAG

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The International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) was **established in 1991** to facilitate coordination between the international USAR teams who make themselves available for deployment to countries experiencing devastating events of structural collapse due primarily to earthquakes. Ever since, INSARAG has never stood still but **constantly adapted** its globally recognized and accepted quality standards and methodology to save more lives.

INSARAG has become a model of globally accepted **quality standards** that over 100 countries and organisations are now part of, and over 53 international teams having successfully achieved the globally recognised United Nations INSARAG External Classification (IEC) status. The successfully pursued and vigorously implemented UN GA Resolution 57/150 on "*Strengthening the Effectiveness and Coordination of International USAR Assistance*" (2002) has underpinned much of the progress achieved by the group over the last three decades in the areas of Preparedness for Effective Response.

In 2020, INSARAG is celebrating **30 years of success** and continues to evolve and stay relevant to the changing needs of humanitarian preparedness and response.

## From Hyogo to Abu Dhabi to Warsaw

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The INSARAG Steering Group has agreed to gather every five years to discuss the interoperability of the global network and its way ahead. With the first global meeting in Japan (2010) with the Hyogo Declaration, and following that the second global meeting in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with the Abu Dhabi Declaration (2015), substantial progress in **quality assurance and effective coordination** of national and international USAR preparedness and response has been made.

In 2020, **Poland** will host the 3<sup>rd</sup> INSARAG Global Meeting and open its doors for a one-week event where the global network of policy and technical experts will discuss and deliberate on new ways of delivering value added life-saving assistance aiming to be **fit for the future**. The event provides the opportunity to USAR teams from all over the world to share their expertise and learn from best practices across the regions and to promote a **global** approach. An updated version of the INSARAG **Guidelines version 2020** will be released during the event capturing essential lessons learned.

## Collectively Achievable Meeting Goals

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The environment in which USAR Teams operate has constantly and considerably changed. The **flexible and adaptable** approach adopted by INSARAG has proven to be a successful solution. With the enhancement of its common standards and methodologies and **capacity building** initiatives the system has managed to remain a model for the humanitarian community.

The INSARAG community will come together and engage to ensure continued relevance of the INSARAG model and define **clear objectives** of the community for 2020-2025 to guarantee success. This clear future direction will be captured in a "**INSARAG WARSAW DECLARATION**" and translated into an "**INSARAG STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2025**" for regions to take guidance for the next steps until the next global meeting in 2025.

The proposed theme for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Meeting is "**PREPARE AND PARTNER FOR EFFECTIVE RESPONSE**".

## Staying Relevant 30 Years' On

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Following global consultations in 2018, the network has welcomed the following **three STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES for 2020-25**, which will each be led by one per region, and take the lead in discussions in 2019.

- 1) REINFORCING QUALITY STANDARDS:** The focus of the upcoming efforts to improve the system should be on a global quality assistance at all levels of response (local, national, and international-as necessary). There is continuous need for capacities of a quality that can make a difference in the initial lifesaving response phase. **(Lead: Americas)**
- 2) ADVANCING FLEXIBLE ASSISTANCE:** INSARAG has proved to be creative, thinking beyond the direct rescue to the wider needs of the community. The example of Sint Maarten (Hurricanes in



2017) has shown that by expanding its role to more flexible responses (e.g. floods, tsunamis) INSARAG can stay a replicable example to the wider humanitarian community. **(Lead: AEME)**

- 3) ENHANCING PREPAREDNESS AND BOLSTERING PARTNERSHIPS:** Disaster Response Capacity Strengthening **at all levels** is a fundamental framework to be adopted to assure effectiveness in saving lives during sudden onset disasters. A prepared community will translate to more lives saved in disasters. **(Lead: AP)**

Working with relevant partners and giving them ownership can improve overall preparedness and coordination in the regions, bring mutual benefit and generate useful feedback on the INSARAG framework. A shared understanding of partnerships at various levels and agencies and networks, to harness collective synergies. A common strategy can be developed on how to engage actively with the humanitarian community, leveraging on **OCHA's Leading Edge Programme (LEP)-Humanitarian Networks and Partnership Week (HNPW)** initiative.

### Framework of the 3<sup>rd</sup> INSARAG Global Meeting

Following **initial consultations in 2018** (Team Leaders Meeting and Regional Meetings), and a first successful **Recce Mission** to Warsaw from 14-16 January 2019, the following summary points were compiled:

- 1) The 3<sup>rd</sup> INSARAG Global Meeting will take place in Warsaw, Poland, **from 4 to 9 October 2020**. Technical and policy decision makers will come together in back to back events. The structure of the meetings looks as follows:
  - a. 4-5 Oct: Working Group Meetings (2 days) – The Main School of Fire Service
  - b. 6-7 Oct: Team Leaders Meeting (1.5 days) – IGM Venue
  - c. 7-8 Oct: Regional Meetings (1.5 days) – IGM Venue
  - d. 9 Oct: Global Meeting (1 day) – IGM Venue
- 2) The **Chief Commandant** of the State Fire Service of Poland has ensured the INSARAG Network of his highest commitment to INSARAG and has established a strong organizing team.
- 3) All **regions** will be invited to support the IGM with an organizing committee member. As mentioned above, each region will also be responsible **to lead consultations** and for progress on one of the three strategic objectives.
- 4) In 2019, discussions will be led to **collect feedback** on the established theme and directions and taking into account INSARAG's quality assurance model, INSARAG's Governance system and any other areas that will propel INSARAG.
- 5) **Next steps – Endorse the IGM 2020 Concept in the ISG 2019** and follow up with global discussions, supported by the regional chairs, at the INSARAG events in 2019.