

*A message from
Ambassador Manuel Bessler
INSARAG Chairman*



The 2017 INSARAG Steering Group meeting befittingly took part of the Humanitarian Networks and Partnership Week (HNPW) in Geneva on the 9th of February 2017. The week saw around 1,300 participants with representatives from Member States, UN agencies, NGOs, the private sector, regional organizations and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The HNPW provided a wide range of humanitarian stakeholders with a unique platform to discuss common challenges and best practice. The Leading Edge Programme (LEP) was further lounged to strengthen the interoperability of humanitarian networks throughout the year. Please find more information on www.hnpw.org.

The INSARAG Steering Group meeting provided the INSARAG network with an engaging space to discuss following topics: the new INSARAG strategy, the new IER Ownership model, the UC concept, KoBo in the field, the Beyond the Rubble project, the National Accreditation process and the International Light Teams concept. The Steering Group successfully agreed on all seven points. I would like to thank the Steering Group, and all involved, for the thorough elaboration of these seven topics and the resolute decision making.

As we move forward in 2017 we continue our work on making disaster response as local as possible, as global as necessary, working in line with the INSARAG strategy 2017/20. We look forward to upcoming regional exercises in Cuba and Malaysia, allowing us to strengthen both local and international capacities, continuing our close collaboration within the humanitarian network. Our goal must be to ensure INSARAGs quality by respecting our minimal standards.

To make INSARAG fit for the future we will continue to discuss challenges faced by the network openly, in various Regional, Team Leaders' and Working Groups' meetings throughout the year.

It is a fact that disaster response is more effective when coordinated, this is why I would like to thank our Regional Chairs and INSARAG members who come together in solidarity, making USAR efforts live up to international standards.