

## 1. Background

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Since its establishment, the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) urges all states that have the capacity to provide international search and rescue assistance to take necessary measures to ensure that international urban search and rescue (USAR) teams under their responsibility are deployed and operate in accordance with internationally developed standards as specified in the INSARAG Guidelines. The primary work of USAR teams is represented by their deployment to countries experiencing devastating events of structural collapse due primarily to earthquakes with the aim to minimise suffering and save more lives. Recent fast changing humanitarian landscape and the need of optimization of assistance and response led to the introduction of a new concept: “Beyond the Rubble”. The “Beyond the Rubble” Concept, was launched by D-A-CH (Germany-Austria-Switzerland) and intends to broaden the types of response and think beyond the direct rescue according to the wider needs of the community. This approach allows states experiencing natural disasters to receive consistent and coherent support to the victims, by using the existing capabilities and capacities of USAR teams.

## 2. “Beyond Operations in Collapsed Structures Dual-use Concept – Can INSARAG teams do more than USAR?” at the Humanitarian Network Partnerships Week (HNPW)

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The INSARAG USAR teams’ response starts immediately after the occurrence of a large-scale structural collapse disaster upon the government’s request. They are often the first on site to support the local authorities to overcome the disastrous consequences, but a disaster implies many more assistance activities than USAR. There are further support activities needed for the victims going from relief, early recovery up to the phase of reconstruction and finally to the prevention and preparedness support, which are the core of “Beyond Operations in Collapsed Structures Dual-use Concept”. Therefore, in meeting the unmet needs on site by in distinct roles of USAR in logistics support; management, coordination and communication support; assessment; technical support; and health and medical support, this concept aims to achieve cost effectiveness and facilitation incoming humanitarian actors.

The optimal utilisation of the existing capabilities of USAR teams in accordance with the INSARAG guidelines can be seen to be effective in the recent earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia where the French team deployed 40 members to provide drinking water to the affected population. However, the “Beyond Operations in Collapsed Structures Dual-Use” actions have access to limited resources and skills to take up the diverse function in a disaster-prone area. Furthermore, the perception of INSARAG’s intentions to diversify its role can have several implications for other humanitarian actions. Similarly, the additional allocation of resources and chances of creating duplications in the humanitarian global response are key challenges faced by this “Dual-use” concept.

## 3. INSARAG “Operations in Collapsed Structures Dual-use” session- Outcome, Format and Programme

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The HNPW, jointly organised by OCHA and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation will take place from 4-8 February 2019. The event provides a unique forum for humanitarian partnership networks to meet and address key humanitarian issues and is organised in the International Conference Centre of Geneva (CICG).

During the HNPW, Mr. Jesper Lund will moderate the session on “Beyond Operations in Collapsed Structures Dual-use – Can INSARAG teams do more than USAR?”, which will take place on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> of February from 15:00 - 15:30 hours in room 2 at the CICG. The event will provide a panel discussion with selected INSARAG member states on their involvement in flexible responses beyond the direct rescue.

The session will provide brief insights of the selected member states in the panel discussion on the potential fields of engagement of the USAR teams and will analyse its feasibility and limitations. The criteria required for the teams to extend their stay in the affected country to meet the needs outside of search and rescue, and the need to set boundaries to the “dual- use” concept to avoid duplications with other humanitarian actors will be further discussed. The recommendations, feedback and ideas on smooth transition from the ‘rescue’ to ‘relief’ phase during the emergency response will be explored in this session.