



1. Background

Since its establishment the International Search and Rescue Advisory group (INSARAG) has been bolstering partnerships with various organisations to explore collaboration and mutual support in fulfilling the unmet emergency and response needs of disaster affected and prone countries. INSARAG aims to mobilize and galvanize efforts of different international organization as partners in building mutually beneficial support, cooperation and information exchange with the objective to save lives and reduce the suffering of those affected by natural disasters. INSARAG collaboratively works with International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the EU Module Exercise, International Civil Defence Organisation and World Health Organisation over the years for emergency response and preparedness in all respective regions. These partnerships have refined USAR team's ability to respond with specialised and experienced professionals engaged in various aspects of the disaster preparedness and response.

2. Partnerships at the Humanitarian Network and Partnerships (HNPW)

This year, INSARAG will build up new partnerships with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the International Police Organisation (INTERPOL) and the Organization of American Firefighters (OAF) to mutually work towards broadening the target objective of both organisations, complimenting each other with the exchange of information and guidelines, finding a common ground in the disaster preparedness and response and hosting collective activities and exercises.

INSARAG and UNESCO:

INSARAG aims to raise the visibility of unmet needs in disaster prone areas together with UNESCO focusing on preparedness and response to the cultural heritage sites affected by disaster. This strategic partnership will entail mutual training opportunities, information sharing, and development of technical guidance note for Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) on response protocols and sharing of guidelines on USAR protected sites.

INSARAG and INTERPOL:

Bolstering partnership between INSARAG and INTERPOL aims to develop a synergy between the Disaster Victim Identification methodology and USAR procedures for collectively building on a Search Strategy. The exchange of information between both parties will facilitate effective emergency response and will ensure access to the tools and services necessary to do their jobs exclusively and provide targeted training, expert investigative support, relevant data, secure communication channels and the respective exchange of the effective points of each party's guidelines.

INSARAG and OAF:

The collaboration between INSARAG and OAF is based on work at national and local levels in the Americas region in accordance with the INSARAG guidelines and methodology. This partnership will seek to support the adoption of National Accreditation Processes and the development of the standardized USAR training systems as well as the housing and co-organising of INSARAG activities. The OAF seeks to engage in the American region with effective promotion of the INSARAG globally accepted quality standards of OAF.

INSARAG Steering Group Meeting 2019

Concept Paper for Session on “**Strengthening Partnerships**”

7th February 2019 from 11:00 – 11:45 Geneva (Switzerland)



3. INSARAG “Strengthening Partnerships Session” – Outcome, Format and Programme

The Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week (HNPW), jointly organised by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (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. The HNPW is organised in the International Conference Center of Geneva, in Rue de Varembe 17, Geneva (Switzerland).

During the HNPW the INSARAG Secretariat will host the session on “Strengthening Partnerships” on 7 of February 2019 from 11:00-11:45 hours in room 2 at the CIGC. The event will provide opportunity for panel discussion with our new partners – UNESCO, INTERPOL and OAF.

This session will be moderated by the Secretary of INSARAG, Mr. Jesper Holmer Lund. The new partners will represent their respective organisation as panellists and will brief on key functions and common grounds of collaboration with INSARAG. The panel discussion aims to provide familiarity with the work and expertise of the different partner organisations; discuss the potential areas of partnership; and explore the synergy between respective guidelines of INSARAG and its partners to establish a joint global standard for response. Senior dignitaries, representative of UN Permanent Missions, INSARAG Policy and Operational Focal Points, partners, USAR team members and broader audience interested at INSARAG’s work, have been cordially invited for this session.

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