



**INSARAG Hyogo Declaration from the First Global Meeting of the
International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG),
Kobe, Japan 14 -16 Sept 2010**

“Recognition and Strengthening of International Urban Search and Rescue Operational Standards”

The INSARAG, at the occasion of the Global Meeting held in Kobe, Japan with 188 participants from 70 countries and 7 organisations

Expressing its reaffirmed commitment to UN General Assembly Resolution 57/150 of 16 December 2002 on ‘Strengthening the Effectiveness and Coordination of International Urban Search and Rescue Assistance’ as the guiding document for international urban search and rescue assistance together with commitment to the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters as the main international policy guidance for risk reduction, including preparedness activities in this field

Noting with appreciation the support expressed in the numerous resolutions for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in its capacity as the INSARAG Secretariat, by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the UN General Assembly in their endorsement of, and encouragement to, INSARAG and its activities

Taking this opportunity to express its solidarity with the people of Hyogo Prefecture who are commemorating the 15th Anniversary of the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake of 1995

Expressing its appreciation to the Government of Japan for hosting this first ever INSARAG Global Meeting in Kobe in 2010 and to the Government of Switzerland for the valuable support provided, therefore, the Member States present hereby resolve the following:

1. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the continuing progress made by INSARAG in the past two decades in creating a well established, professional Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) network that works to ensure rapid response and coordination to sudden onset disasters i.e. earthquakes, in support of the affected *population and governments,*
2. *Recognizes* the increasing and expanded role played by international urban search and rescue teams in the response to major earthquakes, as demonstrated recently in Haiti (2010), not only focused on search and rescue, but also on a more comprehensive level of humanitarian assistance *towards recovery, and emphasises* the continued determination of INSARAG to *maintain* working towards improving the professionalism and capacity of international urban search and rescue teams to respond to earthquakes and collapsed structure emergencies, and also through the strengthening of national capacities in order to deal with such emergencies utilising their own resources,
3. *Accordingly expresses its appreciation and support* for the establishment of independently verifiable, operational standards for international urban search and rescue teams through the INSARAG External Classification (IEC) process, and urges and encourages all Member States with urban search and rescue teams to

be deployed internationally to ensure their teams take into account the IEC process,

4. *Reaffirms its full support for* disaster-affected countries in executing their primary role to initiate, coordinate and organise the international humanitarian assistance on their territories,
5. *Therefore urges and highly recommends* that building national, local and community capacity is critical for effective response to earthquakes, collapsed structure *and other related* emergencies in a rapidly urbanizing world, and welcomes the work undertaken by the INSARAG network to develop recommendations for operational and organisational guidelines for capacity building of national USAR teams, and encourage Member States to support such efforts,
6. *Also concerned that* an additional burden may be placed on the resources of affected countries by those international urban search and rescue teams which are inadequately *prepared*, trained and equipped. Therefore encourages, all countries to enhance and promote capacity building at national level and invites countries affected by disasters to consider the specific assistance of INSARAG IEC teams to respond *by offering* priority access to such teams that will make a genuine *and meaningful* difference in the life-saving search and rescue phase of an earthquake or other disasters involving collapsed structures,
7. *Calls upon* all urban search and rescue teams responding internationally to earthquakes to follow the field coordination procedures of OCHA, especially those laid down in the INSARAG Guidelines and Methodology and coordinate their work with the directions of the Reception and Departure Centre (RDC) and the On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC) established in the disaster area by United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) Teams,
8. *Expresses* the determination of all members of INSARAG to strengthen collaboration with OCHA, International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and all other international and regional entities involved in preparedness and response, through the facilitation of the INSARAG Secretariat to greatly improve the preparedness for, and response to, earthquakes and other disasters with collapsed structures and to build up capacities consistent with the international humanitarian architecture,
9. *Expresses the commitment to* renew its efforts to strengthen and consolidate further cooperation between the three Regional Groups of INSARAG (Americas; Asia-Pacific as well as Africa, Europe and Middle East), especially in the areas of *preparedness*, capacity building, operations and training as well as cooperation amongst Member States within each region - *in coordination with other* relevant regional organisations,
10. *Calls upon* the Member States of the United Nations to continue fully supporting implementation of the provisions of UN General Assembly Resolution 57/150 of 16 Dec 2002 on '*Strengthening the Effectiveness and Coordination of International Urban Search and Rescue assistance*' and to continue to support the activities of INSARAG, and
11. *In conclusion, expresses* its satisfaction with the outcome of the First *INSARAG* Global Meeting and affirms its intent to hold the next INSARAG Global Meeting - in 2015.