

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR  
(UNDRO)**

**INAUGURAL MEETING**

**OF THE**

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE  
(INSARAC)**

*convened by UNDRO and hosted by the  
German Government*

*11 - 13 December 1991, Beuggen, Germany*

**DOCUMENTATION**



**UNITED NATIONS**

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
(INSARAC)**

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

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*ANNOTATED AGENDA AND WORK PROGRAMME*

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*WORKING PAPER ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ON-SITE OPERATIONS CO-  
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*WORKING PAPER ON WORKING PROCEDURES OF SEARCH AND RESCUE  
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*WORKING PAPER ON QUALITY CONTROL OF TEAMS TO BE INCLUDED IN  
THE UNDRO DIRECTORY OF INTERNATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAMS*

*PROVISIONAL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS*

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (INSARAC)

## INAUGURAL MEETING

11 - 13 December 1991, Beuggen, Germany

## PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening Statements (Host Government and UNDRO)
  2. Adoption of the agenda
  3. Statements by participants
  4. Presentation on the Mandate and Structure of INSARAC  
Plenary discussion
  5. Election of Chairman for the First Work Cycle of INSARAC
  6. Establishment of Working Groups
  7. Meeting of Working Groups
  8. Presentation of conclusions and recommendations of Working Groups
  9. Adoption of recommendations of Working Groups
  10. Date of next meeting
  11. Any other business
- Closure of meeting

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (INSARAC)

## INAUGURAL MEETING

11 - 13 December 1991, Beuggen, Germany

### ANNOTATED AGENDA AND PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

#### I. General

The meeting will be based on the conclusions and recommendations of the International Search and Rescue Workshop 1991, which took place in Wattener Lizum, Austria, between 8 and 12 April, 1991. The meeting will be divided in two parts, namely:

- A. Establishment of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Committee;
- B. The first meeting of the Committee.

Part A, which will end with the election of a chairman for the first work-cycle of INSARAC (agenda item 5), will be co-chaired by representatives of the host country and UNDRO.

Part B, (agenda items 6 and onwards) will be chaired by the elected chairman of INSARAC.

#### II. Provisional Time-table

##### Wednesday, 11 December

09.30 - 10.30	Agenda Items 1 to 3
11.00 - 12.30	Agenda Items 4 and 5
14.00 - 18.00	Agenda Items 6 and 7
19.00	Reception of the Government of Germany

##### Thursday, 12 December

09.00 - 16.00	Agenda Item 7 (contd.)
16.00 - 18.00	Agenda Item 8

##### Friday, 13 December

09.00 - 12.00	Agenda Items 8 (contd.) and 9
12.00 - 12.30	Agenda Items 10 and 11

For the information of participants, if no other information is given by the secretariat of the meeting, meals at Schloss Beuggen are being served as follows:

Breakfast:	08.00 - 09.00
Lunch:	12.30 - 13.30
Dinner:	18.30 - 19.30

### **III. Background Documents**

The following background documents are being circulated in advance:

- Provisional Agenda
- Annotated Agenda and Provisional Time-table
- Final Report on the International Search and Rescue Workshop 1991
- Implementation of the On-site Operations Co-Ordination Centre (prepared by the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, OFDA)
- INSARAC, mandate and structure (prepared the Swedish National Rescue Services Board)
- Working Procedures of Search and Rescue Teams (prepared by Germany)
- Quality control of teams to be included in the UNDRO Directory of International Search and Rescue Teams (prepared by UNDRO)

### **IV. Agenda Items 1 to 3**

The meeting will be opened by welcoming statements by representatives of the host Government and the Director of UNDRO, Mr. F. Mayrhofer-Grunbuhel.

The meeting will proceed to the adoption of the agenda and thereafter, delegates who wish to make general statements linked to any of the subjects that will be discussed during the meeting will be given the floor.

Delegates are reminded that in view of the time available for the meeting, such statements should be kept brief.

### **V. Agenda Items 4 to 5**

A detailed proposal on the mandate and structure of the INSARAC, based on protocol no.4 of the International Search and Rescue Workshop 1991, will be presented by a representative of the Swedish National Rescue Services Board.

The presentation of the INSARAC paper will be followed by a plenary discussion on the mandate and structure of the INSARAC.

The meeting will then proceed to the election of a chairman for the first work-cycle of the INSARAC. Based on the plenary discussion, other membership of the INSARAC as well as its final mandate and structure will be discussed in working group no.1, under agenda item 7, "INSARAC, Membership and Work Programme", the results of which are to be presented in the plenary session starting on Thursday afternoon..

The continuation of the meeting will be presided over by the elected chairman for the first work-cycle of the INSARAC.

## **VI. Agenda Items 6 to 9**

The International Search and Rescue Workshop 1991 decided, in anticipation of the establishment of the INSARAC, to form three working groups on:

1. Working procedures of SAR teams and international information co-ordination;
2. Consolidation of the responsibilities of affected and assisting countries;
3. Development of model procedures and guidelines for the On-site Operations Co-Ordination Centre.

At the same time, a total of eight priority areas were identified in protocol no.4 at the Workshop (Annex 4 to the Workshop Report) to be included in the work programme of the INSARAC.

To allow more detailed discussions on the results produced so far in the three working groups formed by the Workshop, as well as to prepare a final proposal for the mandate, structure and membership of the first INSARAC and its programme of work, working groups will be formed, as found appropriate by the delegates, for the purpose of this meeting:

It is proposed, that in consideration of the action taken in Wattener Lizum, working groups should be formed as follows:

1. INSARAC, membership and work programme;
2. Consolidation of the responsibilities of affected and assisting countries;
3. Development of model procedures and guidelines for the On-site Operations Co-ordination Centre;
4. Working procedures for search and rescue teams, including quality criteria for teams to be entered in the UNDRO Directory of International Search and Rescue Teams.

The working groups are expected to start presenting their conclusions and recommendations for adoption by the plenary as appropriate on Thursday afternoon.

## **VII. Agenda Items 10 and 11**

These agenda items are self-explanatory and need no further clarification.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (INSARAC)

## WORKING PAPER

### MANDATE

prepared by

Swedish National Rescue Services Board

1. To develop effective international relationships aimed at saving lives and rendering humanitarian services following disasters.
2. To make emergency preparedness and response more effective and thereby to save more lives, reduce suffering and minimize consequences for the environment.
3. To improve efficiency in co-operation among international search and rescue (SAR) teams working at the site of a disaster.
4. To promote activities to improve search and rescue preparedness in disaster-prone countries giving priority to developing countries.
5. To develop internationally-accepted procedures and systems for sustained co-operation between national SAR teams operating on the international scene.
6. To provide guidance and technical support within the framework of UNDRO in the field of operational co-ordination.
7. To consider the development of SAR procedures made in other international fora and to strengthen the co-operation on SAR-related matters among interested organizations.

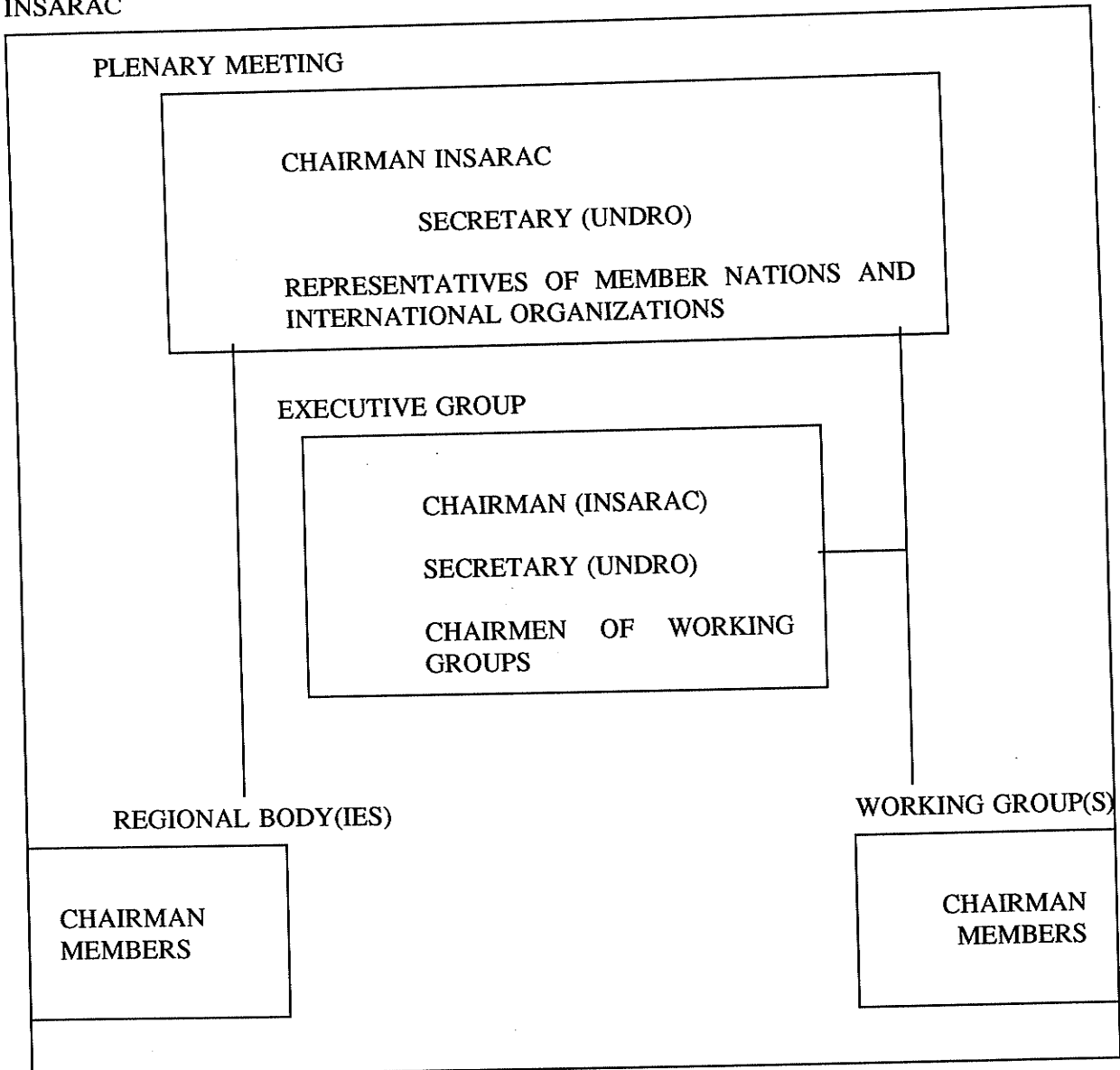
### STRUCTURE

1. The Committee shall consist of representatives of countries able and willing to perform SAR operations in other countries and of representatives of countries likely to receive such assistance.
2. Membership of the Committee shall be open to all countries with proper SAR experience either as an assisting country or as an affected country.
3. The Committee should invite international organizations - with proper experience in emergency response - to participate as observers.
4. Countries and organizations should be prepared to participate without any cost to the Committee or to UNDRO.

5. The Committee shall establish Working Groups, as it finds appropriate, in order to achieve measurable outputs in areas chosen by the Committee.
6. The Chairman of the Committee, together with the Secretary and the Chairmen of the Working Groups, should form an executive group in order to co-ordinate the work of the working groups between the plenary meetings of the Committee.
7. UNDRO should act as Secretary of the Committee, subject to the provision of funds for the establishment of an Operation Co-ordination Systems desk.
8. The structure of the Committee can be illustrated as shown overleaf:



## INSARAC



## Comments:

It is important to underline that membership in the INSARAC is offered to countries rather than to organizations or persons interested in SAR.

If the substantive work is done in the Working Groups and in the Regional Bodies, and if an Executive Group is organized, there will be no problem with an open-ended Committee. It will not be necessary to exclude any nation interested in membership. The Working Groups will be formed according to the needs of each topic. All members will not be represented in every group; therefore, the Groups will be of an effective size. The Executive Group will be of a moderate size, since the Committee can choose to organize a suitable number of Working Groups.

To ensure the participation of developing countries, the question of how to finance their co-operation must be considered. They might otherwise not have the resources to take part in all meetings or in the Working Groups.

### WORKING GROUPS

1. Participation in the Working Groups should not be limited.
2. The chairmen will get their tasks from the Committee
3. The Groups shall consider the priority areas specified in the Mandate.
4. The Working Groups will meet during the plenary sessions of the Committee and at other times as deemed necessary.
5. The Working Groups will submit reports on their work, together with recommendations and conclusions to the Executive Group.
6. A Working Group can also form a body for regional co-operation.

#### Comments:

In the International SAR Workshop, held at Wattener Lizum, in April 1991, the participants agreed on eight different areas where the Committee should work to achieve measured output. (Final Report, page 31, Protocol IV, Recommendations:

- (a) Method of determining SAR-capability of UNDRO-registered teams
- (b) Establishing on-site working procedures of SAR member teams
- (c) Exchanging international operational information, improving collective effectiveness through better co-ordination and co-operation
- (d) Establishing a forum for discussion of SAR medical issues
- (e) Consolidating assisting and affected countries' responsibilities
- (f) Developing model procedures and guidelines for the On-site Operations Co-ordination Centre
- (g) Establishing a forum for discussion of SAR logistics issues
- (h) Establishing co-ordinated communication procedures

Those areas are still very relevant but it should not restrict the Committee from mentioning other areas.

### BODIES FOR REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

1. Bodies for Regional Co-operation can be formed by the Committee or by countries in a specific area on their own initiative. The main intention with a regional body is to assist in promoting regional co-operation primarily concerning operational response to sudden disasters in the region.
2. The Regional Bodies will meet as they deem necessary.
3. The Regional Bodies should report to the INSARAC.

### FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS AND THEIR LOCATION

1. Meetings of the Committee will take place at regular intervals, at least every second year, preferably the year between the meetings of Officials in charge of National Emergency Relief Services (NERS). They may take place more frequently if considered appropriate by the Committee or the Executive Group.
2. The locations for the meetings should rotate among the participating countries.
3. The Executive Group shall fix the location and date for each meeting.

### RULES OF PROCEDURE

1. The Committee shall adhere to the principle of consensus between the countries that are members of the Committee.
2. The representatives of member countries shall elect the Chairman of the meeting.
3. The Executive Group shall prepare an agenda for every meeting of the Committee and circulate it before the meeting.
4. Recommendations and proposals made by the Committee shall be presented to UNDRO and NERS. UNDRO should be responsible for their distribution to INSARAC members and to other interested parties.

# **INTERNATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (INSARAC)**

## **WORKING PAPER**

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ON-SITE OPERATIONS CO-ORDINATION CENTRE**

prepared by

Office of United States Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)

#### **BACKGROUND**

The On-Site Operations Co-ordination Centre (OSOCC) concept reviewed and accepted at the Search and Rescue Workshop at Wattener Lizum in April 1991, left numerous unanswered questions about how to successfully implement the concept. Successful implementation of this proposal will involve several steps to fully develop the concept, address all concerns, properly review materials as they are developed, and test the system.

#### **OSOCC SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT**

The first step in developing the OSOCC concept is to identify the functional tasks of the OSOCC. From this task listing, position descriptions and checklists would be written for positions within the OSOCC. Basic qualifications for the positions should also be identified to ensure some level of competency in the OSOCC staff. As part of an OSOCC checklist, a list of potential supplies and equipment should be developed. For example, without the right type and sufficient amounts of communications equipment to communicate both vertically and horizontally, an OSOCC will not be effective.

In the next step, the INSARAC would review and comment on the above information, and then decide on the proper approach for potential review by other countries.

After the review comments have been received, the INSARAC could consolidate comments into a draft OSOCC System Description which it could make available to UNDRO for wider distribution and review and for possible testing at a disaster site. UNDRO would then seek general consensus from assisting countries that they would be willing to participate within the management structure of an OSOCC. UNDRO would also maintain a list of countries willing to commit staff and support to an OSOCC within short time frames.

## IMPLEMENTATION

To test the OSOCC system, UNDRO upon receiving an appeal, would ask the affected country several questions about the potential need for an OSOCC:

- Is there presently an active co-ordination centre at or near the disaster site?
- If yes, will the centre be able to co-ordinate the additional activities that will be a direct result of their appeal for aid?
- Does the affected country want help with staffing their centre (if they have one) or would they request assistance in the form of an OSOCC if it was available? If yes, what type(s) of assistance are needed?

If a co-ordination centre is in operation or an OSOCC is requested, assisting countries would have to be informed so that they will report to and co-ordinate with the centre upon arrival at the disaster site. Assisting countries will also need to know whether there will be an expectation and degree of commitment for some of their team's resources to the OSOCC. This commitment may involve changing team structure and size and developing additional team procedures and training based on the identified tasks of an OSOCC.

## CENTRE AUTHORITIES AND RELATIONSHIPS

An OSOCC at all times must be viewed as an extension of the authority of the affected country. Within that context the affected country will have several options as to how to manage an OSOCC for the disaster.

The OSOCC could be managed by a Co-ordinator from the affected country, or by an individual from an assisting country. If the affected country chooses an assisting country Co-ordinator, it must still be represented at the OSOCC through a representative or through a committee of representatives from local agencies (agency reps), such as public works, transportation, and health. These agency reps carry out management functions described in Protocol No. 3. Under this last scenario the local agency reps do not need to know how to run an OSOCC, but provide direction and decision making to an OSOCC. They can provide this direction at OSOCC briefings, where the Co-ordinator informs them of the current situation and gives them recommendations on decisions that need

to be made. The Co-ordinator would then implement their decisions.

An OSOCC can be as independent as the affected country allows. To be effective though, it must receive direction on priorities from the affected country, which should be in the best position to know what is best for the local population. The functions carried out by an OSOCC as defined in Protocol No. 3, are functions that must be performed in order for relief efforts to be well co-ordinated, no matter where the disaster occurs.

### CONCLUSION

These comments are offered for discussion at this meeting. OFDA is prepared to continue in the effort to develop more fully the OSOCC concept.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (INSARAC)

## WORKING PAPER

### WORKING PROCEDURES OF SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAMS AND INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION CO-ORDINATION

prepared by

Germany

#### BACKGROUND

At the International Search and Rescue Workshop 1991, which was convened by UNDRO and hosted by the Austrian Government between 8 and 12 April 1991 in Wattener Lizum, Austria, the participants initiated the development of guidelines for strengthening co-ordination of international relief within the field of search and rescue (SAR).

Four Protocols were endorsed, outlining:

- (1) Disaster-affected Country's Responsibilities
- (2) Assisting Country's Responsibilities
- (3) On-Site Operations Co-ordination Centre
- (4) International Search and Rescue Advisory Committee

Furthermore, the Participants in the International Search and Rescue Workshop adopted conclusions and recommendations which are for the most part also relevant to emergency management in general.

Taking into account the conclusions of the meeting that

- given the current population and urbanization trends in disaster-prone areas, the need for large-scale SAR operations following sudden disasters is increasing
- there already exists a number of skilled and well-equipped SAR teams
- priority should be given to strengthening the functioning of existing teams in donor countries rather than creating new ones

the participants recommended, inter alia, that

- at the first meeting of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Committee, a working group should be formed on **Working procedures of SAR teams and international information co-ordination.**

## I. WORKING PROCEDURES OF SAR TEAMS

### Basic requirement

SAR teams must have been trained to the highest possible standards established by the international community (UNDRO) and have the experience to cope with their special responsibilities.

### Operational tasks

SAR teams concerned with the **location of casualties, rescue and evacuation** have the following basic tasks:

- location and rescue of injured and trapped persons
- evacuation of casualties from danger zones
- removal of obstacles in order to reach victims
- implementation of urgent safety measures

SAR teams involved in **emergency medical assistance** have the following basic tasks:

- treatment of injured persons at the rescue location
- examination of casualties, provision of emergency medical care and preparation of casualties for transport
- administration of emergency medical assistance
- release of casualties to appropriate evacuation agencies

SAR teams involved in **logistics** (transport, communications) have the following basic tasks:

- provision of additional means of transport
- provision of communications facilities



Working procedures

1. After receiving a request for assistance from a disaster-affected country and/or from UNDRO, all UNDRO-registered teams in the assisting countries should consider whether and to what extent their own assistance is required and take a responsible decision on the degree of relief they wish to provide and offer that assistance without delay.
2. SAR teams should be prepared to depart from their home base for the stricken area within 12 hours of official notification.
3. SAR teams should obtain information on local laws and customs, as well as on the overall management structure of the organizations responding with disaster relief.
4. SAR teams must have appropriate equipment for the tasks assigned to them, stored on the site base of the operation. They should make provision for obtaining replacements for destroyed or lost parts at short notice.
5. SAR teams must be self-sufficient with their own equipment to ensure their operational capacity for a period of up to 14 days.
6. SAR teams must have communications equipment suited to their own needs and for liaison with the One-site Operations Co-ordination Centre, other SAR teams, local authorities and home base.
7. On arrival, SAR teams must make an objective assessment of the magnitude and nature of the disaster as well as of the SAR effort required, in close co-operation with the local authorities concerned and the On-site Operations Co-ordination Centre.
8. The structure of the SAR teams should allow for the participation of local relief workers.
9. SAR teams must be clearly identified with their national representative(s) in the affected country, i.e. through the embassy, consulate, etc.
10. SAR team members must be supplied with clothing, including protective clothing, which is

appropriate to the weather and the time of year.

11. SAR team members should be highly qualified and able to communicate with the local population.
12. SAR teams should, in the implementation of their work adhere to international standards, guidelines, etc., with regard to their specialized work (dogs, medical personnel, labelling of medical supplies, etc.)

N.B. A European meeting on the questions of location, training and equipment of SAR teams will be held on 9/10 December 1991 in Beuggen, the results of which will be reflected in a second draft of this working paper.

## II. REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

In order to ensure effective on-site co-operation during a disaster between SAR teams of different assisting countries, mutual contacts and preparatory co-operational measures should be established.

Such mutual contacts and co-operation should be developed at a regional level, such as for instance the Beuggen Initiative as a first step for Europe.

Regional co-operation mechanisms should be set up in the following regions:

- Europe (including Mediterranean)
- America
- Asia

The following preparatory measures should be envisaged in order to achieve common standards:

- endeavours to achieve comparable standards of training
- mutual participation in training activities and exercises
- establishment of joint operation procedures
- endeavours to achieve common technical standards as far as possible

A constant exchange of information, as well as regular discussions and personal contacts,

should be maintained to enhance the co-operation among the SAR teams.

The following measures should be carried out before and during relief operations:

- mutual contacting after a disaster between the headquarters of the SAR teams in the region, official authorities and UNDRO
- arrangements concerning mutual support during preparation and performance of relief operations
- preparations to despatch a co-ordinated or joint assessment and/or advance mission
- organization of a central reception point in the affected country by the first-arriving SAR team
- further exchange of information between the national headquarters of the SAR teams (in addition to the exchange of information with the on-site operations co-ordination centre)

### III. INFORMATION

The assisting State or organization and the receiving State should exchange with the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) information concerning all facts, developments or action taken that may be relevant to the conduct of humanitarian assistance operations.

In order to avoid duplication and overlapping, the UNDRO Desk for Operational Co-ordination Systems should be designated for that purpose.

Information comprises the collection and exchange of data concerning:

- the initial situation (e.g. official data and individual investigations)
- the emergency response (e.g. material, personnel, financial aspects of planned relief actions, implementation of relief programmes, as well as all other aspects relevant to the relief activities including reporting to public and donors)
- the post-emergency situation (e.g. findings and conclusions, recommendations)

A central data bank should be set up through/with the UNDRO Desk, where all the relevant information can be drawn from (e.g. SAR directory, special services, information on disaster-prone countries and their SAR capability, information on current disasters and response thereto).

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (INSARAC)

## WORKING PAPER

### QUALITY CONTROL OF TEAMS IN THE UNDRO DIRECTORY OF INTERNATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAMS

prepared by

UNDRO

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Directory of International Search and Rescue Teams has been prepared by UNDRO in response to a request of the Third Meeting of Officials in Charge of National Emergency Relief Services (NERS III). The Directory provides an authoritative and indexed register of teams with specialized expertise and equipment which can be deployed to assist with Search and Rescue (SAR) Operations anywhere in the world, particularly in developing countries. UNDRO also envisages the SAR Directory as a document which will foster an exchange of ideas and experiences between teams therein, thus improving their ability to respond rapidly, effectively and internationally when a disaster occurs.

1.2 The first edition of the SAR Directory contains information submitted by Governments on 23 governmental and non-governmental SAR Teams, many of which already have wide experience in disasters both in their own country and abroad.

1.3 The process of updating and revising the data contained in the Directory must continue in order to provide Governments with access to a range of readily-identifiable resources available for use in a national disaster.

1.4 The International Search and Rescue Workshop 1991 which met at Wattener Lizum, Austria from 8 to 12 April 1991, recommended that "the SAR Directory should be updated on a regular basis and a system of assessment and quality control for those teams to be entered should be introduced". This is documented in the Wattener Lizum Final Report, Annex IV, under Protocol No. 4 - International SAR Advisory Committee.

## 2. THE NEED FOR QUALITY CONTROL

2.1 The Directory in its present state provides valuable information on names and addresses, telephone numbers, equipment, mobilizing systems, team components etc., forming a sound basis for further research and development.

2.2 With a view to strengthening the Directory and providing a document which not only serves as an informative source, but also as an operational management tool we need to consider the introduction of a quality control system.

2.3 The quality control will serve as a filter, to ensure that only teams with the appropriate level of expertise, experience and competence are registered in the Directory, and categorized accordingly.

## 3. IDENTIFYING THE NEEDS

3.1 In deciding the system to be adopted for the introduction of Quality Control, we first need to identify the typical emergency needs for each specific type of hazard (e.g. earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, floods, landslides, etc.). Once these needs have been identified they can be grouped into headings such as Medical, Search, Rescue and a Special Group which can include teams with specialized skills, such as chemical decontamination, bridge repairing, damage control, etc.

3.2 The needs can then be listed in order of priority for each given hazard. Some hazards will require a high priority for medical and low priority for search and rescue, a typical example of this would be massive releases of hazardous chemicals.

3.3 Other hazards will be low on medical priority but high on search and emergency repairs, a typical example of this would be hurricane damage.

3.4 A system of coding or lettering for each hazard need can then be established to grade the hazard in accordance with its priority needs. This does not prevent a hazard from being allocated more than one code, for example an earthquake could have three main priority needs and thus three codes, one for each of the following: Medical, Search and Rescue.

#### 4. CATEGORIZATION OF SAR TEAMS

4.1 SAR teams need to be graded on their ability to perform SEARCH, RESCUE and MEDICAL assistance in relation to particular hazards. A special grade however, needs to be considered for teams with very specific skills as mentioned in 3.1 above, which can provide valuable assistance during the emergency phase of sudden onset disasters.

4.2 Each SAR Team will be allocated a category for each SAR component. These can be based on their levels and quality of training, equipment carried, proven ability, past disaster assistance experience, composition and structure of team, deployment time, status of team within their own country, etc. These categories need to be readily identifiable with the hazard type.

4.3 There will, of course, be teams which can only provide assistance in one of the component's areas. Examples of these are medical teams with advanced trauma management capabilities, but with no search or rescue capacity; also search dog teams with no rescue or medical capacity.

4.4 Once the hazard coding is listed and the SAR Teams categorized, in the event of a disaster requiring international assistance, the process of matching SAR Teams to disaster (hazard) needs commences and the appropriate teams with the necessary skills, experience, equipment, etc., can be deployed rapidly to the disaster zone.

#### 5. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

There now remains the task of setting requirements/standards for the purpose of categorizing teams, to ensure that the most operationally effective response is deployed to disaster areas.

5.2 A Working Group under the auspices of the INSARAC and with UNDRO'S participation is, in my opinion, best placed to act as a controlling body, to assess each individual SAR team for inclusion and categorization in the SAR Directory.

5.3 The setting of minimum requirements at international level warrants careful consideration. In deciding the SAR Teams's category for specific abilities, the INSARAC Working Group will need to set pre-agreed minimum standards for such areas as:

- (i) Levels and quality of training
- (ii) Equipment carried
- (iii) Composition and structure of team
- (iv) Proven ability and past experience
- (v) Deployment time

5.4 Once the Working Group decides on the category to be allocated to a SAR Team for each specific ability, this can be forwarded to INSARAC for approval and onward transmission to UNDRO for inclusion in the SAR Directory.

5.5 The SAR Directory will need to be adjusted to allow for a section on Team Category, also the final SAR database can be designed to allow for a quick retrieval system which will match SAR Teams to disaster needs.

## 6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The value of the SAR Directory can be enhanced by providing in greater detail information on how best to use the experience, expertise and specialized skills of individual SAR teams.

6.2 The SAR Directory can meet this need by providing a Category System which will match SAR Teams to Hazard Needs, thereby providing an effective and efficient response in terms of time and resources.

6.3 This Working Paper recommends that, within the scope of INSARAC, a Working Group be elected, to design systems and methods of operation for the introduction of quality control into the SAR Directory.

6.4 The INSARAC Working Group should be given the task of vetting teams already in the SAR Directory and those wishing to be included, to examine their operational competence, as listed in para. 5.3 (i) - (v).

5 December 1991

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
(INSARAC)**

**INAUGURAL MEETING**

**11 - 13 December 1991, Beuggen, Germany**

**PROVISIONAL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

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*Please submit any amendments to the List of Participants in writing to a member of the Secretariat as soon as possible.*



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