



Letter of Intent (LoI)

On Cooperation, Mutual Support and Information Exchange on Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Preparedness and Response

Between

Mr. Martín Cucalon de Ycaza, President of the Organization of American Firefighters (OBA)
Together with
Mr. Raul Bustos Zavala, INSARAG Focal Point of the Organization of American Firefighters (OBA)
And
Mr. Jesper Lund, Chief of the Response Partnerships Section (RPS), Emergency Response Support
Branch (ERSB) and Secretary of INSARAG

The Letter of Intent (LoI) confirms the agreement on fostering the collaboration between the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the Organization of American Firefighters, known as OBA for its Spanish name Organización de Bomberos Americanos.

1. Both parties will encourage the following activities to promote collaboration on the following and agree to:
 - a) Support the adoption of the INSARAG methodology and standards at local and national levels in the Americas Region;
 - b) Collaborate to promote the INSARAG methodology and guidelines amongst countries and organizations of the region;
 - c) Encourage capacity-building by providing training opportunities hosted by the different members of OBA;
 - d) Host and co-organize with INSARAG activities to improve urban search and rescue coordination;
 - e) Support the adoption of National Accreditation Processes (NAP) in countries in the Americas region;
 - f) Support the Technical Support Group for the INSARAG External Support and Recognition Process for national USAR team accreditation processes by providing training and experience-sharing opportunities;
 - g) Contribute to the development of standardized national USAR training systems in line with the INSARAG Methodology;
 - h) Share information and best practices amongst USAR teams, including teams that are developing a response capability or are preparing for classification.

WHEREAS the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group is a global network of countries and organisations dedicated to strengthening preparedness and response to disasters with collapsed structures by establishing minimum international standards for urban search and rescue teams, promoting a common coordination methodology and tools, agreeing on mobilization procedures, and fostering cooperation and common learning amongst all its members in line with United Nations General Assembly Resolution 57/150 of 2002, on “Strengthening the Effectiveness and Coordination of International Urban Search and



Rescue Assistance". The INSARAG/ USAR involves the National SAR Team, International USAR teams, armed forces and however seeks confirmation/request of the host country.

WHEREAS the work of the INSARAG network is supported by the INSARAG Secretariat as the only permanent body of the INSARAG network, which is hosted by the Response Partnerships Section (RPS) in the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) in Geneva.

WHEREAS the Organization of American Firefighters (OBA) is an international cooperation organization of firefighting institutions from America that supports the development and professionalization of fire and rescue departments with the objective to contribute to disaster risk reduction efforts across the continent.

WHEREAS the Organization of American Firefighters (OBA) aims to promote international and interregional cooperation between fire and rescue institutions, promote institutional links with other entities related to the objectives of OBA, foster the implementation and dissemination of procedures in emergency and disaster management, harmonize the curricular contents firefighters training through common norms and procedures and to propose the implementation of provisions that facilitate the border transit of equipment and personnel in sudden onset disasters at the request of affected countries.

IN WITNESS, THEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorised, have on behalf of the parties hereto signed this Letter of Intent (LoI) on the date indicated below.

For the

Organization of American Firefighters (OBA)

United Nations Office for the
Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs,
in its capacity as Secretariat of the
International Search and Rescue
Advisory Group

Mr. Martín Cucalón de Ycaza
President of the Organization of
American Firefighters (OBA)

Mr. Raul Bustos Zavala
INSARAG Focal Point of the
Organization of American
Firefighters (OBA)

Mr. Jesper Lund
INSARAG Secretary
Chief of the Response Partnerships
Section, Emergency Response Support
Branch, Coordination Division,
The United Nations Office for the
Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Signed in Geneva, Switzerland on 7 February 2019