

# International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) Global Strategy 2017-2020



## Our Vision and Our Role

**OUR VISION** is to save lives by promoting efficiency, enhancing quality and strengthening coordination between national and international Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams on the basis of adherence to common guidelines and methodologies.

**OUR ROLE** is to prepare for, mobilize and coordinate effective and principled international USAR assistance in support of affected countries in collapsed structure emergencies and to actively support capacity-building at the international, regional, sub-regional and national level. We do this by:

- Developing and promoting common standards for USAR assistance, coordination methodologies and tools
- Mobilizing information exchange protocols between relevant stakeholders
- Promoting cooperation and experience sharing between – and in partnership with – Member States, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) as well as national, regional and international partners.

**OUR WORK** is recognized and supported by United Nations General Assembly Resolution 57/150 of 16 December 2002 on *Strengthening the Effectiveness of International Urban Search and Rescue Assistance* and recalled in several further Resolutions. The INSARAG Hyogo Declaration on the *Recognition and Strengthening of International Urban Search and Rescue Operational Standards* and the INSARAG Abu Dhabi Declaration on *Strengthening Preparedness and Response Standards of National and International Urban Search and Rescue Operations* adopted in the first and second INSARAG Global Meetings respectively, gave us renewed impetus and guidance for our work ahead and put special emphasis on the need for national capacity building.

## Our Values and Operational Norms

**Adherence to Common Standards and Methodology:** Members of the INSARAG network commit to adhering to the INSARAG Guidelines and methodology as globally accepted minimum standards and procedures, based upon expert knowledge and experience. The INSARAG network continues to develop these standards and procedures through shared continued learning.

**Inclusiveness:** INSARAG brings together governments, governmental organizations and NGOs as well as disaster response and preparedness professionals. We particularly encourage disaster-prone countries to join the network, as well as any country or organization with USAR response capacities.

**Professionalism:** INSARAG promotes responsible, ethical and professional standards amongst USAR teams and all relevant stakeholders.

**Respect for Diversity:** INSARAG acknowledges and respects USAR team's varied operational procedures, doctrines and techniques to achieve common objectives, while disseminating principles and minimum standards agreed upon through the INSARAG network.

**Cultural Sensitivity:** INSARAG promotes awareness and respect of cultural differences by international USAR teams. This is to ensure that teams can cooperate more effectively with national and other international actors.

**Needs Driven:** The mobilization and deployment of international USAR teams is only supported when the affected country's capacities are overwhelmed and they agree to accept international assistance. The types of international assistance mobilized is based on the needs of the affected country and not driven by the availability of resources.

**Coordination:** INSARAG promotes internationally agreed coordination structures managed and advocated by OCHA, promotes coordination of preparedness and capacity building activities, and, throughout an operation, assists countries in coordinating the emergency response.

All members of the INSARAG community, led by the Global and Regional Chairs as well as the Secretariat, will work to encourage the sustainability and cost-effectiveness of INSARAG activities.

The Goals for 2017-2020 developed by the INSARAG network below, provide the global framework that inform the INSARAG Regional Group strategies and objectives and thus attempt to guide their implementation:

<p>GOAL 1   Promote and support the building of effective national USAR response</p> <p><i>“Think Global, Act Local”</i></p>	<p>GOAL 2   Improve the quality and coordination of international USAR response</p> <p><i>“Strengthening Effectiveness: As Local As Possible, As International As Necessary”</i></p>
<p><b>Objective 1.1:</b> Promote <u>adoption</u> by national governments and USAR teams of INSARAG methodology for preparedness and response and the establishment of national USAR team accreditation systems;</p> <p><b>Action Plan:</b> Countries translate the guidelines and incorporate them into their national disaster response plans and standards for USAR teams.</p>	<p><b>Objective 2.1:</b> <u>Promote</u> the United Nations General Assembly Resolution GA 57/150 on <i>“Strengthening the effectiveness and coordination of international urban search and rescue assistance”</i> and continue to <u>update, evaluate and improve</u> INSARAG methodology to be ‘fit for purpose’.</p> <p><b>Action Plan:</b> INSARAG Regional Groups take into account and contribute to the improvement of the INSARAG guidelines in preparedness and response at the national and international levels.</p>
<p><b>Objective 1.2:</b> <u>Advocate</u> for national and regional ownership of preparedness efforts and coordination of donor involvement, as needed, in-line with national priorities.</p> <p><b>Action Plan:</b> Regional groups provide bilateral support and guidance to countries in strengthening disaster preparedness for effective response.</p>	<p><b>Objective 2.2:</b> In disaster response, actively <u>encourage and facilitate</u> the smooth transition from the ‘search and rescue phase’ into the ‘relief phase’ as well as greater integration with the efforts of the international humanitarian community in initial recovery efforts.</p> <p><b>Action Plan:</b> Teams provide support ‘<i>Beyond the Rubble</i>’ and support clusters, where relevant.</p>
<p><b>Objective 1.3:</b> Actively <u>encourage</u> innovative approaches to strengthen national capacity building through the sharing of expertise and best practices amongst countries and organizations.</p> <p><b>Action Plan:</b> Support the creation and/or articulation of relevant networks and cross-fertilization of best practices through meetings and exercises to test national response plans and INSARAG and the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team methodologies.</p>	<p><b>Objective 2.3:</b> Actively <u>promote</u> and <u>encourage</u> countries requesting international USAR assistance, to request for INSARAG classified teams to support initial life-saving operations.</p> <p><b>Action Plan:</b> Advocate with disaster prone countries to specifically request INSARAG classified teams with the support of the United Nations Resident Coordinators Office, OCHA Country and Regional Offices, and UNDAC. Conduct INSARAG exercises in earthquake prone countries to promote INSARAG.</p> <p>Responding countries adopt the INSARAG External Classification process for USAR teams with a mandate to deploy internationally.</p>
<p><b>Objective 1.4:</b> <u>Promote</u> capacity development of national and “first” responders understanding that majority of live rescues is achieved by them.</p> <p><b>Action Plan:</b> Implement Manual A, Vol. II of the INSARAG Guidelines and the INSARAG First-Responders Training Package for communities.</p>	<p><b>Objective 2.4:</b> <u>Strengthen</u> and expand the ongoing technical partnerships established -- such as with the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Emergency Medical Teams(EMT) and other international and regional organizations for <u>effective coordination</u> in response.</p> <p><b>Action Plan:</b> Strengthening ongoing partnerships through annual meetings, technical working groups and exercises.</p>
<p><b>Objective 1.5:</b> <u>Strengthen</u> the collaboration and coordination with all relevant partners in preparedness for disasters.</p> <p><b>Action Plan:</b> Works towards consolidated training in INSARAG Earthquake Response Exercises, and establish mutual technical partnership arrangements.</p>	<p><b>Objective 2.5:</b> INSARAG’s role <u>contributes</u> to the international humanitarian and Disaster Risk Reduction agenda.</p> <p><b>Action Plan:</b> Ongoing engagement and partnerships with United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and regional organizations in joint training exercises to help strengthen the capacity and resilience of local communities.</p>
<p><b>Objective 1.6:</b> <u>Promote</u> the participation and incorporation of new countries and organizations into the INSARAG network.</p> <p><b>Action Plan:</b> Expand and facilitate wider outreach and membership, and participation from disaster prone countries.</p>	<p><b>Objective 2.6:</b> <u>Strengthen</u> INSARAG’s capacity to contribute to national and international <u>coordination mechanisms</u>.</p> <p><b>Action Plan:</b> Incorporate the principles of USAR coordination into national and international training programmes including <u>USAR Coordination and KOBO</u>.</p>