

Proposal for the

Chairmanship/ Vice chairmanship of the INSARAG Americas Regional Group

In the annual meeting in 2011 of the INSARAG Americas regional group which took place in Brasilia, Brazil, both Costa Rica and Mexico were designated as Co-chairs of the Regional Group, with Peru and Guatemala being designated as Vice-chairs.

This designation was done in a context in which the INSARAG at the global level started a discussion on the rules and norms of governance, which need to be clarified; and therefore, the countries present in Brazil underlined the “transition” character of the leadership group designated for 2012.

1. For 2013:

1.1. Option a:

Since there are as of yet no standards, profiles, and rules that would govern the process of appointment/designation of the leadership group, one option would be to continue another year in the current schema and define, together with all focal points in the Regional Group meeting in Costa Rica in 2012 the dynamics that would govern designation from next year.

1.2. Option b:

The second option would be to take advantage of the Regional Group meeting in Costa Rica in 2012 to define the dynamics and rules that would govern the designation as from this year, taking into account that the member countries of the Regional Group were requested to express their interest to take on the role of Chair or Vice-Chair of the Regional Group.

2. Options for the future:

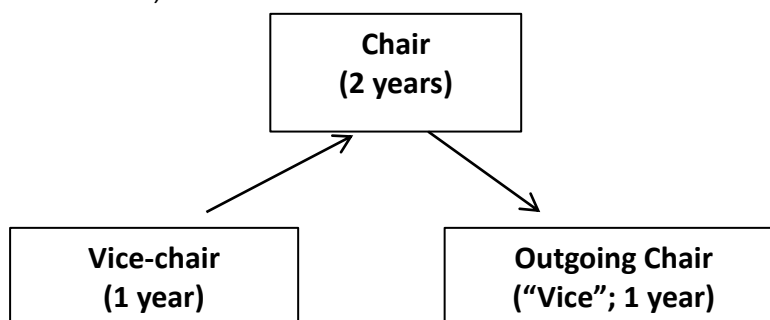
2.1. Option 1:

Create a leadership group in the form of a "troika" as proposed by the INSARAG Regional Group in Africa / Europe / Middle East, in which there is a Vice-Chair, a Chair and an outgoing Chair. The Vice-Chair in the year x automatically assumes the function of Chair in the year $x + 1$, and therefore would be the outgoing Chair in the year $x + 2$.

This proposal also considers that the leadership of the board has a minimum stay of two years in order to give continuity to the actions taken in order to empower the region.

Outstanding considerations:

- What would the process of appointment of the Vice-Chair be? (Option 3 makes a proposal on this)

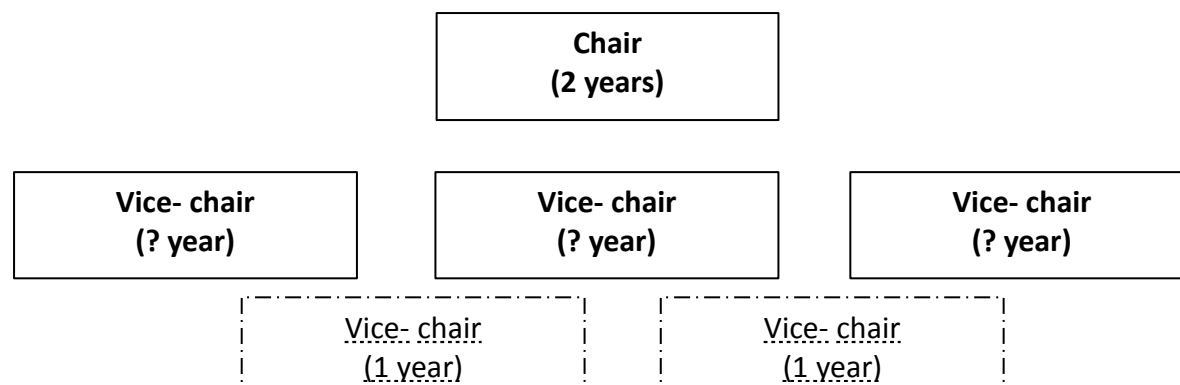


2.2. Option 2:

Create a leadership group with a Chair and a Vice-Chair for each sub-region in the Americas.

Outstanding considerations:

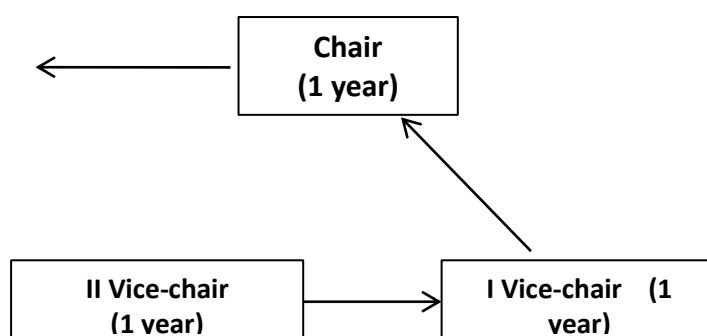
- What to do with countries that do not belong to any "sub-region"?
- What would be the process of appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chairs?



2.3. Option 3:

Create a leadership group with a Chair, a first Vice-chair and a second Vice-chair. This leadership group would be rotating with a period of one year, ie. the second Vice-chair in the year x automatically assumes the function of first Vice-chair in the year $x + 1$, and thereafter the Chairmanship in the year $x + 2$, and then retires.

This proposal considers the possibility to give continuity and allow for follow up of activities as a country would need to commit to a total of three years as part of the leadership group.



NB: As part of this proposal, it is recommended to clarify the responsibilities of the Chair and the Vice-Chairs, in addition to what is already known by the letter that was sent to all focal points.

i. Responsibilities of the board of the INSARAG Regional Group of the Americas (Chair, First Vice-Chair and Second Vice-Chair)

- Participate in the annual meeting of the INSARAG Steering Group, held in Geneva, Switzerland (usually in February), where the INSARAG issues of global concern are discussed, as well as the work plans of each of the regions; each participant covering their own costs, transport, accommodation and food.
- Support and participate in the activities that take place in the Americas region, covering the cost of each participant, ie. transport, accommodation and food.
- Propose a work plan for the region that includes the strengthening of national capacities in the field of search and rescue, and programs related to this issue that are taking place at the level of the region
- Strengthen the work of improving humanitarian action across the region, strengthen mutual support mechanisms, both provided by the United Nations system through the UNDAC teams as well as assistance that may be provided by countries in the region on a bilateral basis; promoting exercises such as the INSARAG Simex.

ii. Specific responsibilities of the Chair

- Act as host country, and responsible for organizing the annual meeting of the INSARAG Regional Group. Covering the costs of at least the accommodation, food, local transport of participants and the hiring of the meeting venue.

iii. Specific responsibilities of the First Vice-Chair

- To automatically take on the function of Chair in the following year.

iv. Particular responsibilities of the second Vice-President

- The Vice-chair is chosen by appointment, in the event that only one nomination is submitted; or else, by election in the annual meeting of the Regional Group in case there is more than one nomination.

v. Clarification for the appointment of Chair and Vice-Chairs

General Conditions:

- Countries that intend to take on one of the functions established should consider that they will be participating in the leadership group for at least three years:
 - The first year as the second vice-chair
 - The second year as the first vice-chair
 - The third year as the Chair
- The nomination for the function as second vice-chair should be in the name of the Government, meaning that it should be a government-backed nomination (through its Foreign Ministry).
- Nominations should be sent in advance of the annual meeting of the INSARAG Regional Group in the Americas. It is proposed to fix the date of 15 October of each year, as the deadline for receipt of nominations, by country, for the second vice-presidency.

Special conditions

- If a country assuming the role of Chair, for specific reasons, is not in a position to fulfill its mandate, it will be assumed by the first vice-chair. The second vice-chair shall assume the function of first vice-chair and the second vice-chair shall become vacant for the remainder of the period. For the next period, the one who assumed the chair will remain for the period that corresponds, the one who became the first vice-chair will remain for that period, and the second vice-president shall be elected or appointed at the annual meeting of the Regional Group.
- If a country assuming the role of first Vice-chair, for specific reasons, is not in a position to fulfill its mandate, the function will be taken on by the second vice-chair, and second vice-chair shall become vacant for the remainder of the period. For the next period, the one who became the first vice-chair will be kept for that period, and the second vice-chair shall be elected or appointed at the annual meeting of the Regional Group.
- If a country assuming the role of second Vice-chair, for specific reasons, is not in a position to fulfill its mandate, the function will remain vacant until the appointment or election at the next meeting of the Regional Group.