

Meeting Overview

The international and national urban search and rescue (USAR) community gathered for the second Global Meeting of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE), from 18-19 October, 2015. With 313 participants from 94 countries and organisations attending, it was the largest INSARAG gathering in history! The list of participants can be found in Annex A.

This meeting was hosted by Ministry of Interior of the Government of the United Arab Emirates and co-organised by OCHA in its capacity as the INSARAG Secretariat that is located within the Field Coordination Support Section (FCSS) in the Emergency Services Branch (ESB) of OCHA Geneva. The meeting celebrated the forthcoming twenty-fifth anniversary of INSARAG since its creation in 1991.

Summary of Presentations and Discussions

(18 October 2015)

Opening Ceremony

Major Rashid Ahmed Al Obad, UAE, asked participants and guests to stand for the National Anthem of the United Arab Emirates. He then introduced a short presentation on the country of the UAE and the city of Abu Dhabi.

Lt. General Saif Abdullah Al Sha'far, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Interior, United Arab Emirates, opened the proceedings by welcoming all participants and guests to the second INSARAG Global Meeting. He expressed a wish that the meeting would enhance the safety and security of the whole world and encouraged the participants and their organisations to work together in their collective responsibility in the field of humanitarian operations. He hoped that the meeting would conclude with agreement and a clear future direction for INSARAG.

Ms. Kyung-wha Kang, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, OCHA, responded to the welcome from the hosts by reading out a statement of support from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, **Mr. Ban Ki-moon**.

In his address to the meeting, the Secretary-General was encouraged to see the group's growth since its inception but warned of more challenges to come. With more people living in urban environments across the globe, the Secretary-General felt that there was much greater risk of disaster in the future. He sees INSARAG as providing a coordination platform for many organisations responding to such events. Finally, he was pleased to see "the capacity building programme and such initiatives as the First Responders Training Package" and wished all the participants a very productive meeting.

Ambassador Toni Frisch, INSARAG Global Chair, welcomed all participants and guests to the second INSARAG Global Meeting and thanked the hosts for the wonderful venue in which to conduct such an important meeting. He reminded the meeting of the inception of INSARAG back in 1991 and now, in its 25th year, it continues to be an active worldwide network, offering technical resources and assistance to countries in need, always with the goal of saving more lives. Over that period, both the organisation and the environment in which it operates has changed considerably and INSARAG has always risen to such challenges with the "development of common guidelines and methodology, new capacity building initiatives and the classification of over 40 well qualified and professional teams".

He acknowledged and celebrated the revised Guidelines, "which now include guidance to our partners and governments". They also expand the guidance of "beyond the rubble", extending the response beyond the immediate life-saving phase of operations. He added that there is much work still to do. INSARAG needs to focus towards the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016, where the Abu Dhabi Declaration will provide a

platform for INSARAG involvement and contribution.

Ambassador Frisch concluded by thanking Ms. Kyung-wha Kang for her personal support for INSARAG, the Regional Chairs, the Working Groups and the INSARAG Secretariat for their hard work and support, and finally the authorities in Abu Dhabi for their hospitality. He finished by stating that he was “proud of his involvement in INSARAG, watching it grow for 25 busy and productive years” and wished the organisation well for the future.

The meeting was then joined by **Lt. General His Highness Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, Government of the United Arab Emirates.

Ms. Kyung-wha Kang then addressed the meeting, congratulating INSARAG on 25 years of successful operations and looking forward to another 25 years. She reminded the meeting that the humanitarian community is currently taking stock ready for the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul in May 2016 where, it is hoped that INSARAG will help initiate a series of concrete actions.

She concluded by stating that work done behind the scenes by INSARAG makes all the difference when disaster strikes. The common platforms and standards, the Guidelines, the classification system are “models of international cooperation that gives INSARAG unrivalled authority in the 90 countries where it operates”.

Lt. General His Highness Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior presented awards to the follow recipients:

- The Medal of Cooperation was presented to Ambassador Toni Frisch.
- The Search and Rescue Medal was presented to Ambassador Manuel Bessler, Mr. Ted Pearn, Mr. Winston Chang, Mr. Joe Bishop, Mr. Terje Skavdal, Mr. Arjun Katoch and Mr. Jesper Lund.

The meeting continued with the Agenda and a series of presentations. The Agenda is attached as Annex B.

Session 1 – Humanitarian Effectiveness: Setting Global ‘Preparedness and Response’ Standards for INSARAG

Ambassador Manuel Bessler, Chair of the Guidelines Review Group (GRG), introduced the two-year review of the Guidelines by the GRG members. He thanked the GRG members for their hard work and reported that the INSARAG Steering Group Meeting in February 2015 had unanimously welcomed the revised Guidelines. He reported that work was now complete for the launch of the Guidelines in hard copy (PDF), in e-PUB format and as apps for both Android and iOS smart phones.

He urged the participants to adopt the Guidelines into their national response, to “use them, to promote them and to translate them into their own languages”. He concluded by reminding the meeting that these Guidelines were ‘living documents’ needing a continual process of management and therefore he will be recommending to the Steering Group that an ‘interim’ GRG be established for the period 2016-18.

Mr. Paul Baxter, Chief Executive and National Commander, New Zealand Fire Services, introduced their experience of the INSARAG External Classification (IEC) that was successfully conducted in March 2015. New Zealand welcomed the revised Guidelines and the IEC Checklist, which is a part of the Guidelines, and he reiterated the importance of the implementation of the Guidelines through the IEC process.

Mr. Baxter felt that there was more detail and less confusion in the revised Guidelines and that the IEC guidance was articulate and clear. He considered that the checklist was “comprehensive and useful” and observed that “the field guide was referred to frequently during the IEC”. In regards to the IER process, Mr. Baxter felt that an on-going discussion to improve the process was needed, but that any changes, such as regional ownership, “must not reduce the confidence that countries have in the standard that is an INSARAG classified team”.

Mr. Rameshwor Dangal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Nepal, shared some

experiences from the Nepal Earthquake, which hit his country in April 2015. He thanked the INSARAG community for its response to his country and also spoke of the many challenges posed by the disaster. He gave a number of examples such as teams arriving without sufficient equipment, teams arriving after the stand-down was announced, teams without proper documentation and teams that were not self-sufficient. He also noted that some teams that entered the country did not coordinate either with the OSOCC or directly with the Nepalese authorities and just conducted search operations for their own nationals. These deficiencies exacerbated the overall situation as the country struggled with the logistics of such a widespread disaster over such difficult terrain.

As a consequence of these challenges, the Government of Nepal are proposing recommendations for future response, including:

- Only INSARAG classified teams will be allowed into the country or teams trained to the standards within the INSARAG Guidelines.
- Only teams arriving within the first 72 hours will be allowed in.
- The MNMCC will coordinate all SAR teams until the OSOCC is established - then the OSOCC coordinates non-military SAR only.
- The National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) will lead all SAR-related operational planning.

Mr. Dangal then went on to announce that the Government of Nepal would like to explore with the INSARAG Secretariat and the donor community, the development of an improved USAR capacity in Nepal. Specific plans would include:

- Translate the INSARAG Guidelines into Nepalese.
- Host the INSARAG Earthquake Response Exercise in the future.
- The development of a tiered response, culminating in 6 light teams and 2 medium teams.
- Nepal will aim for future INSARAG Classification.

The meeting then debated the issues raised by these presentations. There were calls for progress on the development of further guidance for Light international USAR teams, possibly through the formation of a working group. The meeting felt that strong leadership is needed from existing INSARAG teams to comply with the standards but also from the affected countries to refuse entry if teams do not meet minimum requirements. It was also felt that there is a responsibility for INSARAG to remind countries of the standards and responsibilities required by the Guidelines and their membership in INSARAG.

Lastly, in this session, all the members welcomed the INSARAG Guidelines 2015, and agreed to publicise and promulgate the Guidelines for domestic capacity building. The meeting was shown a 2-minute video to promote the Guidelines dissemination, and the INSARAG apps on iOS and Android were introduced. The meeting was informed that the revised Guidelines are already available in Spanish, Turkish, Mongolian and Chinese. Ambassador Manuel Bessler, asked countries and organisations to provide feedback on the revised Guidelines to the interim GRG.

Session 2: INSARAG's Contribution to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

Ms. Wendy Cue, Head of Office for OCHA-ROLAC, introduced the panel and discussed the concept of investing in preparedness and capacity-building projects as a means of saving more lives. She hoped for an objective discussion on capacity-building and challenged the meeting to consider what more could INSARAG do in building the capacity of local responders.

Ambassador Toni Frisch, INSARAG Global Chair, spoke on the "*Evolution of Preparedness and National Capacity-Building in INSARAG*". He explained that the first ten years of INSARAG had focused on the development of international search and rescue teams but since that time had increasingly devoted time and resources in the building of local capacity. He added that INSARAG was always seeking new partnerships and furthering the cause of national capacity-building, highlighting the First Responder Training Package as evidence of this.

He considered that the IEC/R process had raised the standards of teams and then challenged the meeting to

consider how the classification experience could benefit those teams and organisations that are not part of the process. He concluded by saying that it "cannot all be done from the centre" and encouraged the regional meetings to consider how they can raise standards within their regions at all levels of response.

Mr. Shigenobu Kobayashi, Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan, asked the question, "*Sendai Framework: Where does INSARAG fit?*" Firstly, he explained the background to the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction that was held in Sendai in March 2015. This meeting produced the Sendai Framework 2015-2030, the goal of which is to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk through priority actions, one of which is to enhance disaster preparedness response. Japan has hosted three UN World Conferences on Disaster Risk Reduction and the first INSARAG Global Meeting in 2010 in Kobe resolving the Hyogo Declaration. He welcomed the Abu Dhabi meeting on behalf of the first meeting host country.

Mr. Kobayashi felt that a coordinated regional response was vital and that developing partnerships and information sharing would be the key. He called on INSARAG to follow up on the Hyogo Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, raising its profile and promoting operational guidelines and guidance instruments to enhance disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Mr. Ricardo Toro Tassara, INSARAG Americas Regional Chair and Director of ONEMI, Chile, spoke on the issue of "*National USAR Capacity Building*". He began by reflecting on why there were such strong national capabilities in the Americas region but only two classified teams. He concluded that only until recently, the focus had been on national USAR capacity due to the risk. However, he felt that with the recent development of strong focal points, 21 in 2015, up from 2 in 2009, and the implementation of the INSARAG Guidelines, more national teams intended to classify at the international level.

As an example of the development of national capacity, he compared the 2010 earthquake in Chile, where coordination was poor and national and international teams actually became a burden on the local community, to the earthquakes in 2014 and 2015. A national system for coordination, nationally accredited USAR teams and a national emergency operations centre ensured that the response to these later events was much improved. He concluded by stating that, "countries cannot rely on support from the international community, they have to build their own capacity" but that capacity-building has to be guided and supported and this was the future for INSARAG.

(19 October 2015)

Session 3: Partnerships and Engagement at All Levels

Mr Saeed Hersi, Head of the OCHA Gulf Liaison Office, introduced the panel for the session discussing partnerships and engagement at all levels. He began by stating that for OCHA "partnerships are not an option, they are one of the main tools to save lives". Member states, donors, experts groups such as INSARAG and the affected population, all have a role and a part to play in these partnerships. He hoped that this session would allow the meeting to gain a shared understanding of partnerships, and see examples of how INSARAG can engage and form these relationships.

Lt. Col. Dr. Hamad Al Darmaki, Ministry of Interior Affairs, Abu Dhabi Civil Defence, then spoke about the "*Strengths of Regional Alliance and Partnerships*", using the example of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The GCC comprises of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates with the inclusion of Jordan as a regional partner. The partnership of the "6+1" member states is based on the shared language and culture of the region and together has developed an ambitious vision. He added that the, "vision has been translated into a strategic plan that includes a shared mission and values, strategic direction and key performance indicators". The partnership has also developed a number of initiatives including a joint media strategy, a mechanism for shared communication, a shared logistics mechanism for deploying equipment and personnel in the event of a disaster, and a comprehensive training plan.

Mr. Albrecht Broemme, President of the Federal Agency for Technical Relief, Germany, then spoke about the "*Importance of Community Volunteerism*" using the example of his organisation. He explained that this Government agency, Bundesanstalt Technisches Hilfswerk (THW), was founded in 1950, having its roots in the long history of community volunteerism in Germany. He explained that volunteering is a big part of German culture and THW, with 80,000 volunteers, is not even the biggest volunteer organisation in Germany. "All the volunteers are professionals in their selected roles and are attracted by a good atmosphere, good equipment, interesting and rewarding work and they are supported by a high quality training programme".

Partnerships are a vital methodology for THW in achieving its aims, usually based on a 'Memorandum of Understanding' (MOU), which is a useful tool. Partners include OCHA, WFP, UNHCR and a variety of national and regional organisations. Mr. Broemme summarised by saying that, "partnerships mean you have reliable friends, share knowledge, solve problems as a team, share good and bad experiences, share success and respect the values of the other partner. It is more than an MOU but often starts with an MOU".

Dr. Ian Norton, Technical Advisor and FMT Project Lead, World Health Organization, then addressed the meeting on the issues of "*Setting Standards for Medical First Response*". He began by setting the context for medical intervention in rapid onset disasters, explaining that, "as the timeline for survival following trauma is about 72 hours, the medical and rescue phases should be regarded as being in parallel and not in sequence". He also explained that the scale of medical intervention is of a larger magnitude to that of the rescue response. He echoed other speakers by emphasising that the needs of the population must drive response, not politics.

Dr. Norton felt that there was much that the medical community could learn from INSARAG, who he regarded as the pioneers of many aspects of disaster response. Standards and quality assurance, RDC, OSOCC, UCC functions and national capacity building are all tools and methodologies that the international medical community have copied from INSARAG. He called on the meeting to work together in partnership, coordinating and sharing resources with the International Medical Teams (IMT). He concluded by stating there were, "many synergies between USAR and the IMTs and that together we need to be more flexible, more creative, thinking beyond the direct rescue or care requirements to the wider needs of the community".

The Chair of the INSARAG Training Working Group (TWG), **Mr. Dewey Perks**, Disaster Resources Unit Leader, USAID/OFDA, spoke about "*First Responders and Community Preparedness*" and specifically the development of the INSARAG First Responder Training Package. This was developed by the TWG and first introduced in a pilot run by ASEAN in Singapore. Subsequently it has been used in China and South Africa. He explained that the medical component has been enhanced by partnership with the IFRC. The role of first responders includes assessing the incident, providing basic search and rescue and providing leadership and direction to the local community. The outcomes of the First Responder training include greater awareness of hazards, knowledge of life saving measures and light search and rescue techniques, leading to a well rounded and better prepared community.

Session 4: Disaster Response in a Changing Humanitarian Landscape

The incoming INSARAG Global Chair, **Ambassador Manuel Bessler**, Ambassador and Delegate for Humanitarian Aid, Head of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, introduced the next session examining how disaster response faces new challenges within the context of the changing humanitarian landscape. He began by quoting "the only constant in life is change". He told the meeting delegates that the "humanitarian landscape is changing and if we don't adapt and change the train will leave without us".

Mr. Robert Smith, Head of Geneva Office, World Humanitarian Summit Secretariat, OCHA, began by addressing the question, "*Lessons from the World Humanitarian Consultation Process: Where does INSARAG fit?*" He informed the meeting of the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) that is due to take place in Istanbul, Turkey in May 2016 and of the consultation process that is taking place prior to the Summit meeting.

He stated that the Summit is an opportunity to change trends and respond to change because “the game needs to change”. He continued, “civil protection is a unifying force within the humanitarian community” and civil protection agencies and international networks such as INSARAG have been important in the process of preparedness and therefore reducing the risk of disasters. He concluded by saying that, “INSARAG offers a model that will be much in demand” and urged the members of INSARAG to mobilise support in response to the challenges faced.

Mr. Kemal Kocak, INSARAG Focal Point, Republic of Turkey Prime Ministry National Disaster Management, presented the meeting with an overview of the National Disaster Arrangements in his own country and showed examples of some recent deployments made by the AFAD teams.

Mr. Juha Auvinen, Head of Emergency Response Unit, Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection, European Commission, discussed the “*Regional Response Arrangements*” within the European Civil Protection Mechanism. He reminded the meeting that the EUCP Mechanism was not just about response but also preparedness and prevention, and that one of ECHO’s strengths was that it links civil protection with humanitarian aid. He felt that INSARAG could help the EUCPM with advice on the registration of its voluntary pool of modules and with feedback from INSARAG and UNDAC missions. He in turn offered assistance to INSARAG with the possibility of using the EUCPM budget for capacity-building and preparedness projects, hosting reclassifications as part of EU MODEX exercises, in addition to the operational support of EU experts and the co-financing of transport and logistical arrangements.

Ms. Adelina Kamal, Head of Disaster Management, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), discussed the “*Regional Response Arrangements*” within the ASEAN network. There are ten countries that make up ASEAN and they have a legally binding agreement to jointly respond to emergencies. The Secretary-General of ASEAN guides the political and strategic aspects of disaster and the AHA Centre in Jakarta maintains operational control. She informed the meeting that ASEAN has its own operating procedures (SASOP) and its ASEAN-ERAT emergency response and assessment team provides overall coordination in the field. She looked forward to future opportunities for working with the INSARAG community.

Dr. Adel bin Khalifa Al-Zayani, then read out a statement about the “*Regional Response Arrangements*” within the six countries of the GCC from the Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council. He stated that the strategic goals of the GCC included maintaining the stability of the region, improving public safety and managing crisis and disaster situations. The GCC had established a specialist regional disaster emergency management centre in Kuwait and had a 5-year development plan to improve disaster management and improve cooperation between the six GCC member countries. He concluded by stating that, “we need to strengthen cooperation and coordination with organisations like INSARAG in terms of preparedness and response operations”.

Finally, **Sr. Roy Barboza Sequeira** discussed the “*Regional Response Arrangements*” across CEPREDENAC, Centro de Coordinación para la Prevención de los Desastres Naturales en América Central (Coordination of Natural Disaster Prevention in Central America). He informed the meeting of the regional mechanism for “Mutual Help in Disasters” and of the work of the Central American Academy for Search and Rescue whose aim was the provision of better training for USAR teams and more common standards and frameworks across member states. CEPREDENAC also aimed at the dissemination and application of the INSARAG standards in countries across Central America.

Following the conclusion of the presentations, there followed questions and comments from the meeting and these included the issue of host nation support and how to best train and prepare countries to accept international aid. The meeting agreed that both sides (donors and recipients) need to work together to develop mechanisms and methodologies to make it easier to both provide and receive humanitarian assistance.

Session 5: Presentation and Adoption of the INSARAG Abu Dhabi Declaration 2015

Mr. Jesper Lund, Chief Field Coordination Support Section and INSARAG Secretariat, OCHA, introduced the session adopting the Abu Dhabi Declaration. A short video was shown to the meeting of the response to the earthquake in Haiti, featuring the rescue of one young woman. Following the end of the film, Mr. Lund introduced the woman that was filmed in the video being rescued after eight days from under the rubble of a supermarket in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Ms. Hotteline Lozama then addressed the meeting, explaining what had happened to her after the earthquake and how she was rescued from the black hole in which she was trapped for eight days. Eventually she was heard and then became aware of her rescuers gradually cutting through the rubble towards her. After many hours she was released and brought to safety. She personally thanked the team that rescued her and to the INSARAG community for what they do.

The INSARAG Global Chair and the INSARAG Regional Chairs welcomed the Abu Dhabi Declaration, the revised Guidelines and the standards they represent. **Ambassador Toni Frisch** looked forward to the WHS in Istanbul next year, where INSARAG will go forward with Declaration based on the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality. **Sr. Roy Barboza Sequeira** said the Americas Region will find ways to support and promote the Guidelines and will continue with their activities in the Region including the SIMEX exercises. **Ms. Davene Vroon** committed the Asia-Pacific Region to implement the new Guidelines and to build national capabilities including light, nimble fast-moving teams and 'beyond the rubble' capabilities. **Lt. Col Mohammad Al-Ansari** said the Europe-Africa-Middle East Region is a region that will provide a lot of support for the Declaration. He added, "there is a lot of work to do but, looking around this hall, I see many people willing to do this work. We are going in the right direction, we are doing the right things and this is our commitment".

Mr. Rudolf Müller, Deputy Director and Chief, Emergency Services Branch, OCHA Geneva, then addressed the meeting, warmly welcoming the Abu Dhabi Declaration. He said that the Declaration highlighted the importance of embracing USAR work in the wider humanitarian field. He added that, "OCHA has many networks and we will host a networks and partnership week in February 2016. This will be an opportunity for INSARAG to influence and support the work toward the WHS in Istanbul".

The **INSARAG Abu Dhabi Declaration 2015 (Annex C)** was then formally adopted by the meeting. The INSARAG Global Chair, the Regional Chairs, Mr. Rudolf Müller, on behalf of OCHA, and the incoming INSARAG Global Chair, Ambassador Manuel Bessler signed a copy of the Declaration.

The Next Chapter and Closing Address

Mr. Jesper Lund introduced a video presentation about the 1998 Armenian earthquake that changed lives and history. Ms. Nelly Charchyan was injured in the rescue from her collapsed school during the earthquake. She used the experience to help others and now works herself for the Armenian emergency services. Mr. Lund told the meeting that the lessons learned in Armenia were what drove INSARAG to develop the coordination and response tools that we have now.

Ms. Nihan Erdogan shared some recollections of her experiences within INSARAG that showed how the organisation has continually pushed itself forwards to adapt and change. She felt that this was partly due to the contact that rescuers have directly with the affected populations and therefore they felt an imperative to always do better. This, she added, "means that INSARAG continues to be at the forefront of humanitarian response and can be an example to the wider humanitarian community". She shared some recollections of Toni Frisch and talked about his passion and drive and how he has guided and pushed the organisation to the point at which it is now. On behalf of the participants she thanked Toni for all his hard work, enthusiasm and commitment during the past 25 years.

Mr. Rudolf Müller spoke of the current healthy situation that INSARAG finds itself in with revised Guidelines and a peer review system that already has 43 members. He felt sure that this was mainly, "because of Toni's

leadership and drive". On behalf of OCHA, he thanked Ambassador Toni Frisch for all his work and support during his time as the Global Chair.

Representatives from each of the three Regions within the INSARAG community then added their thanks and good wishes to Toni Frisch, committing the organisation to carry on the good work that he has shown such dedication and commitment to over the past 25 years.

Ambassador Toni Frisch then shared some of his recollections of his time within the INSARAG system. He concluded by announcing that, "the chapters of the INSARAG book that I contributed to writing have finished and now others must continue to write the new chapters". He then expressed his thanks to the hosts of the Global Meeting, to the support of the staff of the facility and finally the participants for their continued hard work and support.

The INSARAG Member States and the meeting participants welcomed the new INSARAG Global Chair, **Ambassador Manuel Bessler** to the podium.

Ambassador Bessler began by thanking Toni Frisch for his "energy, drive and humanitarian principles that have guided the organisation over the last 25 years" and committed himself to continuing the good work as the incoming INSARAG Global Chair. He felt that the strength of INSARAG was in its partnerships, its Guidelines and its standards, adding that the putting aside politics and other considerations to save lives was a very noble cause.

The important principles by which INSARAG should be guided are inclusiveness, delivering the quality of response, openness, transparency and standards. Delivering the training for first responders, empowering the regions, spreading the ownership the organisation, these were issues that he identified with. He warned the participants "INSARAG does not work in a vacuum and other responders will come in. We need to be open and ready to work in partnerships with these organisations to meet the needs on the ground". He concluded by affirming that he looked forward to his term in the role of Global Chair and to the challenges that awaited him and he welcomed the participants to join him in this journey.

Poland indicated their intent, to host the third INSARAG Global Meeting in 2020.

The Global INSARAG Chair, Ambassador Manuel Bessler thanked the organisers and staff and officially closed the meeting.

Meeting closed at 17:00.

Annex A – List of Participants

Country	Organization	Name	Title	E-mail
Algeria	Civil Protection	Merizek Keffous	SIG	Keffous_m@yahoo.fr
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Bangladesh	Bangladesh Fire Service	Ali Ahmed Khan	Brigadier	dgfire_service@yahoo.com
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Belarus	Ministry of Emergency Situations	Dzmitry Tkachuk	Chief	tdn17gt@yandex.ru
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Belgium	Royal Military Academy of Belgium	Liliana Daniela Dorottei	End User Liaison Officer	
Belgium	Royal Military Academy of Belgium	Geert De Cubber	Project Coordinator	
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Annex B – Global Meeting Agenda

Sunday, 18 October

- 11:00 – 12:00 **Official Opening of INSARAG Global Meeting - Theme: “Fit for the Future”**
- Lt. General Saif Abdullah Al Sha'far, Undersecretary, Ministry of Interior, United Arab Emirates
- Ms. Kyung-wha Kang, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
- Ambassador Toni Frisch, INSARAG Global Chair
- 12:00 – 13:00 Lunch Break
- 13:00 – 14:30 **Session 1 – Humanitarian Effectiveness: Setting Global ‘Preparedness and Response’ Standards for INSARAG**
- Chair and Moderator
Mr. Rudolf Müller, Deputy Director and Chief, Emergency Services Branch, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
- Panel Composition
Ambassador Manuel Bessler, Ambassador and Delegate for Humanitarian Aid, Head of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and Chair, INSARAG Guidelines Review Group
2015 Revised INSARAG Guidelines
- Mr. Paul Baxter, Chief Executive and National Commander, New Zealand Fire Services
INSARAG External Classification (IEC) System
- Mr. Rameshwor Dangal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Nepal
Nepal Earthquake Response
- 14:30 – 15:00 Tea/Coffee Break
- 15:00 – 16:30 **Session 2 – INSARAG's Contribution to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030**
- Chair and Moderator
Ms. Wendy Cue, Head of Office, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
- Panel Composition
Ambassador Toni Frisch, INSARAG Global Chair
Evolution of Preparedness and National Capacity Building in INSARAG
- Mr. Shigenobu Kobayashi, Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Japan
Sendai Framework: Where does INSARAG fit?
- Sr. Ricardo Toro Tassara, Director, National Emergency Office, Ministry of Interior and Public Security, Government of Chile and Chair, INSARAG Americas Regional Group

National USAR Capacity Building

16:30 – 20:00 Free Evening - Optional Dinner Event

Monday, 19 October

09:00 – 10:45 **Session 3 – Partnerships and Engagement at All Levels**

Chair and Moderator

Mr. Saeed Hersi, Head of Office, Gulf Liaison Office, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Panel Composition

Lt. Col. Dr. Hamad Al Darmaki, Abu Dhabi Civil Defense
Strengths of Regional Alliance and Partnerships

Dr. Ian Norton, Technical Advisor and FMT Project Lead, World Health Organization
Setting Standards for Medical First Response

Mr. Dewey Perks, Disaster Resources Unit Leader, United States Agency for International Development / Office of United States Foreign Disaster Assistance and Chair, INSARAG Training Working Group
First Responders and Community Preparedness

Mr. Albrecht Broemme, President, German Federal Agency for Technical Relief
Importance of Community Volunteerism

10:45 – 11:15 Tea/Coffee Break

11:15 – 13:00 **Session 4 – Disaster Response in a Changing Humanitarian Landscape**

Chair and Moderator

Ambassador Manuel Bessler, Ambassador and Delegate for Humanitarian Aid, Head of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and incoming INSARAG Global Chair

Panel Composition

Mr. Robert Smith, Head of Geneva Office, World Humanitarian Summit Secretariat, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
Lessons from the World Humanitarian Consultation Process: Where does INSARAG fit?

Mr. Kemal Koçak, INSARAG Operational Focal Point, Department of Response, Disaster and Emergency Management Authority, Republic of Turkey Prime Ministry
National Disaster Management

Mr. Juha Auvinen, Head of Emergency Response Unit, Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection, European Commission
Regional Response Arrangements

Ms. Adelina Kamal, Head of Disaster Management, Association of Southeast Asian Nations
Regional Response Arrangements

Dr. Adel bin Khalifa Al-Zayani, Head of Humanitarian Affairs and Environment, Gulf Cooperation Council
Regional Response Arrangements

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Sr. Roy Barboza Sequeira, Executive Secretary, Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America
Regional Response Arrangements

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:00 **Session 5 - Presentation and Adoption of the INSARAG Abu Dhabi Declaration 2015**

Mr. Jesper Lund, Chief Field Coordination Support Section and INSARAG Secretariat, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Mr. Rudolf Müller, Deputy Director and Chief, Emergency Services Branch, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Ambassador Toni Frisch, INSARAG Global Chair

15:00 – 16:00 **INSARAG – The Next Chapter and Closing Address**

Mr. Jesper Lund, Chief Field Coordination Support Section and INSARAG Secretariat, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Mr. Rudolf Müller, Deputy Director and Chief, Emergency Services Branch, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Ambassador Toni Frisch, Outgoing INSARAG Global Chair

Ambassador Manuel Bessler, Ambassador and Delegate for Humanitarian Aid, Head of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and incoming INSARAG Global Chair

16:00 – 16:30 Closing Tea/Coffee Break

End of INSARAG Global Meeting

Annex C – INSARAG Abu Dhabi Declaration 2015

Strengthening Preparedness and Response Standards of National and International Urban Search and Rescue Operations

The International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) reaffirms its commitment to United Nations (UN) General Assembly resolution 57/150 of 2002 on 'Strengthening the effectiveness and coordination of international urban search and rescue assistance' from 2015 to 2020.

INSARAG's objectives were agreed during the INSARAG Global Meeting 2015 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, attended by 300 participants from over 90 countries and organizations. The objectives are constituted to complement and enhance the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, and to advance the progress made since the agreement of the INSARAG Hyogo Declaration in 2010 by 188 participants from 77 countries and organizations.

INSARAG appreciates the support expressed by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in its capacity as the INSARAG secretariat, by the United Nations Economic and Social Council and by the UN General Assembly in their endorsement of and encouragement to INSARAG and its activities.

INSARAG expresses its gratitude to the Government of United Arab Emirates for hosting this second INSARAG Global Meeting.

In light of the progress INSARAG has made in the past 25 years to create and cultivate a coordinated professional USAR network that aims to ensure rapid search-and-rescue preparedness and response in support of affected people and Governments in sudden-onset disasters, the INSARAG 2015 Global Meeting hereby resolves the following:

1. *Urges* the Member States of the United Nations to continue to fully support the implementation of the provisions of **UN General Assembly resolution 57/150** of 16 December 2002 on '*Strengthening the effectiveness and coordination of international urban search and rescue assistance*' and the activities of INSARAG, including the priorities and objectives as laid out by the **INSARAG Strategy**, and refined by the Regional Groups to cover the period from **2015 to 2020**.
2. *Reaffirms* full support for **disaster-affected countries** in executing their **sovereign role** to initiate, coordinate and organize international humanitarian assistance on their territories within the framework of the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality, and to facilitate the access and operations of international USAR teams as long as requested.
3. *Endorses* the revised and updated **INSARAG Guidelines 2015** as a set of detailed documents that use the lessons learned since INSARAG's inception and comprehensively detail the preparedness and response methodologies of INSARAG, and encourages Member States to **adopt** the Guidelines in their disaster response plans.
4. *Calls* upon all USAR teams and their respective institutions responding internationally to earthquakes to make full use of and adhere to the **field coordination** procedures established by OCHA and the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team (UNDAC), as described in the INSARAG Guidelines, including coordination of on-site work with the Reception Departure Centre (**RDC**) and the On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (**OSOCC**) established in the disaster area.
5. *Urges* all Member States possessing USAR teams with international deployment mandates to ensure that their teams adhere to the **internationally agreed standards** through their participation in the INSARAG External Classification (**IEC**) and Reclassification (**IER**), supported by mentors from Member States that have IEC teams, while adhering to humanitarian principles and fostering mutual respect.

6. *Commits*, at all levels i.e. global, regional and national, to **inclusivity**, and to renew efforts to strengthen and consolidate further **cooperation** between the three INSARAG Regional Groups, and with regional and sub-regional organizations, especially in the areas of preparedness, capacity-building, operations and training, as well as among Member States in each region.
7. *Encourages* the INSARAG Regional Groups to fully support and promote the development of **national USAR capacities** and building of greater engagement with Light teams, and urges all Member States to ensure **ownership** of the process to strengthen national capacity; a shift that is reflected in humanitarian and development policies more broadly as a means to manage risk and make best use of local capacities and experiences.
8. *Recognizes* the work undertaken by INSARAG to develop **innovations** in and recommendations for operational and organizational guidelines for the capacity-building of national USAR teams, and encourages Member States to support such efforts, fully recognizing that **international response is a complement to national capacity**.
9. *Ascertains* the **increasing and expanding role of international USAR teams** i.e. 'beyond the rubble', in response to major disasters—as demonstrated following the earthquakes in New Zealand and Japan in 2011, following Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in 2013, and the Nepal earthquake in 2015, where international USAR teams provided services beyond the usual suite of USAR services—calls upon INSARAG to continue to facilitate and encourage the development and deployment of such adaptable and flexible support.
10. *Acknowledges* the determination of INSARAG members to **strengthen their collaboration** with OCHA, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the World Health Organization (WHO), relevant UN agencies and Regional Organizations in order to stimulate concerted action during preparedness and response.
11. *Aims* to reduce vulnerability as an underlying risk factor by developing in-country USAR capacity through the **First Responders Training Programme**, developed in collaboration with IFRC, and to build back better following a disaster to contribute to seamless recovery, giving due consideration to the influence of the processes and outcomes of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016 and the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development in 2016.
12. *Expresses* satisfaction with the outcome of the second INSARAG Global Meeting and affirms our intent to hold the **next** INSARAG Global Meeting in **2020**.