



INSARAG

AMERICAS REGIONAL CHAIRMANSHIP GROUP

Presidency MEXICO: Lic. Ricardo de la Cruz Musalem, Director-General of Civil Protection, Governance Secretariat

I Vice-Presidency ARGENTINA: Amb. Alejandro Carlos Daneri, President of the White Helmets Commission

II Vice-Presidency DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: BGen. Ab. Dr. Juan Manuel Méndez García, Director of the Emergency Operations Centre

News Bulletin, 2018/05

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am pleased to acknowledge that during the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week, for the first time in INSARAG history the Americas was truly heard at the global level as one of the regions most affected by emergencies.

I feel proud to lead this region, where due to the recent emergencies we are beginning to speak the same language, which guarantees and streamlines the support between the countries in the region, which translates into a true

strengthening of regional capacities.

Congratulations to all of us who are part of this great team, as natural disasters know no borders.

Ricardo de la Cruz Musalem
Director-General of Mexican Civil Protection

INSARAG STEERING GROUP MEETING

The INSARAG Steering Group meeting took place on 8 February in Geneva, Switzerland. Several countries from the region, including the Regional Chairmanship Group, participated and represented the Americas in important discussions about national accreditation and classification of international light teams. Among the numerous sessions, lessons learned from the 19 September Mexico Earthquake were shared. Chairman's Summary of the meeting is available on the INSARAG website: <https://bit.ly/2sq1R5t>.

USAR COORDINATION COURSE IN FAIRFAX, USA

The third USAR Coordination Course in the Americas took place from 26 February to 1 March 2018 in Fairfax, USA. A total of 18 participants from Argentina, Canada, the UK and the US were trained in the key aspects of USAR coordination using the INSARAG methodology. The course package was developed in 2016 by the INSARAG Training Working Group to train USAR staff and UNDAC members with experience in USAR coordination methodologies.

REGIONAL WORK PLAN

In its face-to-face meeting on 9 February 2018, the Regional Chairmanship Group elaborated the Regional Workplan for this year, based on the inputs received by the Regional Group in its meeting in 2017. The Chairmanship Group hopes to count on the participation of all countries of the Regional Group to achieve the objectives of the region. You can find the document here: http://www.insarag.org/images/Americas_RWP_2018.pdf.



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CLASSIFICATION OF THE SNGRD COLOMBIA USAR TEAM



On 9 March 2018, the USAR team of the National Disaster Risk Management System of Colombia (USAR-COL) successfully classified as a Medium USAR team according to global INSARAG standards, becoming the fourth classified team in the region and the second in Latin America. Congratulations to the entire team!

The purpose of the INSARAG External Classification (IEC) system is to provide a better understanding of the individual abilities of USAR teams making themselves available for international assistance. Having teams classified according to a standard enables disaster-affected countries to prioritize acceptance of international response support from USAR Teams who can add proven value to their national capacity. The IEC is an independent, verifiable, voluntary process that has received unanimous acceptance through the INSARAG.



FIRST COURSE ON PLANNING AND CONTROL OF EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE EXERCISES

In preparation for the Regional Earthquake Response Exercise (SIMEX), which will take place from 8 to 12 October 2018 in the city of Salta in Argentina, the first Course on Planning and Control of Earthquake Response Exercises was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina from 15 to 16 May. The course was supported and promoted by the Americas Regional Chairmanship Group and provided a platform to train and expand the pool of experts for the planning and coordination of such exercises. The course faculty consisted of the most experienced personnel in leading the development of SIMEX events in the region.



The course provided tools and guidance for the management of exercises, including recommendations for the planning and coordination of logistical and organizational requirements and processes leading to a successful exercise. Sixteen participants from Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Uruguay, as well as staff of OCHA, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Argentina completed the course

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ✓ **23-28 de septiembre** –INSARAG Methodology Course, San José, Costa Rica
- ✓ **8-12 de octubre** – Regional Earthquake Response Exercise (SIMEX), Salta, Argentina
- ✓ **5-6 de noviembre** – INSARAG Americas Regional Group Meeting, Mexico City, Mexico

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