

INSARAG Americas Regional Chairmanship Group

Chair ECUADOR: Mayor (B) Jorge Martínez Loiza, Undersecretary for Preparedness and Response in the Risk Management Secretariat

I Vice-Chair MEXICO: Lic. Ricardo de la Cruz Musalem, General Director of Civil Protection, Ministry of the Interior

II Vice-Chair ARGENTINA: Ambassador Alejandro Daneri, President of the White Helmets Commission, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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MESSAGE

National Accreditation - a process that seeks to ensure the interoperability of National USAR teams at the different levels of response

The earthquake on April 16, 2016 left valuable lessons, including the need of establishing a National Accreditation Process for search and rescue teams. This process was designed within the framework of the INSARAG methodology, ensuring the provision of standards and norms that guarantee the interoperability of teams at the different response levels during an adverse event. It is key for an adequate coordination and development of urban search and rescue (USAR) operations that national rescue teams use a common technical language. Against this background, the 1st National Accreditation Exercise of USAR teams took place on May 4, 5 and 6, 2017, where the application of procedures and protocols was assessed as well as an on-site verification of the resources presented in the documentary phase. As a result, three teams received the national accreditation, 1 light team and 1 medium team from the Guayaquil Fire Department, and 1 medium team from the Quito Fire Department.



KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Secretariat of INSARAG together with the Americas Regional Chairmanship Group made the selection of the candidates of the Technical Support Group -GTA in charge of the implementation of the INSARAG External Support and Recognition Process on national USAR team accreditation process – IESRP. A workshop was held from 20th – 23rd June in Santiago de Chile to establish the terms of reference, protocols and procedures that will determine on how the GTA will work in support of the national authorities that make this type of request.

Attached the link with the relevant information developed in Chile.
<http://www.insarag.org/capacity-building/insarag-external-support-and-recognition-process>

INSARAG REGIONAL CALENDAR



- ✓ 13 – 17 November
IEC Chile, USAR Bomberos de Chile
- ✓ 21 – 23 November
Argentina national SIMEX in Barriloché
- ✓ 28 November - 1 December
INSARAG Regional Meeting and UNDAC Regional Consultation in Ecuador
- ✓ 4 – 8 December
USAR Coordination Course, San José, Costa Rica

ACTIVITIES OF RELEVANCE FOR THE REGION

USAR Coordination Course: From April 3-7, 2017, the II USAR Coordination Course took place in the city of Fairfax, Virginia - United States, which had as its target audience USAR team leaders, assistant leaders, and Operations or planning heads of INSARAG Classified teams and those in process of classification, as well as UNDAC members. The course was given in the form of trainer coaches. It should be noted that a similar course is planned in Spanish in order to continue strengthening the capacities of the region.

Operations Coordination –OSOCC Course: From June 26-30, 2017, the Operations Coordination Course was carried out in the city of San Juan, Costa Rica. Its main objective was training both emergency response generalists and operational specialists, so they can play their respective roles within the OSOCC structure; a coordination mechanism that is established by the UNDAC Team (United Nations Assessment and Coordination Team) after the request of the country affected by an adverse event.

Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2017: it was held in Cancun, Mexico from May 22 - 26, 2017. It was characterized by a format that made easier the dialogue and exchange among participants. The Forum of Leaders chaired by President Enrique Peña Nieto and Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Amina Mohamed, called the Heads of State, Heads of Government and leaders of the highest level of the private and social sectors to discuss the key strategies to face the increasing economic losses from disasters, focusing on infrastructure and housing. The platform gave as a result important commitments that seek to implement the Sendai Framework, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals; Paris Agreements and the Urban Agenda; Conducting a critical infrastructure risk assessment for 2019; Improvement of land use, building codes and accountability; as well as make resilience affordable; Reducing economic incentives to development considered vulnerable and making resilient investment profitable; the development of economic strategies should consider the risk of losses in infrastructure and housing.



USAR Coordination Course – Fairfax, April 2017



Operations Coordination (OSOCC) Course – Costa Rica, June 2017



Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2017

"... it is imperative that the decrease in the human and material damages that have been achieved in many countries become available to economically disadvantaged nations" - President Enrique Peña Nieto

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

With the aim to maintain a closer contact with all countries and organizations of the Regional Group, we have divided the countries and organizations as follows amongst ourselves:

- **Ecuador:** Peru, Colombia, Chile, Bolivia, Canada, USA
- **Mexico:** Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Panamá, Cuba.
- **Argentina:** Paraguay, Brazil, Venezuela, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Antigua & Barbuda, French Antilles
- **Secretariat/OCHA:** CDEMA, CEPREDENAC, PAHO, IFRC.

Hosting the Global Meeting of USAR Team Leaders 2018

All countries are invited to express their interest in hosting this event. In this case, the host country will offer conference services (a large meeting room (about 100 people) and some for small groups), assist with some logistical preparations and offer an official dinner. For more information and / or express of interest, contact Gintare Eidimtaite of the INSARAG Secretariat (E-mail: eidimtaite@un.org, Tel: +41 22 917 9619, Mob: +41 79 444 42 23) before 1 October, 2017.