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| **INSARAG Light Working Group (LTWG)**INSARAG LTWG Meeting, Valabre France, 8-10 april 2017Chairman’s Summary | insarag |

Background

At the INSARAG Steering Group Meeting (ISG) in 2016 the group directed the secretariat to initiate the establishment of an INSARAG Light Teams Working Group (LTWG) with clear terms of reference and to request INSARAG regional groups to nominate suitable members. Relevant members from existing working groups could be co-opted. The LTWG will take the lead and, following consultations with the regional groups in 2016, present the recommendations to the ISG of 2017 for a decision.

The LTWG is made up of representatives coming from the three INSARAG Regional Groups, and are selected from different USAR Teams Heavy, Medium and non-classified teams selected by the Secretariat. The LTWG is chaired by Arjan Stam, Team leader from the Dutch USAR team, chair of the UCC in the earthquake of Nepal, IEC/IER Team leader and member of the GRG. (see Annex A for members in LTWG)

The first meeting of the LTWG was held in Geneva from 15-17 June 2016, and was also attended by the chair of the TWG Mr. Dewey Perks.

The LTWG presented the results at the 2016 TL meeting in Tokyo and during the three regional meetings in 2016. With the results of these meetings the LTWG presented a final concept for International Light teams and proposals for the ISG Meeting of 2017. The ISG endorsed the definition, operations and tactical concept for “International Light Teams”. And agreed on the need for further discussions on the process of recognition and possible linkages with National Accreditation.

To finalize the concept for International Light teams and to define an advise, for the new working group on quality assurance, the LTWG assembled in the French national school for fire fighters "ECASC", Entente VALABRE from 8 to 10 April 2017.

Welcoming address

Arjan Stam, LTWG Chairman welcomed all participants, and expressed his appreciation for their involvement and motivation to the task. The French colleague Mr. Christian Baroux and his organisation are thanked for their hospitality and the organisation to make the meeting possible. The Chairman introduced the results from the ISG meeting and also explained the expected final steps which would be necessary to achieve the results of the working group.

Mr Jesper Lund, Chief of Field Coordination Support Section (FCSS), OCHA-Geneva, informed the Chairman just before the meeting about the importance of the assignment of the LTWG and the direction forward on the outcome of the ISG 2017. The involvement and participation of the LTWG participants is well appreciated by FCSS.

Agenda for the meeting

The Chairman described his view on the design of the agenda and the tasks in the following three days. The LTWG adapts the following tasks;

* Finalizing the concept for International Light Team operations on basis of the advice from the TL meeting.
* Clarify the discussion on difference between international assistance and assistance to a neighbouring country.
* Design a quality assuring process for International Light teams as an advice for the Quality Assurance WG
* Prepare an advice for the GRG to implement International Light Teams in 2020

Outcome 8th of April

The LTWG shared experiences of the members on the Tokyo TL meeting and checked the sheets of the outcome of the `breakout sessions`. Where necessary the concept of International Light Teams has been improved on to the level that it is possible to implement it in the existing systems. A paper with the introduction to International Light Teams is produced.

The LTWG has well noted the discussion about quality assurance during the different attended international meetings. Bringing in the new description off International Light capability means that it has to fit in between Domestic capability and the Heavy and Medium International capability. During the earthquakes of Nepal 2015 and Ecuador 2016 it has been proven that Light teams can enhance the needed capability. The Light capacity has been offered as an International assignment and as an assistance to a neighbouring country.

Knowing the practice of the existing USAR assistance in the different forms the LTWG designed a picture in which the different situations in the world are made clear. As a result from this USAR assistance picture the LTWG thinks that a common understanding of the needs for quality assurance in USAR operations can be made clear.

Outcome 9th of April

The LTWG used the second day in finalizing the assistance picture and started with the principals for quality assurance for International Light Teams. Knowing the quality standard for Heavy and Medium the LTWG came up with a design where the existing standards are kept and the required capacity for peer review is reduced. The LTWG prepared the quality assistance model and process in a way that it is partly integrated in the existing international exercises. This model will be given to the new Quality Assurance working group as an advice and can be used to be part of further discussions within the network.

Outcome 10th of April

The LTWG continued the design of the process of quality assurance of International Light Teams to a level that is presentable to the network of INSARAG.

Furthermore the LTWG worked on the advice to the GRG. The INSARAG Guidelines has been checked on every Volume to look for possible changes on the fact that the ISG has endorsed the International Light concept. The LTWG prepared the different Volumes and Manuals to a level that the GRG can determine if the suggested changes to the text and tables is appropriate.

Next steps

The following points were agreed among the LTWG.

* The finalizing of the work will be done in different tasks by the LTWG members present in the meeting.
* The results of the different tasks will be shared at the end of May for final consultation in the LTWG.
* To finalize the LTWG assignment the results will be shared with FCSS and shared with the network.
* The LTWG chair will ask FCSS for discharge on basis of the quality of the results of the working group.
* The LTWG members are asked if they are available for the following work in the QAWG and if possible to inform the chair.

Concluding remarks

The chairman of the LTWG expressed his appreciation to the dedication that LTWG members provided during the meeting in Valabre, and also thanked the cooperation and support from the host for organizing the meeting.

The professionalism, creative thinking and motivation of all working group members made it possible to achieve a new concept and the supporting elements which will strengthen the INSARAG system and network. The assignment by the ISG has been completed in a short period and in International harmony and cooperation.

Annexes

**Annex A: List of participants**

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