

Chairman summary

CREATING PARTNERSHIPS WHICH SAVE LIVES

XVIII Meeting of the INSARAG Regional Group & VI UNDAC Regional Consultation meeting in the Americas

12-14 November 2019
Buenos Aires, Argentina



Executive summary

The XVIII Meeting of the INSARAG Regional Group in the Americas and the VI UNDAC Regional Consultation meeting were held jointly from 12-14 November 2019 in the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina. The meeting was hosted by the Government of Argentina through the White Helmets Commission of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, in its capacity as INSARAG Regional Chair and organized jointly with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), in its capacity as INSARAG Secretariat.

The meeting was opened by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Argentine Republic, Ambassador Jorge Marcelo Faurie in the Palacio San Martin. The Minister underlined his country's commitment to INSARAG and multilateralism under the coordination of the United Nations, inviting participants to take advantage of the forum of the meeting to promote and improve the work carried out jointly. Ambassador Alejandro Daneri, President of the White Helmets Commission and INSARAG Regional Chair in 2019, Mr. Carlos Passarelli, United Nations Resident Coordinator ad interim and Mr. Dario Alvarez, representative of the OCHA Regional Office also gave welcoming speeches.

A total of 49 participants from 16 countries, as well from the Organization of American Firefighters (OBA in Spanish) and OCHA gathered in the meeting. Countries and organizations were represented by their INSARAG and/or UNDAC focal points.

Unlike previous years, it was this time to fully integrate the UNDAC and INSARAG agenda into one meeting, with the intention of promoting the identification of synergies and increasing the level of awareness of both networks by all participants.

Below is the summary of the meeting. All presentations as well as meeting documents can be found on the meeting website of the Virtual OSOCC (https://vosocc.unocha.org/rss/6482w_INSARAGUNDACArgentina2019.html) as well as on www.insarag.org.

Table of contents

Executive summary	2
I. Session 1 – INSARAG in the Americas in 2019	3
II. Session 2 – INSARAG in 2019 at global level	3
III. Session 3 – INSARAG Guidelines revision	3
IV. Session 4 – Regional SIMEX	5
V. Session 5 – Experience with specific emergencies: Bahamas	5
VI. Session 6 – The UNDAC in the Americas and the Caribbean	6
VII. Session 7 – UNDAC: expectations, challenges, opportunities	6
VIII. Session 8 – Fit for the future: particularities, synergies, objectives and adaptations	7
IX. Session 9 – Specific interest topics	8
X. Session 10 – Contributions to a new INSARAG global strategy 2020-25 and the UNDAC-INSARAG regional work plan 2020	9
XI. Announcement of international events	9
XII. Designation of II Vice-chair for 2020 & Confirmation of the Regional Chairmanship Group 2020	9
XIII. Acknowledgements	10
Annex 1 – FINAL AGENDA	11
Annex 2 – Institutionalization of the Technical Support and Recognition Group (GTA / GTR) at the level of the region	14
Annex 3 – Proposal: Creation of a global level INSARAG working group on the national accreditation process	15
Annex 4 – Notes from the discussions, session 8: Fit for the future: particularities, synergies, objectives and adaptations ..	17
Annex 5 – Notes from the discussion, session 10: Contributions to a new INSARAG global strategy 2020-25 and the UNDAC-INSARAG regional work plan 2020	19
Annex 6 - List of participants	23

I. Session 1 – INSARAG in the Americas in 2019

Ambassador Daneri, INSARAG Regional Chair, presented the summary of achievements and milestones in the region in 2019 and what the region contributed to the global level. The following events were specifically mentioned: the INSARAG global Team Leaders' meeting hosted by Chile, the regional SIMEX organized by Cuba, the INSARAG meeting within the framework of the 9th meeting of the MIAH (International Humanitarian Assistance Mechanisms), as well as the work done on the national accreditation process and the new draft guidance note on the INSARAG-recognized National Accreditation Process (IRNAP) and the proposal presented by the Americas region (and accepted globally) to add the aspect of national coordination capacities to the priority topics for the 2020-25 strategy.

The countries then presented one by one the USAR capabilities at the national level and the progress in the implementation of the INSARAG methodology and standards.

II. Session 2 – INSARAG in 2019 at global level

Mr Christophe Schmachtel, OCHA/Secretariat presented a summary of global activities; the 2019 action points from the Steering Group and the work carried out and yet to be done by the INSARAG Working Groups.

III. Session 3 – INSARAG Guidelines revision

The session was chaired by Mr. Martin Gómez Lissarrague, INSARAG operational focal point of Argentina on behalf of the INSARAG regional chairmanship. It was explained that the regional chairmanship group had taken the decision to focus the discussions of the Regional Group on the aspects of the INSARAG Guidelines that have more relevance in the region and on which there are specific contributions that the region wishes to present as a Regional Group, making it clear that everyone still has the possibility of providing their individual contributions through the consultation process that is open until 30 November 2019.

Mr. Sebastian Mocarquer, Bomberos de Chile and member of the INSARAG Guidelines Review Working Group presented the Guidelines review process, the structure of the document and the main changes proposed.

Mr. Schmachtel, OCHA / Secretariat presented in more detail Volume I of the Guidelines with a focus on the proposed changes and the following recommendations were agreed by the Regional Group:

- **Recommendations on Volume I – Policy:**

- **Recommendation 3.1.:** The Regional Group supports the formalization of the role of the regional chairmanship groups in the INSARAG Steering Group at a global level; however, in order to be transparent, the Regional Group strongly recommends that the INSARAG Steering Group – in its reduced composition – does not meet behind closed doors but as an open meeting, noting that only the reduced composition has the right to speak and vote.
- **Recommendation 3.2.:** The Regional Group recommends that the Guidelines provide clearer explanation of some governance aspects, such as the selection/ election of the representatives of some instances, e.g. the representative of the USAR team leaders in the INSARAG Steering Group.
- **Recommendation 3.3.:** The Regional Group takes note of the formalization of the figure of the USAR team focal point in addition to the national policy and operational focal points, but with the additional indication that it should not be mandatory and that the role be mainly one of ensuring the relationship with the INSARAG policy and operational focal point at the country level and that the designation shall be the responsibility of each team (noting that it would be expected that this generally be the team leader).
- **Recommendation 3.4.:** The Regional Group considers that section 2.4 be called “basic principles” as what is mentioned there are not values nor norms but principles.
- **Recommendation 3.5.:** The Regional Group requests that the responsibility of the affected country to establish the RDC be added in all pertinent sections of the Guidelines.
- **Recommendation 3.6.:** The Regional Group recommends that the experience and lessons learnt coming from the regional exercises (SIMEX) be added as a component in section 6 (conclusion) on the basis of which the Guidelines are continuously improved, in addition to the lessons learnt from international USAR responses.

Mr. Mocarquer presented a summary the current contents of Volume II, Manual A Capacity Building. Then, Mr. Martin Gómez Lissarrague, Argentina's operational focal point and member of the regional roster of the Technical Support Group (TSG) on the national accreditation process, presented the results of the TSG Workshop that was held in Chile just prior to USAR team leaders meeting, 6-8 October this year.

As a result of the workshop held in Chile, work has been carried out on the following proposals that were presented by members of the regional roster of the Technical Support Group (TSG) on the national accreditation process:

- Proposal for an IRNAP guidance note and its annexes (as an update of the IESRP Manual), presented by Walter Fonseca, Costa Rica operational focal point (see the guidance note in a separate document)
- Proposal for institutionalization of the Technical Support and Recognition Group (TSG/ TRG) at the regional level, presented by M. Gómez Lissarrague, Argentina (see concept note in annex)
- Proposal for the creation of a global Working Group on national accreditation processes, presented by M. Gómez Lissarrague, Argentina (see concept note and proposed terms of reference in annex)

The following recommendations and decisions were adopted by the Regional Group:

- **On Volume II A – Capacity strengthening**
 - **Recommendation 3.7.:** The Regional Group recommends that the INSARAG recognition of a national accreditation process be called “IRNAP”: INSARAG Recognized National Accreditation Process and that the reference to INAP (INSARAG National Accreditation Process) be avoided, since this denomination leads to confusion.
 - **Recommendation 3.8.:** In accordance with the recommendation of the INSARAG 2019 Team Leaders meeting, the Regional Group recommends separating the support phase from the recognition stage in order to establish an independent quality assurance process. The roster of experts will be the same, but they will be constituted in the support phase as “Technical support group” and in the evaluation and verification phase as “Technical recognition group” and should not be the same persons when working on a specific country.
 - **Recommendation 3.9.:** The Regional Group recommends that the observation of an accreditation exercise of a national team be mandatory for the final verification visit of the Technical Recognition Group
 - **Recommendation 3.10.:** The Regional Group recommends that in addition to the capabilities of the national teams, the USAR coordination capacities and mechanisms be specifically mentioned as a requirement of the IRNAP, both to activate and coordinate the national response and to receive the regional / international response.
 - **Recommendation 3.11.:** The Regional Group recommends incorporating in Volume II a description of the responsibilities of stakeholders in the IRNAP process (see its description in the IRNAP guidance note).
- **Suggested draft IRNAP Guidance Note and its annexes**
 - **Recommendation 3.12.:** The Regional Group endorses the draft IRNAP guidance note (as updated version of the IESRP Manual) and requests that it be transmitted to the GRG and the INSARAG Steering Group in order to be included as a guidance note in the online part of the INSARAG Guidelines in a similar fashion as the INSARAG External Classification Manual and the Coordination Manual
- **Proposal for the institutionalization of the Technical Support Group/ Technical Recognition Group at the regional level**
 - **Decision 3.1.:** The Regional Group decides to institutionalize the roster of the Technical Support and Recognition Group (TSG/TRG) and to include the activities required in the regional work plan, giving the necessary support to carry out its activities.
- **Proposal to create a global level INSARAG working group on the national accreditation process**
 - **Recommendation 3.13.:** Considering the global interest generated by the guidance on national accreditation processes and taking into account that it is still a very “young” area in INSARAG's work that requires a lot of exchange of experiences and adapted guidance, the Regional Group recommends the INSARAG Steering Group to create a specific Global Working Group on national accreditation processes (see the concept note and the suggested terms of reference in annex).

IV. Session 4 – Regional SIMEX

The session was chaired by Mr. Eduardo José González Angulo, national director of the UNGRD Colombia and II Vice-chair of the INSARAG Regional Group. Mr. Dario Alvarez, OCHA, provided a summary of the evolution of the SIMEX at the regional level since its inception almost 10 years ago. If initially it was an exercise focused on international interaction mainly between USAR teams, the national component gained much more relevance and now it is basically the anchor of the exercise. He also recalled that the preparation of an exercise is not an issue of one month; it takes several months, up to a year or longer given that it is an emergency preparedness planning process for a situation, which requires regional and international assistance. The SIMEX has also gradually been expanded to include other response mechanisms, such as the full participation of the United Nations system, emergency medical teams (EMT) and health ministries, other actors at the national level, and it is suggested to also consider those who have not yet been very prominent but generally play a role in such emergencies, like military actors.

Colonel (r) L.A. Macareño, Second Chief of the National Civil Defense in Cuba, presented the achievements and results of the SIMEX that took place in Cuba from 16-20 September with 231 participants from 15 countries and 9 organizations representing urban search and rescue teams (USAR), emergency medical teams (EMT) as well as the UNDAC team and the United Nations system in the country. Colonel Macareño emphasized the participation of all national institutions coordinated by the civil defense system and presented the following main conclusions:

- When hit by an earthquake, Cuba maintains its governance, as a result of the capacity of the Civil Defense System led at the highest level, demonstrating the expression of political will, which ensures the permanent coordination and cohesion of all actors in society in their implementation of the disaster response and recovery actions and in case of acceptance of international assistance articulates international mechanisms with national ones.
- The affected country can organize with the national structures the Reception and Departure Center (RDC) for the teams that will participate in the international response as well as the USAR Coordination Cell.
- It is possible to include in the exercise the participation of the Diplomatic Corps accredited in the affected country as an observer, especially those whose country provides assistance through a USAR or Emergency Medical Team.
- To incorporate in the Emergency Medical Teams specialists in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, recognizing the importance of early rehabilitation for the recovery of those injured, as experience of the Cuban brigades Henry Reeve.
- The SIMEX exercise can be organized with the minimum necessary resources, without losing the instructional and methodological rigor.

The discussion highlighted the value of the SIMEX for countries that could participate with their teams – be it USAR or EMT – in getting to know the structure, system or procedures applicable in the emergency response in Cuba.

- **Recommendation 4.1.:** It is recommended that the Regional Group establish a planning calendar of at least 2 years in advance to define the host countries of the regional SIMEX, so that all required processes and opportunities can be taken benefit of to strengthen the capacity of the host country and the international participants.
 - When defining and accepting host countries, the following aspects should be considered: possible scenario in the country, existing capacities, prior implementation of SIMEXes,
 - Expansion of the scenarios to other search and rescue scenarios (cyclones, floods)

V. Session 5 – Experience with specific emergencies: Bahamas

The session was facilitated by Mr Alvarez, OCHA, who outlined the context in which the response to the emergency caused by Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas was mobilized. Mr Schmachtel, OCHA/Secretariat presented the work carried out by OCHA, together with members from the UNDAC team and partners who formed a coordination support team to the Government working on information management, needs assessment and coordination. The presentation underlined the context of a massive impact and destruction in the islands of Abaco and Grand Bahamas due to the force of the hurricane, the slowness with which it moved and the storm surge. There was intense media attention in the early days, and many national, regional and international actors responded but the humanitarian impact remained relatively limited.

OCHA deployed the first staff together with the rapid needs assessment team (RNAT) deployed by CDEMA and at this time also requested the deployment of its partner, MapAction to support the GIS data and mapping component. Then, due to the impact of the hurricane, and based on discussions with the Resident Coordinator a.i. and the Government, OCHA reinforced its presence with more staff, members of the UNDAC team and partners, such as the Americas Support Team (AST) for logistics and establishment of a coordination center in Abaco that served as the local EOC on the island for local authorities. Mr. Schmachtel explained that in this emergency, the UNDAC members were integrated into an OCHA team and worked together with the partners as a United Nations coordination support team.

Mr. Joseph Kaleda presented the response from USAID, which was initiated bilaterally in support of the Government of the Bahamas and included a DART team, the US Coast Guards, Defense Department capabilities, two medium search and rescue teams urban, a DART base camp module and the AST team with the camp module in support of the United Nations. It was a fairly *sui generis* response because of its proximity to the US, and it should not be considered that this can be replicated elsewhere. In terms of the search and rescue operations, he clarified that it was not really a situation of aquatic rescue as by the time of the arrival of the team, the waters had already receded to the sea, as usually happens in floods caused by the surge.

After the presentations, comments arose about the need for the response to be rapid and regional, especially for first responders; the need for INSARAG as a network to reflect on the possibility of adapting the capabilities of the teams to a response in these types of scenarios; and the need for OCHA to communicate clearly on the modalities of how to work as an integrated team with UNDAC members and partners.

VI. Session 6 – The UNDAC in the Americas and the Caribbean

Mr Schmachtel presented the concept of the UNDAC team, its functioning and the current status of the team in the region as well as the regional priorities for 2019, in line with the UNDAC strategy 2018-2021.

VII. Session 7 – UNDAC: expectations, challenges, opportunities

Based on the previous sessions, Mr Schmachtel, OCHA/Secretariat explained the purpose of this session as being to stimulate a discussion and critical evaluation of the UNDAC team in the Americas region and on how the UNDAC mechanism should adapt to respond to the evolving needs.

The following topics were discussed with the contributions summarized in the bullet points:

- **The value of the UNDAC team in the humanitarian architecture at the regional level**
 - The specific value of national members within the UNDAC system was highlighted as they have a different type of contact with national systems - closer, as peer-to-peer - compared to members of UN agencies;
 - The main value of the team is its mixed composition with staff from national systems as well as from regional and international humanitarian organizations and combined with that the professionalism, knowledge of the countries' disaster management systems, the commitment of its members, their empathy and their flexible adaptation capabilities
 - The role of the UNDAC team for specific emergencies such as the oil spill in Colombia in 2018 was underlined.
 - The added value for the countries was underlined in having personnel as part of the UNDAC team with experience in missions outside their countries who are of benefit when returning from mission with greater experience and valuable knowledge for the national system itself
 - While there are more and more actors, particularly NGOs, in the field of emergency preparedness and response, the role of the UNDAC team is very particular in terms of its mandate of work and direct support to governments.
- **The main challenges or risks faced by the UNDAC mechanism**
 - There is a growing perception on the part of UNDAC members that a preference is given to OCHA staff in the selection of members for missions
 - There is a stronger tendency for countries to deploy and accept bilateral response which may limit the availability and participation of UNDAC members in missions outside their national teams
 - There are scenarios that must be considered by the UNDAC team such as climate change, and integrating its implications in the preparedness and capacity building activities of national systems, not only focusing on the response aspect

- One challenge is that with other agencies or organizations that offer a service similar to the UNDAC team it is crucial to demonstrate the comparative advantage of the UNDAC team
 - With regard to decentralization, OCHA's vision regarding the UNDAC team and its management is not entirely clear, and it was suggested to formulate a specific vision from the region. Questions include: What does decentralization mean for OCHA? Is it just the physical presence of the regional focal point in the region or does it go beyond that? What about the administrative support staff left in Geneva? Is decentralization also considered with respect to governance, eg. Can we think of a "regional advisory board" for UNDAC as we have regional groups for INSARAG? How is the mission support role of the regional focal point covered if the person is also deployed on missions?
- **The adaptation opportunities for the mechanism**
 - It is suggested to enhance the role of the UNDAC team in capacity strengthening in the preparedness phase. If relationships are not established on a basis of trust in the preparedness phase, the tool is unlikely to be requested in the response to an emergency.
 - It is suggested to think of a more active role of the UNDAC Focal Point and of the UNDAC members in case of emergency in their own country, considering an advocacy role with their own authorities to request / accept an UNDAC team, as liaison staff of a UNDAC mission when it is deployed within their country. In this context, one can think of an operational focal point and a political focal point role for UNDAC issues.
 - It is important to make greater use of national UNDAC members, in line with profiles and comparative advantages, even more so as they are the ones working on a day-to-day basis in emergency management within national systems as compared to other members of agencies, NGOs, etc.
 - Efforts should be made to expand the number of team members without losing the requirements that guarantee quality. Encourage the participation of more women without affecting the selection criteria.
 - It is suggested to expand the awareness raising work with national authorities, regional cooperation mechanisms and other humanitarian actors in the countries and the region. These actions must be done on a permanent basis and part of a clearly planned strategy in order to achieve an impact.
 - It is suggested to ensure greater support for UNDAC missions (infrastructure, food, communications) since logistic support for UNDAC missions is of great importance to ensure maximum response quality. In this context, it is suggested to have quality standards in relation to logistics and mission support as the USAR teams have under the INSARAG methodology. For this we must investigate new and different alternatives and increase the network of partners for deployments.
 - **Recommendation 7.1.:** It is recommended that the main conclusions of the discussion be presented to the UNDAC Advisory Council at the regional level on behalf of the Americas region.

VIII. Session 8 – Fit for the future: particularities, synergies, objectives and adaptations

Mr. Schmachtel, OCHA explained that the session took place within a global context in which there is the intention of identifying the synergies between the different mechanisms and of proposing potential adaptations to obtain a better interoperability and efficiency in achieving the common objectives. The opportunity for this session is presented by the current development of a new INSARAG global strategy 2020-25, adjustments to the functioning of the UNDAC mechanism due to internal restructuring in OCHA as well as a desire to strengthen decentralization and an ownership by the regions.

The following questions were presented to guide the conversation that took place in groups:

- What are the specific objectives and particularities of each mechanism?
- What are or should be the common goals?
- What are the opportunities to create more synergies between both mechanisms as well as with other emergency preparedness and response mechanisms?
- What adaptations would be necessary and recommended?

In general, there is great support to link both mechanisms more closely, as well as seek closer partnerships and relationships with other parallel mechanisms.

The results of the discussions are found in the annex 4.

- ***Recommendation 8.1.:*** It is recommended that the contributions and comments collected during the discussion serve as input on behalf of the Americas region to the joint meeting planned between both mechanisms at the global level in the Humanitarian Networks and Partnership Meeting, from 3-7 February 2020.

IX. Session 9 – Specific interest topics

A. Acuerdo de colaboración INSARAG – OBA

Coronel Martin Cucalón de Ycaza, President of the OBA presented the organization and scope of activities, complemented by Mr Schmachel, OCHA/ Secretariat on the agreement signed between INSARAG and the OBA, and Mr Raul Bustos, President of Bomberos de Chile and focal point on behalf of the OBA for the activities with INSARAG.

The OBA is an international cooperation organization between fire institutions in the Americas region, which supports the development and professionalization of fire and rescue institutions in order to contribute to disaster risk reduction efforts in the region.

The partnership between INSARAG and OBA recognizes the added value in the collaboration between both networks and institutions. The letter of understanding is attached in annex. After the signing of the letter, there were a series of conversations between the INSARAG Secretariat and the OBA representation and the following focus areas are being suggested as the main areas of collaboration:

- The design and realization of a virtual course open to the international community on the INSARAG 2020 Guidelines, with the possibility of designing other courses in the future
- Support national accreditation processes in the countries of the region, including through support with Chilean Firefighters facilities for a training for the Technical Support Group (TSG) in the region
- Support in communication and dissemination of information

Some participants identified the potential for misinterpretations of the agreement with some firefighting institutions already having indicated that there wouldn't need to work anymore with the focal points and that they have their own autonomy by virtue of being part of the OBA – an argument which the leadership of the OBA categorically refuted. This underlined the need to maintain a smooth communication flow between the INSARAG focal points, the Secretariat and the OBA to clarify any type of misunderstanding or confusion that may arise.

- ***Recommendation 9.1.:*** The Regional group recommends that the OBA require of their member institutions to relate closely with the INSARAG focal points of their respective countries.

B. Proposal for standards and coordination of search teams specialized in flood response

Mr. Tomas Lastra Milone, from the Argentine Naval Prefecture, presented on behalf of the White Helmets Commission a proposal for the development of standards and classification / accreditation processes for search and rescue teams specialized in flood response. As explained by Mr. Schmachel, OCHA / Secretariat, the session is part of the broader context of the global reflection on the promotion of flexible assistance, but without losing the commitment to quality. In this sense, the proposal presented was intended to start the conversation about how INSARAG's approach and experience can be useful when extending it to other rescue specialties.

Participants highlighted the fact that the theme of flood rescue is not new and that there is a lot of experience in this area which should be studied. Likewise, although there was a general agreement on the topic of floods and that much can be learned in this context from INSARAG's experience, the question should also be considered at a more strategic level before fully incorporating it into the agenda of INSARAG. If the topic is considered in the context of flexible assistance, a key question to be discussed is whether we are talking about the flexibility of USAR teams to respond in case of flooding, or whether the topic of flood rescue is to be incorporated as a parallel work area within INSARAG.

In general, there was a great interest in following the reflection on this issue and seeing how it can be addressed.

X. Session 10 – Contributions to a new INSARAG global strategy 2020-25 and the UNDAC-INSARAG regional work plan 2020

After an introductory presentation by Mr Schmachtel, OCHA / Secretariat, the participants were divided into two groups to discuss in detail the comments and contributions to the main topics defined for the 2020-25 strategy as well as the contributions to the 2020 regional work plan.

The groups discussed the issues based on the following guiding questions and the contributions are found in annex 5.

- **Theme:** strengthening quality standards and coordination
 - What should be done (and how) to strengthen the application of INSARAG quality standards?
 - How can response coordination and coordination capabilities be improved and strengthened?
- **Theme:** promoting flexible assistance
 - How can or should INSARAG evolve to offer search and rescue assistance beyond the urban context without losing its commitment to quality standards?
- **Theme:** strengthening partnerships to improve preparedness and response capabilities
 - What kind of partnerships should be promoted at national, regional and international level to achieve a better impact on the response?
 - What should be done to achieve continuous participation and ownership by countries and institutions in the INSARAG processes and the UNDAC system?

The following commitments were made by countries to contribute to the implementation of key activities of the regional group:

- Peru offered to host an UNDAC Induction Course for new UNDAC members in 2021.
- Peru offered to organize the regional SIMEX in 2021.
- Within the framework of the collaboration through the OBA, Chile offered the facilities and capabilities of the National Fire Academy for a TSG/TRG workshop in 2020
- Brazil offered to organize a meeting within the INSARAG framework to continue discussing the topic of “flexible assistance” and new specialties to join the network.
- Brazil offered to translate the UNDAC handbook and INSARAG Guidelines into Portuguese as a global contribution to all Portuguese-speaking countries, with a view to the Global meeting in Warsaw.
- Brazil offered to host an UNDAC refresher course
- Guatemala offered to host a UCC course for Central America in March 2020.
- ***Recommendation 10.1.:*** It is recommended that the regional chairmanship group transmit the contributions of the regional group to the global strategy and the Warsaw declaration to the INSARAG Steering Group at its next meeting in February 2020.
- ***Recommendation 10.2.:*** It is recommended that the regional chairmanship group elaborate the regional work plan with the contributions of the Regional Group on the activities and commitments acquired.
- ***Recommendation 10.3.:*** It is recommended that OCHA consider the proposed objectives and activities for the UNDAC system in the region in its planning for 2020 and beyond

XI. Announcement of international events

- Honduras informed about the “Regional field exercise on the activation of the regional humanitarian assistance mechanism” (Mec-Reg/SICA), from 25-29 November, in Managua, Nicaragua, with a focus on USAR response by the member countries of CEPREDENAC
- OCHA reminded participants of the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week, 3-7 February 2020 in Geneva, Switzerland, as well as the INSARAG global meeting in Warsaw, Poland, from 4-9 October 2020

XII. Designation of II Vice-chair for 2020 & Confirmation of the Regional Chairmanship Group 2020

The Secretariat informed the Regional Group that Dominican Republic had taken the decision to resign from its role in the Regional Chairmanship group due to internal political reasons, maintaining all its commitment towards

INSARAG and towards the strengthening of its USAR capacities. The Secretariat also mentioned that a similar situation had occurred in the past and that the Regional Group had already established the governance rules to find the adequate solution to this situation.

The Secretariat also informed that only one candidature was received for the function of II Vice-chair, which came from Peru.

Given the situation explained above, the Secretariat had consulted with the current chairmanship group, led by Argentina and Colombia as II Vice-chair, as well as with Peru as candidate country, to understand if Colombia if Colombia were in the position to take on the role of Regional Chair in 2020 and Peru the function of I Vice-chair. Both confirmed their agreement with the proposal. The Secretariat therefore proposed to the Regional Group that this designation be adopted.

In addition, and with the aim of not leaving the Regional Chairmanship incomplete for 2019, the Secretariat asked members of the Regional Group to consider their interest in taking on the function of II Vice-chair, recalling that the expression of interest represents a three-year commitment, culminating in the function of Regional Chair in the third year.

Honduras indicated its interest to take on the function and informed that it will formalize it through a communication to the Secretariat.

Based on the above, the following designation of the Regional Chairmanship was done:

- ***Decision 12.1:*** The Regional Group confirmed the designation of Colombia, represented by Eduardo José González Angulo, Director, National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD) as Regional Chair for 2019 and of Peru, represented by Dr Jorge Chavez, Head of the National Civil Defense Institute (INDECI) as I Vice-chair for 2020.
- ***Recommendation 12.2.:*** *Countries interested to take on the function of II Vice-chair for 2020 are requested to confirm this interest through a formal communication to the Secretariat (insarag@un.org, schmachtel@un.org),, latest by 13 December 2019.*

XIII. Acknowledgements

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in its capacity as INSARAG Secretariat and on behalf of all participants in this meeting and the members of the Regional Group would like to thank the Government of Argentina for the excellent organisation of this meeting and for the determined leadership of the Regional Group throughout its mandate in the Regional Chairmanship Group, and encourages the Argentine Republic to maintain its commitment and support to the UNDAC and INSARAG activities in the region.

Annex 1 – FINAL AGENDA

Tuesday, 12 November

09.00-09.20	Participants' registration	Cascos Blancos
09.30-09.45	Formal opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foreign Minister of the Argentine Republic, Ambassador, D. Jorge Marcelo Faurie 	Argentina
09.45-09.50	Presentation of national accreditation certificate to the USAR team of the Federation of Voluntary Firefighters of the Province of Cordoba	Argentina
09.50-10.00	Group photo	Argentina
10.00-10.15	Coffee break	
10.15-10.30	Welcoming words <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ambassador Daneri, President of the White Helmets Commission, Argentina Carlos Passarelli, United Nations Resident Coordinator ad interim, Argentina Dario Alvarez, Representative, OCHA Regional office 	Cascos Blancos/ OCHA
10.30-10.45	Introduction of participants and adoption of the agenda	OCHA/ INSARAG Secretariat
10.45-12.00	Session 1: INSARAG in the Americas in 2019 Expected result: obtain a common picture on the state of implementation of the INSARAG standards and methodology in the countries of the region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional perspective Presentation by country on the implementation at country level 	Session chair: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Argentina Presenters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One per country
12.00-12.30	Session 2: INSARAG in 2019 at global level (incl. working groups)	OCHA/ INSARAG/ Working Groups
12.30-13.30	Lunch	Cascos Blancos
13.30-15.00	Session 3: INSARAG guidelines revision Expected result: present and review the updated INSARAG Guidelines, as well as discuss and agree on the contributions, comments and proposals to be transmitted on behalf of the region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> INSARAG Guidelines revision process and structure of the guidelines Volume I – Policy Volume II – A , Strengthening national capacities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National accreditation process & recognition by INSARAG Results of the TSG workshop in Chile, October 2019 Proposal of the guidance note on the INSARAG recognized National accreditation process (IRNAP) & checklists Proposal for the institutionalization of the TSG Proposal for a global INSARAG working group on the national accreditation process 	Session chair: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Argentina Presenters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> S Mocarquer, GRG C Schmachtel M Gómez Lissarrague W Fonseca, Costa Rica Colombia
15.00-15.30	Coffee break	Cascos Blancos
16.00 – 16.40	Session 3: INSARAG guidelines revision (cont'd)	
16:40 – 17.45	Session 4: Regional SIMEX Expected result: raise awareness on the scope, challenges and possible opportunities that are being provided by organizing a SIMEX and present the results of the SIMEX in Cuba this year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concept of the SIMEX Results of the SIMEX Cuba, September 2019 	Presidente de Session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colombia Presenters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> D Alvarez, OCHA Coronel (r) L.A. Macareño, Cuba
18.00	Welcome cocktail	Argentina

Wednesday, 13 November

09.00-10.00	<p>Session 5: Experience with specific emergencies: Bahamas</p> <p>Expected result: present the challenges and the lessons of the response to the emergency caused by Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas with regard to the response by Search and Rescue teams and Emergency medical teams, as well as the coordination support provided with the aim of identifying proposals for future improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Situation and coordination support provided to the Government; response by OCHA, including UNDAC, and CDEMA national response • International USAR response 	<p>Facilitation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D. Alvarez, OCHA <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C Schmachtel, OCHA • J Kaleda, USA
10.00-10.30	<p>Session 6: The UNDAC team in the Americas and the Caribbean</p> <p>Expected result: a common picture of the purpose and current state of the UNDAC team in the Americas & Caribbean region</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C. Schmachtel, OCHA
10.30-11.00	Coffee break	
11.00-13.00	<p>Session 7: UNDAC – expectations, challenges, opportunities</p> <p>Expected result: exchange on expectations, challenges, and opportunities faced by the UNDAC team in the Americas region, in order to present this to the UNDAC Advisory Board and OCHA globally and use the inputs for the continuous adaptation of the mechanism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDAC members' vision • UNDAC focal points' vision/ national authorities • OCHA as manager of the UNDAC system 	<p>Facilitation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C. Schmachtel, OCHA <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D. Alvarez, OCHA • R. Méndez, UNDAC SDC • M. Torres, Argentina
13.00-14.00	Lunch	
14.00-15.30	<p>Session 8: Fit for the future: particularities, synergies, objectives and adaptations</p> <p>Expected result: Reflection on the particularities of each mechanism, its potential synergies, proposed adaptations and their relationship with other emergency response and preparedness mechanisms</p>	<p>Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OCHA <p>Group discussion</p>
15.30-16.00	Coffee break	
16.00-17.30	<p>Session 9: Specific interest topics</p> <p>Expected result: present the collaboration agreement between INSARAG and the OBA – Organization of American Firefighters as an example of a partnership; and a proposal on how the INSARAG approach and methodology could be adapted to other areas of response, ie. Floods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration agreement INSARAG-OBA • Proposal for standards and coordination of search teams specialized in flood response 	<p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OBA/ OCHA • T. Lastra Milone, Argentina

Thursday, 14 November

09.00-11.00	<p>Session 10: Contributions to a new INSARAG global strategy 2020-25 and the UNDAC-INSARAG regional work plan 2020</p> <p>Expected result: consolidate the contributions of the region to the development of the new INSARAG global strategy 2020-25 and the formulation of the INSARAG Warsaw Declaration expected to be adopted in 2020, as well as the contributions and commitments to the elaboration of a regional workplan 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening quality standards and coordination • Enhancing preparedness efforts and strengthening partnerships • Advancing flexible assistance 	<p>Session chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argentina <p>Presenter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat / OCHA <p>Group discussion</p>
11:00-11.30	Coffee break	Argentina
11.30-12.00	Session 11: Conclusions	Secretariat/ OCHA
12.00-12.15	Announcement of international events	Secretariat/ OCHA
12.15-12.30	Designation of II Vice-chair for 2020 & Confirmation of the Regional Chairmanship Group 2020	Secretariat/ OCHA
12.30-13.00	Closure	Argentina, regional chairmanship group, OCHA

Annex 2 – Institutionalization of the Technical Support and Recognition Group (GTA / GTR) at the level of the region

1. Background

- In its February 2017 meeting, the INSARAG Steering Group approved the proposal of the INSARAG External Support and Recognition Process (IESRP) of national accreditation processes designed by a dedicated working group, led by the Americas region.
- The same year, the region created the roster of the “Technical Support Group” made up of experts who have been selected by the regional chairmanship group to provide advice and support to countries wishing to develop their own national accreditation process or adapt their existing process to the INSARAG criteria in order to obtain INSARAG external recognition of its national process.
- At the regional level, three countries made the formal request to start the IESRP process and requested support from the TSG roster. Two of the three ended the process and obtained INSARAG recognition (Colombia and Guatemala). Both processes demonstrated different strengths and opportunities for improvement.
- Several other countries informed of their interest to starting the IESRP process, yet without having formalized the application. However, the same countries are already working on establishing their national accreditation processes. In addition, at the sub regional level in Central America, there is an agreement supported by CEPREDENAC to work with countries to achieve the INSARAG recognition of their national accreditation processes.
- The regional roster of the TSG was established in 2017, but several members are no longer linked to the national processes and a review, update and expansion of the roster is required to give other experts in the region the opportunity to be part of it and count on the best experience available in the region.

2. Proposal

- Institutionalize the existence of the TSG/ TRG roster at the regional level through the following actions:
 - Integrate the TSG/TRG in the regional INSARAG agenda and as part of the information material and its dissemination
 - Incorporate into the INSARAG regional work plan at least one annual training activity of the TSG/TRG in which the experiences of different countries on their national accreditation processes are also reviewed and shared
 - Hold virtual meetings regularly between roster members
 - Maintain a TSG/TRG roster of at least 20 active experts at the regional level
 - Develop a specific training course for new members of the GTA / R roster in order to ensure quality and methodological harmonization
- The regional TSG/TRG roster will be expected:
 - Respond to the request for support by countries for the IRNAP mechanism covering the functions of Technical Support Group (TSG) or Technical Recognition Group (TRG)
 - Analyse and incorporate the lessons learned in the documents, training, workshops and during the implementation processes in the countries, providing a permanent review of the quality of the process.
 - Summarize and consolidate the lessons learned in the region, and ensure the exchange of good practices with the other regions through their representatives in the IRNAP Working Group (see specific proposal)
 - Provide information to the Regional Chairmanship Group on a regular basis through the Secretariat so that it is aware of the processes, can incorporate relevant information in the regional newsletters and other communication products and can provide the required support to national and regional processes such as for example training or workshops.

3. Expected results

The expected results of the institutionalisation of the TSG/TRG roster are:

- A regional cooperation mechanism linked to a global process and methodology and guidelines, with the ability to continue to influence the global technical agenda on behalf of the region
- An established and predictable capacity at the regional level to provide and ensure quality, efficiency and effectiveness in supporting USAR national accreditation processes as a general framework for strengthening USAR national capacities
- A mechanism for support and exchange of experience that allows roster experts to access technical knowledge and peer support, and thus provide superior quality support to countries
- The creation and strengthening of national capacities through the continuous growth of experience and knowledge of each of the members of the TSG/TRG roster

Annex 3 – Proposal: Creation of a global level INSARAG working group on the national accreditation process

1. Background

- Since 2003, a series of capacity strengthening initiatives have been undertaken in the Americas region focused on supporting national USAR teams reach the minimum standards recommended by INSARAG. In this context, in 2016, the region presented to the INSARAG Steering Group a proposal to design “design a peer revision/certification process of national USAR team accreditation processes, which confirms to the requesting country that it is complying with the minimum standards for national USAR team accreditation processes”
- In its meeting of February 2017, the INSARAG Steering Group approved the proposal for an INSARAG External Support and Recognition Process (IESRP) for national USAR team accreditation processes and encouraged the Regional Groups to put it in practice and report back on its implementation in the annual meetings of the Steering Group.
- Whilst some adaptations are undertaken in each region, the importance of the creation of regional rosters forming the “Technical Support Group” is recognized. The TSG aims to support a standardization of the quality of these processes and achieve external recognition of the national accreditation processes.
- In order to join forces, share country experiences in the application and implementation of these processes, and globalize the IRNAP as a concrete means of strengthening national and local capacities, it is proposed to create an INSARAG working group that will provide sustainability to the mentioned process.

2. Proposal

- Create an IRNAP Working Group composed of experts from the TSG roster of each region, in order to share experiences and lessons learned in the application of these processes, to unify them globally, providing quality and sustainability to the INSARAG system.

3. Expected results

- The work undertaken by this working group will result in a concrete model of applying quality standards at a global level, and coordination mechanisms, ensuring the strengthening of national and local capacities.
- Likewise, this group will serve as an important channel for the exchange of experiences between regions and ensure that the guidance provided on the IRNAP remains up to date.

4. Suggested recommendation

- Considering the global interest generated by the guidance on national accreditation processes and taking into account that it is still a very “young” area in INSARAG's work that requires a lot of exchange of experiences and adapted guidance, it is recommended that the Regional Group request the INSARAG Steering Group to create a specific INSARAG Working Group on national accreditation processes.

Proposed Terms of Reference – INSARAG Working Group

(i) Name

- IRNAP Working Group

(ii) Purpose

The purpose of the Working Group is:

- Collate, review and prepare documents and offer quality control of the guidance and methodology proposed for IRNAP processes globally.
- Promote the exchange of experiences in the application of national USAR accreditation processes between the different regions

(iii) Specific terms of reference and responsibilities

- Review and make the necessary adjustments to the guidance on the National Accreditation Process - INSARAG IRNAP that serves as a guide and encompasses the basic contents of the process adapted for the three regions.
- Analyze and compare the IRNAP processes of the three regions, and consolidate the lessons learned of common and global interest.
- Provide remote support on methodological issues and interpretation of standards to the TSGs that are formed to give support to countries
- Establish close coordination links with the INSARAG Training Working Group, in order to identify and develop synergies with the products and training that are developed on the INSARAG external classification process, understanding that they are two different but related processes
- Consolidate and develop training for members of the TSG rosters that can be adapted and implemented at the level of each region

(iv) Duration

- 4 years

(v) Members

- This group would consist of 3 active members of the TSG/TRG roster from each region, whose members must meet the following minimum criteria:
 - USAR Experience (USAR processes and training)
 - Experience in operations / USAR coordination
 - Experience with the INSARAG methodology
 - Experience with a national accreditation process, and / or with the INSARAG external classification process.
 - Knowledge of English language.
- Each member of the IRNAP WG will also function as a liaison between the working group and the TSG roster in their region.
- Each region will present its candidates, which will be selected by the INSARAG Secretariat,
- The WG will appoint one member as secretary of the working group, responsible for keeping the documentation of the WG and presenting the results to the Secretariat.

(vi) Governance of the working group

- The WG reports to the INSARAG Steering Group

(vii) Work methods

- Face to face as well as virtual meetings
- The face to face meeting shall coincide with other global INSARAG events or meetings

(viii) Products

The main expected products of this working group will be:

- Updated IRNAP document serving as a guide and encompassing the basic contents of the process adjusted for all regions.
- Analysis and comparison between the IRNAP processes of the three regions, and consolidate the lessons learned globally and how they will contribute to strengthening national response systems and their coordination.
- Links established between the external classification process and the national accreditation processes
- Training for the TSG/TRG developed with objectives and program, adaptable to each region

Annex 4 – Notes from the discussions, session 8: Fit for the future: particularities, synergies, objectives and adaptations

¿What are the specific objectives and particularities of each mechanism?	UNDAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team that support countries in information management, assessment and coordination in emergencies • Establish medium and long-term objectives to respond to identified needs • UNDAC teams are a tool of the United Nations. • Its mission is to support the country in the tasks of coordinating international humanitarian assistance and the capacities of the United Nations agencies, programmes and funds present in the country • Support tool for the country in different capacities (information management, coordination, etc) • Assesses humanitarian impacts and gaps • Assesses national capacities if the countries require it
	INSARAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network oriented to the management of USAR resources in an emergency situation. • It's an emergency response mechanism. It is used for rescuing people. • USAR teams are countries' tools of bilateral assistance with multilateral coordination support. • They have a specific task. • They have specific procedures according to the different stages of the emergency • They have guides and guidelines for national systems • The temporality of the mission of the USAR teams is limited to the specificity of Search and Rescue in collapsed structures
¿What are or should be the common objectives?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have in common the international response coordination system • Emergency coordination and management are common objectives • Resource management: establishment of guidelines and policies for the administration of USAR resources. • strengthening country capacities and emergency response in support of affected countries • Synergy and exchange of valuable information between UNDAC and INSARAG mechanisms. • Linkage between international coordination structures in the field. • Both are complementary mechanisms that interact at a given moment in the emergency response that is the operational moment of the Urban Search and Rescue teams.
¿What are the opportunities to create more synergies between the two mechanisms, as well as with other emergency preparedness and response mechanisms?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process of preparation of groups to be mobilized, including resources. • Exchange of information between the structures of both teams for more efficient management of resources. • Involve decision-makers in training processes. • Analyze possibilities of installing capabilities from the base. • Sensitize political focal points to better communicate the objectives of UNDAC / INSARAG within the institutions. • Expand to other coordination mechanisms to make resource sharing and support more efficient. • Reinforce training in UNDAC-UCC coordination • Improve the UNDAC teams' understanding of the role of the UCC
¿What adaptations would be necessary and recommended?	UNDAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation: Open invitation and active participation of UNDAC members in UCC trainings. UNDAC members who do not originate from USAR should be aware of the USAR coordination cell, how it works, as they are information providers and in turn users of the cell's coordination services. Synergy between these bodies is essential • Linking and inviting the UNDAC system to national exercises to share learning and create synergies, through the formal mechanisms and procedures available for this purpose.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training on the UNDAC mechanism and its own terms of reference to focal points. Encourage and support the institutional relationship between UNDAC members and their country focal points.
	INSARAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommendation: Continue and strengthen national response capacities.• Use of the Guidelines for the development of long-term response capacities within countries (not just focus on USAR Groups).• Action plans with specific goals and objectives to improve synergy in the pre-emergency stages.
	Both or others	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthen national response mechanisms and their integration.• Consider linkages and political focal points to strengthen and facilitate integration.• Challenges: Promote the INSARAG approach among other response mechanisms (medical, civil-military coordination, etc.). Consider all specialized groups and their operational integration.• Training on the UNDAC mechanism for resident coordinators and humanitarian coordinators.

Annex 5 – Notes from the discussion, session 10: Contributions to a new INSARAG global strategy 2020-25 and the UNDAC-INSARAG regional work plan 2020

<p>Topic: strengthening quality standards and coordination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What should be done (and how) to strengthen the application of INSARAG quality standards? ○ How can response coordination and coordination capacities be improved and strengthened? 	
<p>General comments</p>	<p>Standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement IRNAP (based on NAP) and INSARAG should lead the training of the GTA members and prepare a course to train personnel who will be GTA members. • Share good practices and support in the Classification and Accreditation processes. • Strengthen countries' commitments to accept and implement the INSARAG methodology and standards. Achieve country ownership, dissemination and training on INSARAG by national emergency systems. • It is important that the standards, procedures and coordination mechanisms proposed by INSARAG as well as the strengthening of national capacities be brought down to the basis of the components of countries' emergency response systems. A broader and deeper knowledge of INSARAG standards is required to reach all stakeholders <hr/> <p>Coordination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of coordination mechanisms within each country. • Improve knowledge on the part of the authorities (political level). • Improved communication effectiveness. • Articulation of all UN agencies and programmes with the humanitarian country team, achieving greater INSARAG coordination with the regulations of the affected country. • Importance of SIMEX as a space to review and adapt the procedures of the country and the INSARAG network. • Adapt to the regulations and characteristics of each country in order to strengthen and improve the coordination of the response. • Our civil protection systems should be known and socialized prior to events, in order to achieve a more effective and rapid adaptability of the UNDAC teams that arrive in the affected country. Share and socialize country structures and procedures at UNDAC member trainings and capacity building events. • Contacts of INSARAG focal points need to be updated especially for politicians as they tend to change more frequently. The network should have a permanent training for the new focal points.
<p>Contributions to the INSARAG 2020-25 global strategy and the INSARAG Warsaw 2020 declaration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implementation of the NAP/IRNAP is an important support process for strengthening the implementation of quality standards. <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote NAP processes in countries with IRNAP guidelines.

Topic: promoting flexible assistance

- How can "flexible assistance" be interpreted in the INSARAG context?
- How can or should INSARAG evolve to offer search and rescue assistance beyond the urban context without losing its commitment to quality standards?

General comments

- Flexible assistance in the political or technical context? it needs to be clear.
- the question must, above all, be considered at a more strategic level before it is fully incorporated into the INSARAG work agenda.
- consideration should be given, for example, to whether the flexibility of the USAR teams to respond to floods should be considered, or whether other rescue specialties should be incorporated as a parallel work area within INSARAG.
- Technical context: take advantage of national capacities
- Should it be clear why INSARAG would want to seek flexible assistance?
- First define the objectives, their political effects in case of receiving or providing aid, costs, the acronym (USAR).
- INSARAG Guidelines should be revised in the terminology of "USAR".
- There should be defined standards for the other areas.
- Incorporate analysis tools based on the experiences of the region, returning to the training of focal points.
- It is essential to have a clear conceptual framework when it comes to "flexibility" that allows us to act efficiently and effectively in the response.
- International commitments must be adopted and adapted. In this regard, and in context of the concept of "flexible assistance" proposed, it is necessary to take into account the vulnerabilities presented by each country.
- Take the examples of this adaptation that suggests "flexible assistance" in the region (example: Chile where the process is happening from the bottom up and not the other way around, where the coordination tools and process standardization proposed by INSARAG are being applied to other specialties such as response to forest fires, etc.), rescue these examples and systematize them as a basis for expanding and contributing to "Flexible Assistance".
- That the building of national capacities are processes that are established in the structures from the bottom up.

Contributions to the INSARAG 2020-25 global strategy and the INSARAG Warsaw 2020 declaration

- Flexible assistance in two levels, a country may not need the full capacity of a search and rescue team when requesting assistance, but has other strengths e.g. engineers, search technicians etc.
- Using the team's capabilities to tackle other kinds of tasks in this context is seen as flexibility.
- Use INSARAG tools (guidelines, standards, etc.) adapted for the specialized Groups (Chile case). To take advantage of and use the experience of INSARAG's organizational forms, which can serve as a model for other groups with other specialties, and NOT for USAR teams to be activated outside of their specialty.

<p>Subject: strengthening partnerships to improve preparedness and response capacities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What kind of partnerships should be promoted at the national, regional and international levels to have a better impact on the response? ○ What should be done to achieve continued participation and ownership by countries and institutions in the INSARAG processes and the UNDAC system? 	
<p>General comments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In exercises invite other countries to share knowledge and training. • Count on other regional bodies to strengthen alliances. • Seek alliances with other regions, take advantage of bilateral cooperation. • UNDAC, to work from a previous stage (prevention) so that the actors in charge have a previous preparation. • Alliances should be one in terms of mutual support and others in limiting to doing the same. • Set up a working group to review, systematize and follow up the initiative to involve the Ministries of Foreign Affairs in international humanitarian assistance coordination processes. • Central America already has manuals for foreign ministries, the Andean region for mutual humanitarian assistance. They can be used as a basis to feed the discussion on the initiative to involve the Ministries of Foreign Affairs in the coordination of international humanitarian assistance. • Include an UNDAC/INSARAG chapter in the next edition of the MIAH Meeting or its evolution
<p>Aportes a la estrategia global INSARAG 2020-25 y la declaración INSARAG de Varsovia 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on Country Systems (Civil Protection and/or Country Disaster Risk Management) managing preparedness and response with the involvement of more actors (INSARAG - UNDAC).

Inputs to the Regional Work Plan 2020	
Proposal for the UNDAC / INSARAG activities for 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use as a basis the plan proposed by the Secretariat. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consolidate the UNDAC team, strengthen the capacity within and for the Caribbean, strengthen the capacity in certain specialty areas: environment, plan for the renewal/training of new members ○ Contribute to the definition of global strategies and priorities, global meeting strengthen the IRNAP process, strengthen the USAR coordination capacities • Expand specialized courses (environment, civil military coordination). • A training for political and operational focal points is proposed. • Consider a regional humanitarian networks and partnership week in the Americas • That the countries themselves commit themselves to disseminate information on their structure, particularities and operations so that UNDAC teams can access this information before arriving in the country. • The region requests that a meeting with permanent missions be organized again within the framework of the HNPW in 2020
Commitments by countries to support the implementation of the activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peru offered to host an UNDAC Induction Course for new UNDAC members in 2021. • Peru offered to organize the regional SIMEX in 2021. • Within the framework of the collaboration through the OBA, Chile offered the facilities and capabilities of the National Fire Academy for a TSG/TRG workshop in 2020 • Brazil offered to organize a meeting within the INSARAG framework to continue discussing the topic of “flexible assistance” and new specialties to join the network. • Brazil offered to translate the UNDAC handbook and INSARAG Guidelines into Portuguese as a global contribution to all Portuguese-speaking countries, with a view to the Global meeting in Warsaw. • Brazil offered to host an UNDAC refresher course • Guatemala offered to host a UCC course for Central America in March 2020.

Annex 6 - List of participants

XVIII INSARAG Regional Meeting / VI UNDAC regional consultation meeting in the Americas						
List of participants						
Country / Organización	Last name	First name	Institution	Telephone	Mobile	Email
Argentina	Ayala	Verónica	Comisión Cascos Blancos	54114819-7000	5491130532710	veronicasayala@gmail.com
Argentina	Bernardini	Miriam Iris	Colegio De Abogados de la Ciudad	541149217923	541155963364	miriam.bernardini@gmail.com
Argentina	Braver	Jessica	Oficina del Coordinador Residente del Sistema de Naciones Unidas en Argentina	541143208734	5491153162070	jessica.braver@one.un.org
Argentina	Campra	Oscar Narciso	USAR Bomberos Córdoba	543532493198	54 0353215588848	oscarcampra@hotmail.com
Argentina	Caraglio	Matías Benjamin	Equipo USAR	*54903585420211	*5493585406825	m_caraglio@hotmail.com
Argentina	Daneri	ALEJANDRO	CASCOS BLANCOS	5448197000	541544198270	acd@mrecic.gov.ar
Argentina	Facciolla Passarelli	CARLOS ANDRE	ONUSIDA	5411432865	541162895762	passarellic@unaid.org
Argentina	Gomez Lissarrague	Martin	Secretaria de Protección Civil	54 9 2944693870	54 9 2944693870	mgliissarrague@gmail.com
Argentina	Iglesias	MARCELO FAVIAN	BOMBEROS	54 9 3532404116	54 9 3532404116	direccionccp20132015@gmail.com
Argentina	Iglesias	Daniel	Consejo Nacional de Bomberos Voluntarios	541141245550	54 9 340 443-5418	academia@bomberosra.org.ar
Argentina	Lastra Milone	Tomas	Cascos Blancos	5491143288239	5492235599480	tomas.lastramilone@gmail.com
Argentina	Nicola	Gustavo	Consejo Nacional de Bomberos	0353154214669	*5493534214669	nicolagustavo@hotmail.com
Argentina	Torres	Martin	Cascos Blancos	545555-8938	5415 4041-0534	tmn@mrecic.gov.ar
Argentina	Vilariño Fiore	Lucía Belén	Organización de Bomberos Americanos	*5491161726745	*5491161726745	direccionejecutiva@bomberosamericanos.org
Bolivia	Méndez	Roberto	SDC	591 44285341	591 71721463	rmendezt1@gmail.com
Brasil	Oliveira Guerra	Daniela	Embajada del Brasil	541152467511	5491128740513	daniela.guerra@itamaraty.gov.br
Brasil	Solla	José	Agência Brasileira de Cooperação	*556120309339	*5561982006366	jose.solla@itamaraty.gov.br

XVIII INSARAG Regional Meeting / VI UNDAC regional consultation meeting in the Americas						
List of participants						
Country / Organización	Last name	First name	Institution	Telephone	Mobile	Email
Canadá	Bradley	Simon	Canada Task Force 2	14033905207	14038270861	simon.bradley@calgary.ca
Canadá	Henry	Susan	Calgary Emergency Management Agency	1403863-6874	1403863-6874	Susan.henry@calgary.ca
Canadá	Tom	Sampson	Canada Task Force 2	4038636874	4038636874	tom.sampson@calgary.ca
Chile	Artigas	Alejandro	Bomberos de Chile	562 28160000	569 94363099	puntofocalnacional@bomberos.cl
Chile	Bustos	Raul	Bomberos de Chile	56988396040	56988396040	presidentenacional@bomberos.cl
Chile	Mena Amigo	Cristóbal	ONEMI	56 22 4018114	56968483953	cmena@onemi.gov.cl
Chile	Mocarquer	Sebastian	Bomberos de Chile	56999391275	56999391275	smocarquer@bomberos.cl
Chile	Nannig	Mauricio	Bomberos de Chile	56995398592	56995398592	mauricio.nannig@bomberos.cl
Colombia	Ballén	Silvia	Unidad Nacional para la Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres	5715529696	573112818092	silvia.ballen@gestiondelriesgo.gov.co
Colombia	González Angulo	Eduardo José	Unidad Nacional para la Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres	5715529696	*573134183071	eduardo.gonzalez@gestiondelriesgo.gov.co
Costa Rica	Fonseca Bonilla	WALTER	COMISION NACIONAL DE EMERGENCIA	50622102828	50688957412	wfonseca@cne.go.cr
Cuba	Alfonso	Gretter	Embajada de Cuba en Argentina	47829049	*5491157068703	gretteralfonso89@gmail.com
Cuba	Cobas Dávila	Wilfredo	Ministerio de Comercio e Inversión Extranjera	N/A	5356042623	wilfredo.cobas@mincex.gob.cu
Cuba	Macareño Veliz	Ángel	Defensa Civil	N/A	5378640024	dcc@dcn.co.cu
Ecuador	Aguilar	María Gabriela	Servicio Nacional de Gestión de Riesgos y Emergencias	593 42593500	593 984009795	cooperacion.internacional@gestionderiesgos.gob.ec
El Salvador	Chavarría Iglesias	Edwin Mauricio	Bomberos	503 25277300		edwin.chavarría@bomberos.gob.sv
El Salvador	Tejada Castilo	Orlando	Dirección General de	50370703537	50370703537	otejada@proteccioncivil.gob.sv

XVIII INSARAG Regional Meeting / VI UNDAC regional consultation meeting in the Americas						
List of participants						
Country / Organización	Last name	First name	Institution	Telephone	Mobile	Email
			Protección Civil			
Estados Unidos de América	Kaleda	Joseph	USA AID	12027125381	15713383562	jkaleda@usaid.gov
Francia (Guadeloupe)	Levif	Jean Paul	SDIS	590590489675	590690318962	jplevif@hotmail.com
Guatemala	Mazariegos Núñez	Iván	CONRED USAR GUA	502 30069447	502 30069447	imazariegosn@gmail.com
Guatemala	Valenzuela	Carlos	SE-CONRED	502 22969100	502 52000841	calfonso.valenzuela@gmail.com
Honduras	Ardon	Lourdes	Secretaría de Coordinación General de Gobierno	504 33004552	50431882215	lourdesardon@hotmail.com
Honduras	Cordero	Carlos	COPECO	504 22904800	50431760493	corderosuarez@gmail.com
Honduras	Mancía Irias	Oscar Renan	COPECO	5042285998	50499545899	oscaririas2002@yahoo.com
OBA	Lucía Belén	Vilariño Fiore	Organización de Bomberos Americanos (OBA)	*5491161726745	*5491161726745	direccionejecutiva@bomberosamericanos.org
OBA	Martin Antonio	Cucalon	Organización de Bomberos Americanos (OBA)		*5491161726745	presidencia@bomberosamericanos.org
Paraguay	Herreros	Jorge Arturo	Cuerpo de Bomberos Voluntarios del Paraguay USAR	5950210206637	595981561011	arturo.herreros@gmail.com
Perú	Chavez	Jorge	Instituto Nacional de Defensa Civil	51988062048	51988062048	jchavezc@indec.gov.pe
Perú	Sierra Sanjinez	Cesar	Instituto Nacional de Defensa Civil	5102259898	51988061905	csierra@indec.gov.pe
OCHA	Schmachtel	Christophe	OCHA/ Secretaría INSARAG	5073093310	50766760528	schmachtel@un.org
OCHA	Alvarez	Dario	OCHA	5073171748	*50766744736	ALVAREZ6@UN.ORG
OCHA	Perez	Martin	OCHA	41 22 917 3218	41 79 469 8590	perez1@un.org