

## INSARAG Global, Regional and Working Groups Chairs Teleconference Meeting 3 July 2019

### 1. Participants:

<b>Global Chair:</b> Ambassador Manuel Bessler, David Sochor, Simone Droz		
<b>INSARAG Secretariat:</b> Rudolf Müller, Sebastian Rhodes Stampa, Winston Chang, Nadja Guggi		
<b>Regional Chairs and Co-Chairs:</b>		
Region	Chairs	Co-chairs
<b>Americas</b>	<p><b>Argentina</b> <b>Ambassador Alejandro Daneri</b> President of the White Helmets Commission Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p> <p>And <b>Mr. Martin Torres</b> Operating and Logistic Coordinator White helmets Commission</p>	<p><b>Dominican Republic</b> Sr. Erdwin Olivares Jefe de Operaciones del Centro de Operaciones de Emergencias (COE) Comisión Nacional De Emergencia Santo Domingo</p> <p><b>Colombia (Vice Chair II)</b> <b>Sr. Eduardo José González Angulo</b> Director General Unidad Nacional para la Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres Presidencia de la República</p> <p>and <b>Ing. Guillermo Escobar</b> Subdirector de Manejo y Punto Focal Operativo INSARAG</p>
<b>AEME</b>	<p><b>Switzerland (Italian)</b> <b>Mr. Luigi D'Angelo</b> Direttore Operativo per il Coordinamento delle Emergenze DPC</p>	<p><b>Poland (Incoming)</b> <b>Mr. Lt. Col. Krzysztof Pietrasik</b> Deputy Director International Cooperation Department The National Headquarters of the State Fire Service of Poland</p> <p><b>France (Outgoing)</b> <b>Mr. Bruno Ulliac</b> Colonel Ministère de l'intérieur DGSCGC - Mission des Relations Européennes et Internationales Place Beauvau - Represented by <b>Mr. Philippe Meresse</b> National USAR advisor Civilian protection application school USAR trainer</p>

<b>AP</b>	<p>Australia <b>Ms. Meg Northrope</b> Director, Humanitarian Preparedness &amp; Response Section Humanitarian Response, Risk &amp; Recovery Branch Humanitarian, NGOs &amp; Partnerships Division Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade</p> <p><b>Mr. Paul Baxter</b> Commissioner Fire and Rescue New South Wales</p>	<p>Singapore (Incoming) <b>Mr. Eric Yap Wee Teck</b> Commissioner HQ Singapore Civil Defense Force - Represented by <b>Anwar Abdullah</b> Singapore Civil Defense Force, Senior Director (Emergency Services)</p> <p>Japan (Outgoing) <b>Mr. Yasuhiro MATSUDA</b> Director, Humanitarian Assistance and Emergency Relief Division, International Cooperation Bureau Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Represented by <b>Mr. Nakahara Takanobu</b> Chief, Humanitarian Assistance and Emergency Relief Division, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan</p>
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#### Working Group Chairs:

Training	Dewey Perks - USA
Guidelines	Co-Chairs: David Sochor - Switzerland and Anwar Abdullah - Singapore
IM	Peter Wolff - Germany
Light	Arjan Stam - the Netherlands - <b>represented by Mrs. Johannes Gust</b>

### 1. Agenda:

- a. Welcome notes and Introductions
- b. Global Updates on INSARAG and OCHA - Global Chair and Secretariat
- c. Updates and feedback on the regional planning and upcoming meetings - Regional Chairs
- d. Updates from Working Group Chairs
- e. INSARAG Global Meeting Planning Updates - Poland
- f. Upcoming Events

### 2. Key Points Discussed

- a. Welcome Notes

#### Ambassador Manuel Bessler, the Global Chair of INSARAG

Ambassador Manuel Bessler and Mr. Rudolf Muller opened and welcomed the INSARAG Steering Group 2019, Troika members and Working Group Chairs to the twice-yearly conference call and fully appreciated participants calling in from their respective time zones.

- b. Global Updates on INSARAG and OCHA - Global Chair and Secretariat

Ambassador Manuel Bessler outlined that in 2019 the INSARAG Network focused on International Assistance arrangements in sudden onset emergencies by institutionalizing the Ownership Model to the Regional Troikas; engaging and supporting the INSARAG Global Meeting 2020 in Warsaw, Poland;

developing concepts on beyond operations in collapsed structures – dual-use concept; reviewing INSARAG Guidelines; enhancing training of suitable IEC/R Mentors, Team Leaders and Exercise Control Team Leads; implementing New Technologies and Information Management (ESRI) and strengthening ongoing operational arrangements with WHO EMTs and other operational partners.

Ambassador Manuel Bessler also provided a six-month overview of 2019 by highlighting and congratulating the successful IERs of France, Poland, Romania and Ukraine as well as the second reclassification of the UAE and the Netherlands. He also informed that the first International Light Team Classification (Light-USAR IEC) is postponed to 2020. Furthermore, the overview also included updates on the development of trainings; in 2019: 85% of the USAR teams were trained in UCC consisting of more than 400 people trained. It has also been noted that the Information Management group trained more than 450 people which is over 83% of the IEC teams. Finally, the Ambassador also announced Georgia and India's interest to become members of the INSARAG Network and their upcoming assessment missions.

**Mr. Rudolf Muller, Chief Emergency Response Support Branch (ERSB), Coordination Division, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, OCHA – Geneva**

Mr. Rudolf Muller thanked Global, Regional and Working Group Chairs for their efforts and contributions to the strengthening of USAR coordination and effectiveness.

He highlighted the importance of being agile for INSARAG given the changing humanitarian environment as well as the increasing importance of partnerships for collaboration and to complement INSARAG's capacities. He also mentioned that he is looking forward to the upcoming events, including the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Meeting and INSARAG's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020, to mark the successful developments of the network.

Finally, information on the structural changes in OCHA's ERSB and INSARAG Secretariat were given and Sebastian Rhodes Stampa as the new Chief of Emergency Response Section (ERS) of UNOCHA and the INSARAG Secretary was introduced.

- c. Updates and feedback from Regional Chairs on the regional planning and upcoming meetings - Regional Chairs

**Americas**

Americas' Regional Chair, Ambassador Alejandro Daneri, shared that the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Americas participated in the Humanitarian Networks and Partnership Week (HNPW) in February 2019, in a meeting led by Argentina, and were able to familiarize themselves with the mechanisms of INSARAG.

The Meeting of the International Mechanisms for Humanitarian Assistance (MIAH) meeting held in Buenos Aires in June 2019 included the dedicated meeting on INSARAG, which allowed for the INSARAG approach of bilateral response, coordinated by the affected government with support from a multilateral entity such as OCHA as INSARAG secretariat as a good practice to be shared. The Buenos Aires declaration adopted in the MIAH meeting included a paragraph on INSARAG and was already with the INSARAG Americas regional group.

Ambassador Daneri also informed that preparations for the upcoming Earthquake Response Exercise which will take place in Cuba in September are underway and mentioned that the invitations will soon be sent out. This regional exercise will focus on the national and regional mechanisms of humanitarian aid. Ambassador Daneri thanked several countries for their support to the EXCON group.

Furthermore, Ambassador Daneri mentioned that the INSARAG Team Leaders Meeting in Chile will be held in October with participation from the region and Team Leaders from around the world. Chile accepted to host a meeting of the Technical Support Group (TSG) on the INSARAG External Support and Recognition Process (IESRP) in parallel with the Team Leaders Meeting, where experts will review lessons learned from the first countries that have gone through the IERSP process (Guatemala and Colombia).

Finally, Ambassador Daneri, shared that the dates for regional meeting in Buenos Aires are not confirmed yet but it is expected to take place in late November (27-29 November, TBC). It will then be the opportunity to discuss the upcoming IGM 2020 and to prepare the relevant topics, which will include strengthening the national capacities for coordination of national and international USAR assistance. In terms of preparation for the IGM 2020 in Poland, the Americas region plans to create a time-bound task force to prepare the topic for the global meeting. The focus topic for the Americas Region will probably be renamed “strengthening quality standards and coordination through localization of international guidance” as the intention is to add the aspect of national coordination capacities.

## **AEME**

The representative from AEME, Mr. Luigi D'Angelo, informed that the region is currently working on its strategic objective ahead of the INSARAG Global Meeting, and ideas were shared regarding advancing flexible assistance.

Moreover, Mr. Luigi D'Angelo shared that realizing that 19 countries don't have any classified team in Europe yet, the region decided to work on surveys and the findings will be elaborated once the data becomes available.

The Regional Chair also informed that they are currently working on the partnership with MODEX. This year, the Romanian team has successfully undergone its reclassification in Bulgaria in June 2019 within a MODEX exercise and the Morocco IER in a similar setting is upcoming.

There will be a workshop in Genoa at the end of August with the fire brigade. The workshop will be an opportunity to work with other countries on the topic of flexible assistance and suggestions for other topics for the workshops are invited to be shared prior to the meeting. More information on the workshop and its agenda will be distributed when available. There will be a regional meeting in October where ideas will be shared on INSARAG Strategic Plan 2020-2025

On behalf of the representative of France, Mr. Bruno Ulliac, Mr. Philippe Meresse shared that ongoing and future projects will be updated soon.

## **Asia Pacific**

The AP Regional Chair, Ms. Meg Northrope, shared that AP Region is preparing for the regional meeting being held in August with 46 delegates currently confirmed for this meeting, but they encourage any interested delegates to attend. Australia is currently looking at the strategic objective of ‘Bolstering Partnerships and Enhancing Preparedness Efforts’ but they are eager to look at the full scope, which includes the other two priorities, at the IGM 2020. AP is also looking at projects under enhanced preparedness. Furthermore, AP is looking at strengthening the way in which the trainers of UC courses are recorded. The region already has a compiled list of trainers and will keep adding to it.

### **d. Updates from Working Group Chairs**

**The Training Working Group Chair (TWG)**, Dewey Perks, shared that the TWG recently met in Oman. The previously planned course will need to be pushed to February 2020 to be able to include the results of the Guideline Review Group's work in the 2020 Guideline revision process.

**The Guidelines Review Group Chairs (GRG)**, David Sochor and Anwar Abdullah, shared that the review of Vol.1 is completed. A meeting on the guidelines was held three weeks ago in Singapore where amendments were discussed. A Technical writer has now been engaged. The next phase will be to submit the updated guidelines to the Team Leaders in approximately three weeks. The final endorsement will be at the IGM, after a Global consultation and with involvement of the Troika.

**The Information Management Group (IMG) Chair**, Peter Wolff, shared that there has been a change of software from KoBo to ESRI because it is a more modern collection tool. Five exercises and one UC training course have been conducted on the new system successfully. The IMG is currently working on a training plan to hand over to Team Leaders and teams, so they can familiarize themselves with the new 123 survey software. An agenda, proposal and invitations will be sent to Team Leaders regional meeting and discussed during the Team Leaders/Working Groups meeting in the framework of the Team Leaders Meeting. Lastly, a sponsor has been secured for ESRI for the next 5 years.

**The Light Team Quality Assurance Working (LTQAW) Group Chair**, Johannes Gust on behalf of Arjan Stam, the Chair of the LTQAW group, shared that the first classification which was originally scheduled in 2019 was postponed due to accreditation issues. Therefore, the first classification of a team will be in 2020. There are now guidance notes for the light team classification. He also suggested that the process should be done jointly with IEC of other teams, either medium or heavy teams, as role-players will be needed from other classified teams to conduct exercises. The team aiming for the light classification is making constant progress and is currently reaching the ninth step over the twelve steps necessary to complete the quality assurance process. Therefore, the classification of the team @fire is scheduled to take place in June 2020 alongside Switzerland and France.

e. INSARAG Global Meeting Planning Updates - Poland

The AEME Incoming Regional Chair from Poland and the Host of the IGM 2020, Krzysztof Pietrasik, updated on the ongoing preparation for the INSARAG Global Meeting 2020 and informed that the dates have been confirmed for 4 –9 October 2020. The agenda of the meeting will be the following:

- The Working group Meetings from 4-5 October;
- The Team Leaders meeting for one day and half from 6-7 October;
- The three Regional meeting will be held simultaneously from 7-8 October;
- The Global meeting will take place on the 9 October 2020.

For more detailed information, please see Annex A.

The title of the Global Meeting is “Reinforce, advance and partner for effective response” and the three strategic objectives for 2020-2025 that will be discussed and endorsed at the meeting are:

- Strengthening Quality Standards and coordination, led by Americas Region, likely enlarged to “strengthening quality standards and coordination through localization of international guidance”
- Advancing Flexible Assistance, Led by Africa-Europe-Middle East Region
- Enhancing Preparedness Efforts and Bolstering Partnerships, led by Asia Pacific Region

Krzysztof Pietrasik encouraged the regions to discuss those objectives in their respective regional meetings and emphasized the importance of contribution and ownership from every region. He also informed that outcomes of discussions on 3 strategic objectives held at Regional Meetings in 2019 will feed into a Warsaw Declaration which will serve as main pillar for Strategic Plan 2020-2025. See Annex B for guidance for discussions at Regional Meetings and Team Leaders Meeting 2019.

Furthermore, a communication strategy has been drafted building on various communication tools. See Annex C.

He requested Regional Chairs to consider reaching out to member states regarding the funding of IGM participant from disaster-prone countries.

Finally, he mentioned that the IEC of the Polish team, gave opportunity to take pictures and make videos that will be use in the promotion materials for the IGM, together with inputs from the network. Regions are therefore encouraged to record their trainings and meetings and share relevant information with the Secretariat.

#### **f. Upcoming Events**

- INSARAG Asia Pacific Meeting in Cairns, Australia, 15 –16 August 2019
- INSARAG ERE in Cuba, 16 –20 September 2019
- INSARAG Team Leaders Meeting in Santiago de Chile, Chile, 6 –11 October 2019
- INSARAG AEME Regional Meeting in Palermo, Italy, 24-25 October 2019
- INSARAG ERE AEME in Baku, Azerbaijan, 3-8 November 2019
- INSARAG Americas Regional Meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 27 – 29 TBC
- INSARAG ERE Asia Pacific in Chang Mai, Thailand, 9 –13 December 2019
- Steering Group Meeting, 3-7 February 2020 (during the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week)
- INSARAG Global Meeting, 4 – 9 October 2020

For more detailed agenda, please see Annex D.

#### **g. Closing**

Ambassador Manuel thanked all the regional and working group chairs and representatives for their dedication and commitment to the network workplans and for dialling in at a very late and early times of the day for the call.

#### **ANNEXES**

Annex A: INSARAG Global Meeting 2020 Concept Note

Annex B: Guidance for discussions at Regional Meetings and Team Leaders Meeting 2019

Annex C: IGM 2020 Communication Strategy

Annex D: INSARAG Calendar 2019