

Summary of the Meeting with the entire Flexible Response WG (FRWG)

Friday 17th September – 13:00 GVA Time

Part I: Opening Statements and Introduction

During the first FRWG meeting, INSARAG Unit Head and Global Lead, Winston Chang and, INSARAG HAO, Roberto Colangelo welcomed the two Flexible Response WG (FRWG) overall Co-Chairs (Paolo Vaccari and Paul Baxter), Sub-WG Co-Chairs and the rest of the members and expressed their gratitude to them for accepting this important challenge and providing their knowledge and expertise.

Paul Baxter presented the rationale behind the FRWG as the natural progression of the Behind the Rubbles (BtR) concept given the changing humanitarian landscape, the climate crisis and recent experiences (Beirut, Albania) and stressed the importance of reviewing the Terms of Reference (ToRs) as an important guide of the progress, organization and objectives of the FRWG.

He continued to review the structure of each Sub-WG: Sub-WG A focusing on the Flexible Response Global Position, Sub-WG B on Damage Assessment Coordination Centre (DACC), and Sub-WG C on Cultural Heritage. He highlighted that the participation and membership of each member to each Sub-WG was endorsed and signed off by the International Steering Group (ISG) and introduced the Co-Chairs of each Sub-WG: Thomas Zeiter and Otty Rusinarsetyo (Global Position), Solveig Thorvaldsdottir and Joshua Macabuag (DACC), Jing Wang and Aparna Tandon (Cultural Heritage).

Paolo Vaccari clarified that the nomination and selection of the members of each Sub-WG was approved by the Global and Regional Chairs based on geographical and gender balance, with special consideration to ensure the inclusion of members from countries under-represented in the other INSARAG Working Groups, and he stated the importance of respecting the balance and structure of each Sub-WG. He added that there could be the possibility for the Sub-WG members to participate in more than one Sub-WG.

In regards of the organization of the FRWG he encouraged the participants to work together and to focus on the defined area of discussion of each Sub-WG to ensure the outcomes are achieved.

Part II: Sub-WG discussion

1. Sub-WG A: Global Position

The two Co-Chairs (Thomas Zeiter and Otty Rusinarsetyo) started their meeting by introducing themselves and gave the floor to the rest of members to present their name, country, background and the organization they represent.

They stated that they used the app “Mentimeter.com” to gather information on the experience of the participants in three topics related to the Global position: USAR experience, BtR experience, INSARAG experience.

The co-chairs Thomas Zeiter and Otty Rusinarsetyo introduced the different time zones of the group members, in order to find a common timeframe for future meetings. They introduced the ToRs to the members, and the objectives of the Sub-WG in order to facilitate further discussions and develop INSARAG's Flexible Response concepts.

The progress timeline of the Sub-WG was reviewed:

1. 17th of September 2021, kick-off
2. October – December 2021, consolidation of area of discussion for each Sub-WG.
3. January 2022, all Co-Chairs meeting
4. February 2022, first state of the art during the humanitarian week

The two Co-Chairs asked the members to answer the following questions for the 30th of September:

1. What's Flexible Response / BtR?
2. What can USAR Teams do (BtR)?
3. Management Element
4. Support/ logistic Element
5. Operation (Search, Rescue, Medical) Element in heavy, medium, light strength?
6. What opportunities does Flexible Response have?
7. What are the risks of the Flexible Response?

2. Sub-WG B: DACC

The two Co-Chairs (Solveig Thorvaldsdottir and Joshua Macabuag) introduced themselves. They informed the members that the ToRs were shared in the plenary meeting and briefly discussed.

They addressed the key elements of the Sub-WG

1. Connecting international coordination structure with national structure
2. Engineering assessment methodology and methods
3. Coordination of international resources
4. Data management

They presented the starting points of the Sub-WG and how they are going to structure the work of the DACC Sub-WG. In order to facilitate the Sub-WG work, the Co-Chairs informed the members about the need to address the administrative issues, and the output and deliverables.

The 2 Co-Chairs asked the members to present themselves in order to understand who they represent, their background, and what would they like the WG to achieve.

3. Sub-WG C: Cultural Heritage

The 2 Co-Chairs (Jing Wang and Aparna Tandon) introduced themselves. The Co-Chairs introduced **the sub-working group's objectives as outlined in the TOR document for FRWG.**

This was followed by a discussion amongst the sub-working group's members, during the course of which members raised the following questions:

- 1. The draft UNESCO guidelines focus on USAR operations at heritage sites, does that mean that the sub-working group has to look into the possibility of involvement in protection of cultural heritage beyond the rubble stage?**
- 2. Which tools and platforms members of the sub working group can use to share information and keep track of progress made?**

The subgroup concluded with a decision that all members will first read the UNESCO guidelines draft and then discuss it together in the next meeting scheduled for October 1 at 3:00 PM CET.

3. INSARAG Sub-FRWG of Preservation of Cultural Heritage will assist the USAR TEAM giving full play to the USER's professional ability in the process of urban search and rescue.

The Co-Chairs, along with the members, reviewed the tasks of the Sub-WG and his role: promote the involvement of INSARAG in cultural heritage preservation during the search and rescue process, UNESCO World Heritage, integrate the database of UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the information of China's World Cultural Heritage Data Center to supplement a clear basic overview of world cultural heritage, including OUV and the map of the properties, thus providing the fundamental operation scope for USAR Team's rescue after the disaster at heritage site.

The Co-Chairs reviewed the **Guidelines of the Sub-WG**: to review the Draft UNESCO Guidelines on USAR at Heritage Site with UNESCO experts and identify the contents which are useful and compatible with the INSARAG Guidelines and methodology. A draft, a technical guidance note on INSARAG in initiating USAR response measures at heritage sites, will be presented at the INSARAG Steering Group next year.

The Co-Chairs highlighted the possible cooperation of the Sub-WG with UNESCO, its organizational partner ICCROM and other relevant partners concerning the next steps towards a more generic guidance note for USAR teams on cultural heritage response. They underlined the importance of strengthening the cooperation and coordination with UNESCO and other international heritage preservation institutions and establishing regional expert database on specific aspects of professional heritage search and rescue.

The Co-Chairs reviewed the progress timeline of the Sub-WG.