



## Concept Note for INSARAG's Engagement in HNPW 2022



### Table of Contents

Background Information.....	1
HNPW 2022 Format .....	1
INSARAG Engagement in HNPW 2022.....	2
Sessions Overview .....	2
INSARAG Steering Group (ISG) Meeting, 10 May 2022, 09:00 (UTC +2).....	3
Participants.....	3
Objectives of ISG 2022.....	3
ISG Meeting Structure and Content .....	4
Conclusion.....	5

## Background Information

The [Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks \(HNPW\)](#) is the largest event of its kind. In 2021, the HNPW brought together more than 40 network members who participated in over 300 sessions during the course of several weeks. Well-established networks and partnerships, such as the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG), and newly created networks, hold their annual consultations and meet to discuss common challenges in humanitarian affairs and emergency response.

Leading Edge Programme (LEP) stakeholders meet annually at the HNPW to exchange best practices and to discuss areas of common concern. The HNPW is open to all professionals working in humanitarian crisis preparedness and response (e.g., NGOs, UN agencies, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, Member States, civil protection, military, the private sector, academia). While some of the meetings at the HNPW are invitation-only, others are open for observers and the public.

INSARAG will make use of the HNPW to actively engage with its members, meet new partners and create opportunities for collaboration. INSARAG will participate in events organized by related networks and map out a series of virtual engagements, activities, and consultations amongst network members.

## HNPW 2022 Format

The HNPW 2022 will be held in a hybrid format from 02 to 20 May 2022, according to the following schedule:

1. Week 1 (02-06 May): Remote
2. Week 2 (09-13 May): Face-to-face at the International Conference Centre (CICG) in Geneva.

3. Week 3 (16-20 May): Remote

HNPW sessions will be divided into four different types:

1. Network sessions, internal network meetings that are open to observers.
2. Briefing sessions, to provide updates and for the introduction to new projects and tools.
3. Technical sessions, divided by technical topics.
4. Exhibitions, hosted in CICG Exhibition Area.

More info regarding sessions can be found on the official [HNPW website](#).

## INSARAG Engagement in HNPW 2022

### Sessions Overview

The INSARAG Secretariat, alongside valued network members and partners, will host two

#### Network sessions:

- 10 May 2022, 9:00-15:30 UTC+2, INSARAG Steering Group (ISG) meeting is INSARAG's flagship event at the HNPW, and will be held in two parts on May 10, in network sessions, two technical sessions and four exhibitions. Sessions will be in hybrid format, at CICG in Geneva and online.
- 9 and 11 May 2022, 9:00-17:30 UTC+2, Bilateral meetings, on the side of ISG, to reaffirm friendly relations among network members, exchange information and discuss strategic objectives.

#### Technical sessions

- 9 and 12 May 2022, 9:00-17:30 UTC+2, Technical Working Groups (TWGs) Co-Chairs meetings will provide an opportunity for the Chairs and Co-Chairs of the INSARAG Technical Working Groups (WGs) to meet again and follow up on cross-cutting issues from the Team Leaders (TLs) and WGs Meetings hosted in March by Qatar.
- 10 May 2022, 16:00-17:30 UTC+2, Annual meeting of the INSARAG Medical Working Group and the World Health Organization's (WHO) Emergency Medical Teams Initiative (EMTs). This meeting will reinforce the existing partnership between INSARAG and WHO, and will provide an opportunity for the MWG and EMTs members to discuss how the INSARAG Guidelines can be adapted to include pandemic preparedness and response.

#### Exhibitions

- **Emergency Response Section (ERS) Tent**, in cooperation with United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) and Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Teams. The ERS tent will showcase how different OCHA ERS units, tools, services, and partners respond to disasters and coordinate on the field. An Earthquake Simulation Exercise (ERSIMEX) Scenario will be used for simulating a USAR operation. The following stakeholders will operate in shifts: UNDAC, INSARAG, INSARAG Coordination Management System experts, Joint Environmental Unit, IHP, Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination and the Civil-Military Coordination Section,

Drone Ops from the **Pompiers de l'Urgence Internationale (PUI)** stand, WHO EMTs. INSARAG/UNDAC Regional Focal Points will be present to share details of preparedness and response activities, ERS report, snapshots, and other visual materials.

- **Pompiers de l'Urgence Internationale (PUI)**, will showcase how drones can be used in USAR operations.
- The **Information Management Working Group (IMWG)** will showcase the **INSARAG Coordination Management System 2.0**.
- The **IMWG** will also showcase **Virtual Reality Earthquake Response Exercises (ERE)**.

Details for each session can be found on the official [HNPW Programme](#).

## **INSARAG Steering Group (ISG) Meeting, 10 May 2022, 09:00 (UTC +2)**

Over the past 30 years, INSARAG has regularly updated its globally recognized standards and methodology to save lives more effectively and efficiently. Substantial progress has been made in the development of guidance documents and national and international Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) preparedness and response, with 60 USAR teams now having successfully completed INSARAG External Classifications (IECs). INSARAG has become a model of USAR standards that over 90 member states and organisations are proud to be part of.

With the recent third INSARAG Global Meeting (IGM), hosted virtually by the Government of Poland on 6 October 2021, the network commemorated 30 years of life-saving work. During the meeting, participants discussed new ways of strengthening emergency preparedness through localization of USAR activities. The IGM also saw the endorsement of the Warsaw Declaration, reflecting the four Strategic Objectives: (1) Quality Standards, (2) Localization, (3) Flexible Response, and (4) Partnerships defined in the [INSARAG Strategic Plan 2021-2026](#), which will guide the network for the next five years.

The Steering Group meets annually, in order for the Regional Chairs to report on region-specific work plans and determine INSARAG's strategic direction and policies. INSARAG Working Group Chairs provide technical advice and input for the ISG as required. The discussions in this year's meeting will be based on the key policy and technical issues considered in the three regional meetings held in 2021, the INSARAG Global Meeting in October 2021, and the New Year Teleconference held on 12 January 2022.

### **Participants**

Members of the ISG include the following: the INSARAG Global Chair; Chairs and Vice-Chairs of each Regional Group; INSARAG Secretariat; Working Group Chairs; INSARAG Member States' Policy Focal Point (or delegate); INSARAG Classified NGO team representative (or delegate); Representative from the INSARAG Team Leaders group; International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

### **Objectives of ISG 2022**

During the INSARAG Steering Group Meeting, scheduled for 10 May 2022, the network will discuss the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the upcoming network activities, and how to emerge stronger from this crisis. In addition, the ISG will address and follow up

on issues arising from the New Year Teleconference and make collective decisions to improve the network's preparedness for effective emergency response, following the guidance outlined in the INSARAG Strategic Plan 2021-2016 and the Warsaw Declaration.

## **ISG Meeting Structure and Content**

### **Part I – Opening, Policy, Technical and Operational Updates**

Part I of the ISG Meeting will provide an opportunity for the Regional Chairs to share their Regional Work Plans for 2022 and for the Working Group Chairs and Co-Chairs to share their work plans to ensure that the guidelines reflect the latest changes in the operational environment.

### **Part II – Issues for ISG's Decisions and Endorsement**

During Part II, the network members will discuss and facilitate the endorsement of the following five issues:

#### **Progress update:**

##### **1. Flexible Response Global Position**

- **Lead:** Flexible Response WG, Global Position Sub-WG, **Secretariat FP:** Haruka Ezaki

INSARAG teams are primarily specialized in providing USAR services in response to earthquakes and collapsed structure emergencies. In a constantly changing response environment, in which there has been an increase in extreme weather-related disasters requiring assistance beyond conventional urban search and rescue (USAR) operations, INSARAG could leverage the globally accepted standards for quality response to promote agility and flexibility of rescue teams in response to operations across other than USAR activities. Given the increasing intensity and frequency of natural disasters, compounded by the climate crisis, the INSARAG Steering Group (ISG) in 2020 recommended that the network discuss and explore the potential for the development of adaptable and flexible response operations.

##### **2. Improvements on the Guidelines on Bilateral Response**

- **Lead:** Transitional Guidelines Review WG, **Secretariat FP:** Winston Chang

Acknowledging that bilateral response has often created confusion in the past and that its meaning must be better clarified. It was recommended that INSARAG strengthen the guidelines on bilateral response. INSARAG will be enhancing and strengthening the necessary steps for when teams provide direct assistance on a bilateral basis upon a request from an affected government. These steps will be clearly outlined in the INSARAG Guidelines.

#### **Endorsement:**

##### **3. National Accreditation Process V2.0**

- **Lead:** National Accreditation WG, **Secretariat FP:** Haruka Ezaki and Ana Maria

The INSARAG Guidelines 2015 included a complete manual on how to strengthen national and local capacity building and recommended that countries establish a national USAR team accreditation mechanism. Such a mechanism would allow a country to “manage, monitor and establish the same standards officially and adhere closely to the INSARAG standards and guidance in developing its USAR national response systems”. The National Accreditation Process (NAP)/INSARAG Recognized National Accreditation Process (IRNAP) has gained momentum among INSARAG members, and the regional Technical Support Group (TSG)/Technical Recognition Group (TRG) are an essential component of this. Endorsing the TSGs/TRGs Training Package is crucial in order to provide clear guidance and support to the NAP/IRNAP.

#### **4. First Responders Program (FRP) V2.0**

- **Lead:** Training WG, **Secretariat FP:** Lucien Jaggi

Building the first tier of local capability involves the training and development of existing local emergency services and community responders that meet the needs of the affected population at the onset of the incident. To assist in the development of urban search and rescue (USAR) First Responders, INSARAG developed the First Responders Training Package in 2015. The update focused on improving capacity building related to the local rescue in the immediate response to a sudden-onset disaster. The development of the second version of the FRP is based on the notion that when disasters strike, resilience building can be as useful as international urban search and rescue deployment.

#### **5. USAR Coordination (UC) Manual V2.0**

- **Lead:** Training WG, **Secretariat FP:** Lucien Jaggi

The USAR Coordination Manual provides guidance on the methodology of USAR Coordination to train and prepare USAR team members for national and international operations. The methodology has been synchronized with the OSOCC Guidelines and UNDAC Handbook. The update was required in order to align the manual with the INSARAG Coordination Management System (ICMS) and to ensure that there were no discrepancies between INSARAG, UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) and Emergency Medical Teams (EMT) reference documents, with a view towards strengthening the coordination and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance provided to affected countries.

## **Conclusion**

The HNPW 2022 will be an invaluable opportunity for everyone involved in humanitarian affairs and emergency response to learn from one another. INSARAG looks forward to facilitating communications between different stakeholders through the HNPW 2022 Sessions. INSARAG will take this opportunity to exchange best practices and experiences with its network members, partners, and potential new partners in order to respond more effectively to people in need in the future.

**Annex A:** Working ISG Agenda, approved at the INSARAG New Year Teleconference



**Agenda: Hybrid INSARAG Steering Group Meeting, Geneva CIG**  
10 May 2022, 0900 – 1530h UTC+2



0900 – 1230	Part 1	<b>Opening, Technical and Operational Updates</b>
0900 – 0945	Session 1	<b>Opening Statements, Adoption of the Agenda and Global Updates</b>  <i>Ambassador <b>Manuel Bessler</b>, INSARAG Global Chair</i> <b>Senior OCHA Manager</b> (TBC) <i>Mr. <b>Sebastian Rhodes Stampa</b>, Chief, Emergency Response Section and INSARAG Secretary</i>
0945 – 1030	Session 2	<b>Regional Workplans 2022 - Progress Updates</b>  <i>INSARAG Regional Chairs</i>
1030 – 1100		Tea/Coffee Break
1100 – 1230	Session 3	<b>Technical Working Group Workplans 2022 - Progress Updates</b>  <i>INSARAG Working Group Co-Chairs/Chairs</i> <i>Part 1: FR WG (including GP, DACC, CH), IEC/R WG, IM WG.</i> <i>Part 2: LT WG, MWG, NA WG, TWG, T-GRG.</i>
1230 – 1400		Lunch Break
1400 – 1530	Part II	<b>IGM Outcomes and Issues for ISG's Decisions and Endorsement</b>

---

1400 –1515

Session 4

### **INSARAG Steering Group Decisions on Key Items**

*Progress Update:*

1. *Flexible Response Global Position (FRWG Lead)*
2. *Improvements of the Guidelines on Bilateral Response (T-GRG Lead)*

*Endorsement:*

3. *National Accreditation Process V2.0 (NAWG Lead)*
4. *First Responders Program V2.0 (TWG Lead)*
5. *UC Manual V2.0 (TWG Lead)*

*Ambassador **Manuel Bessler**, INSARAG Global Chair*

**Regional Chairs**

*Moderated by **Sebastian Rhodes Stampa**, INSARAG Secretary and **Winston Chang**, INSARAG Unit Head.*

---

1515–1530

Session 5

### **Summary of Key Decisions and Closing Statements**

*Ambassador **Manuel Bessler**, INSARAG Global Chair*

**Senior OCHA Manager (TBC)**

---