**Overview**

The INSARAG Medical Working Group (MWG) met in Geneva, Switzerland on 9-11 May, 2022 in parallel to Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week (HNPW) and the INSARAG Steering Group (ISG) meeting.

This meeting was hosted by the INSARAG Secretariat.

The list of participants in this MWG meeting can be found in **Attachment A**. Attendance continues to be impacted by the effects of COVID 19 globally.

The original draft MWG meeting agenda is listed in **Attachment B** (for comparison with achievements below).

**Summary and Action Points**

1. **WHO Policy and Guidance representative to the INSARAG Medical Working Group**
   1. Farewells were made to Dr. Rudi Coninx who has served on the MWG for the past 8 years.
   2. His interim replacement, Mr. Kevin Ousman, was introduced to the group with a brief overview of the INSARAG system.
   3. A note of thanks was sent to Assistant Director General Dr. Fall, of WHO, for Dr. Coninx’s participation and the selection of his replacement.
2. **INSARAG Co-Chairs meeting**
   1. The MWG participated in the INSARAG Co-Chairs meeting held on the morning of 9 May, 2022.
   2. Important updates were conveyed including information relevant to the MWG’s work supporting the Flexible Response WG.
3. **Flexible Response WG input from the MWG**
   1. After initial discussions with representatives of the Flexible Response WG, input was developed to help guide that effort.
   2. The MWG input is provided as **Attachment C** which has been forwarded to Mr. Paul Baxter, Co-Chair of the Flexible Response WG.
4. **Participation in ISG**
   1. Members of the MWG participated in the ISG
   2. Dr. Macintyre provided an update to the INSARAG Community on MWG activities **(Attachment D)**
5. **Future of COVID impacts on INSARAG and need for additional guidance**
   1. The recently developed MWG Technical Reference Note on COVID 19 was reviewed.
   2. The current state of the pandemic was reviewed with different potential trajectories for the pandemic.
   3. Discussions about new guidance were held. It was decided that more generic Infection Prevention Control (IPC) guidance for INSARAG teams would be more helpful to address a broader array of potential hazards beyond just that of COVID 19. This will need a detailed risk assessment prior to undertaking.
   4. This will be addressed at the next meeting.
6. **Meeting with WHO EMT**
   1. The INSARAG Secretariat hosted a meeting between the WHO EMT leadership and the INSARAG MWG participants.
   2. Common points of operational coordination were discussed for when both types of teams are deployed simultaneously.
   3. This included RDC operations and coordination between the EMT CC and the UCC
   4. It was agreed that enhanced coordination was necessary in the future. Part of this could be improved with new combined training and exercise efforts coming up.
   5. It was agreed that a common methodology for rapid assessments of healthcare facilities would be beneficial. The USAR form will be shared with WHO EMT for review and comment.
7. **RDC discussion and common elements of information relevant to both INSARAG and the WHO EMT system**
   1. Independently, the MWG met to discuss these two topics.
   2. In addition, members of the Training WG were included in the discussion.
   3. It was determined that RDC operations need to be clarified as it relates to WHO EMT participation. This will be raised with the INSARAG Secretariat.
   4. A list of critical elements of information important to both INSARAG teams and WHO EMT teams was developed (this was an enhancement of an earlier product from 2017 that had already been shared with the WHO EMT leadership).
   5. This document, **Attachment E,** will be shared with WHO EMT leadership in an effort to enhance operational coordination in the future. Additional procedures or tools may be required.
8. **Hospital Evaluation**
   1. Healthcare infrastructure rapid assessments were discussed.
   2. Though not a primary initial role for USAR, it has been a tasking assigned in the past.
   3. A common methodology developed between INSARAG MWG and WHO Safe Hospitals Program is ideal as was discussed in the meeting with them.
   4. INSARAG MWG reviewed the tool they have already developed. This was updated.
   5. Of note, this tool has already been presented to PAHO with agreement in principal on its use.
   6. This tool serves as **Attachment F** and will be shared with WHO EMT for their review and comment.
   7. Further close collaboration with the WHO Safe Hospitals Program is envisioned
9. **Australian INSARAG Focal Point**
   1. A side meeting was held between the INSARAG MWG and the Australian INSARAG Focal Point (Ms. Northrope from Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).
   2. Her experiences with both USAR and WHO EMTs were determined to be helpful for some of the MWG efforts and an invitation will be provided for her to speak at the next MWG meeting.
10. **Discussion planning fall meeting**
    1. Initial planning was held regarding the next MWG meeting.
    2. Potential dates in the fall and early winter of 2022 were discussed.
    3. Possible locations include Australia (to enhance Asia Pacific region participation) and UK
    4. Initial arrangements will ideally be announced within the next month.
11. **Announcement of new Co-Chair**
    1. In keeping with the practice of other INSARAG Working Groups, a Co-Chair was officially selected and announced.
    2. Hector Fuentes, MD will serve as the Co-Chair and INSARAG Secretariat will be notified.