

Chairman's Summary INSARAG
Steering Group (ISG) Meeting
10 May 2022



The INSARAG Steering Group (ISG) Meeting of the Global, Regional and Working Group (WG) Chairs was held in hybrid format in Geneva, Switzerland on Tuesday, 10 May 2022 as part of the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks 2022 (HNPW). The ISG Meeting was chaired by Ambassador Manuel Bessler, the INSARAG Global Chair and Deputy Director General, Head of the Humanitarian Aid Department and Head of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit. The ISG participants were also greeted by Mr. Ramesh Rajasingham, Director, Coordination Division (OCHA Geneva) and OCHA Representative in Geneva. The event was facilitated by the INSARAG Secretariat and was attended by 229 participants, in person and online, from 89 countries and organizations. The list of registered participants can be found in [Annex A](#). The HNPW event gathered over 6,000 participants registered from 140 countries and included 53 humanitarian networks and partnerships who organized 250 sessions and 42 exhibitions.

During the ISG Meeting, participants had the opportunity to present their regional and WG workplans. To ensure INSARAG remains fit-for-purpose during the pandemic, climate-induced and humanitarian crises, and beyond, endorsements were given on six key issues, five of which were developments arising from the INSARAG Team Leaders and Working Groups Meeting that took place in Doha, Qatar in March 2022. The meeting outcomes of the Team Leaders meeting were presented under the four Strategic Objectives of the INSARAG Strategic Plan 2021-2026: (1) Quality Standards, (2) Localization, (3) Flexible Response, and (4) Partnerships. The ISG PowerPoint presentation is available in [Annex B](#).

Further information on INSARAG's participation at the HNPW can be found [here](#). The Chairman's Summaries of earlier meetings and supplementary documents can be found at <http://insarag.org>.

Session 1: Opening Statements and INSARAG Global Updates

I. Opening Statements

The session was opened by Ambassador Manuel Bessler, who welcomed all participants to the annual ISG meeting taking place in hybrid format this year and he noted what a pleasure it was to see so many familiar and new faces in person. He relayed his solidarity with the members of the Network who are saving lives daily, along with all the other INSARAG members supporting. The Ambassador gave a warm welcome to new INSARAG members who have sought out to join the network this year, Egypt, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan, and who have formally relayed their desires to strengthen disaster response capabilities in accordance with the INSARAG methodology and guidelines and commit to engage with the broader Network.

Ambassador Bessler detailed some of the INASRAG Network's key achievements since last year's virtual ISG, including the large-scale INSIEME exercise in Switzerland that took place in November 2021 where the first Light USAR team was classified, @Fire Germany. The Ambassador noted that such an event provides the INSARAG Network an opportunity with

unmeasurable impact to truly strengthen relationships and coordinate lifesaving response for when disasters strike. He also commended and thanked the Network for their support to the national COVID-19 response efforts and quick lifesaving responses to the Beirut Port Explosions in 2020 and the Haiti earthquake in 2021. He stressed that the responses showed solidarity with those effected and truly demonstrated the high-level of achievements that INSARAG teams live up to. Ambassador Bessler encouraged all to visit the operational field tent exhibition coordinated by ERS/RSB and concluded with the inspiring phrase, “Do more, do it better, and let’s do it together.”

Mr. Ramesh Rajasingham began his opening remarks by acknowledging the ISG is INSARAG’s second face-to-face meeting in the last 30 months and stressed how much can be accomplished working side-by-side in person. He dually highlighted the strength of this year’s hybrid format, garnering a larger, more diverse, and inclusive group of participants. Mr. Rajasingham reaffirmed OCHA’s dedicated support to the INSARAG Network as well as to its cooperation with National Disaster Management Agencies (NDMAs) of member states and key humanitarian partners. He underscored the Network’s First Responders Training, and other collaborative programs, and their importance, especially as many within the Network respond to the emergencies in Ukraine. He referenced that such collaboration between USAR teams truly defines INSARAG’s greatness. Lastly, Mr. Rajasingham relayed that INSARAG’s community of responders are an inspiring example to all, mentioning how the World Health Organization’s (WHO) EMTs have looked to the Network to develop their own life saving quality standards and methodology through collaboration with the INSARAG Medical Working Group (MWG).

Mr. Winston Chang thanked the Global Chair, the Director of the Coordination Division, the Regional Chairs, the Troika members, the Technical Working Group Chairs, the INSARAG Teams, the technical partners and the regional organisations for their continuous commitment and unyielding support to INSARAG.

He emphasized that the ISG Meeting is a key occasion for the network to recognize achievements and plan the way forward to remain fit-for-purpose and nimble, despite the global health crisis. Additionally, he underscored the importance of engagements on the localization agenda as well as to improve the network’s accountability frameworks and services to vulnerable communities.

II. INSARAG Global Updates

Mr. Winston Chang, INSARAG Unit Head, updated the participants on the four key areas from the INSARAG January New Year’s Teleconference of the Global, Regional and WG Chairs:

1. INSARAG Snapshot 2021
2. Highlights of the 2022 Global Workplan
3. IEC/R & IRNAP - Quality Assurance and Updates
4. Outcomes of the INSARAG Team Leaders Meeting in Doha.

Mr. Chang emphasized the situation impacting the INSARAG Secretariat with the increasing amounts of annual INSARAG External Reclassifications (IERs) due to the pandemic backlog and growing number of INSARAG members. The Unit Head asked the Network for guidance on how to manage the upward and exponential trend.

Lastly, he detailed the outcomes of the Team Leaders Meeting in Doha that will seek to be endorsed during the ISG, such as the workplans of the WGs, USAR Coordination (UC) Revised Manual and National Accreditation Process (NAP) Manuals, and highlighted the importance of, and increased interest in, the INSARAG Recognized National Accreditation Process (IRNAP) process that is happening in all three regions in the following months. Mr. Chang welcomed all interested observers to join the IRNAP processes.

Session 2: Regional Workplan Progress Updates and INSARAG Global Updates

Regional Workplan Progress Updates

I. Africa, Europe, and Middle East (AEME)

The AEME regional workplan updates were presented by Mr. Önder Bozkurt, Deputy President of AFAD, on behalf of the AEME Regional Chair, Governor Yunus Sezer. Mr. Bozkurt spoke of the importance of international cooperation when responding to disasters and then presented the regional implementation of INSARAG's four strategic objectives – quality standards, localization, flexible response, and partnerships.

1. Quality Standards: Mr. Önder Bozkurt provided details on the upcoming global and regional events, as well as detailing the region's new members.
2. Localization: The region has scheduled First Responders trainings for African member states, along with the implementation of the Africa Outreach plans for local capacity building.
3. Flexible Response: The Deputy President reported on the South Africa SADC Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Support Preparation and Flexible Response Partnership consultation that was conducted in March of this year, as well as the SA USAR team response to the KwaZulu-Natal Floods in April. He also relayed that the region is engaged in the discussion on flexible response and participates actively in the global Flexible Response WG.
4. Partnerships: The Deputy President of AFAD reported on the development of regional partnerships in Africa, including with Rescue SA on response and capacity building. He also reported on the strengthening of European partnerships through EU MODEX Cycles of IERs and the upcoming USAR Coordination Cell (UCC) Course in Italy with the European Commission.

Mr. Önder Bozkurt stressed the importance of the four strategic objectives as Turkey was responding to the 2021 forest fires and the COVID-19 pandemic.

He concluded his remarks by highlighting the upcoming August simulation exercise (SIMEX) taking place in Turkey and the new project of establishing and developing a logistics centre that makes available equipment to INSARAG and others in times of emergency.

II. The Americas

Minister Ramón Soto, Secretary of State in the Offices of Risk Management and National Contingencies and Regional Chair of the Americas Region from Honduras, indicated that the regional workplan for 2022 is aligned with the INSARAG Strategic Plan for 2021-2026.

The Minister reported progress on the IRNAP for Chile, Honduras, Panama, and Argentina. He also reported updates regarding the design of the regional IRNAP course with contribution from regional experts from the IRNAP Technical Support Groups (TSGs) and the Technical Recognition Groups (TRGs) being held in September, which has also been translated from Spanish to English. He shared that the National Accreditation Working Group (NAWG) and the USAR National Coordination Course will be held in May in Colombia and in June in Peru. The Minister relayed that the region has also actively contributed to the NAWG, participating in the Asia Pacific region's online course, and contributing to the IRNAP Guideline revisions. Mr. Soto mentioned that the USA-01 USAR team obtained its third reclassification in April, and the upcoming schedule for the IER of CHI-01 and COL-01.

Minister Soto informed that this year there will be preparation activities for the III Humanitarian Assistance SIMEX in Central America for June of 2023. Additionally, the Regional Chair pointed out that the region has been active in contributing to a position paper on flexible response within the Flexible Response Working Group (FRWG), while acknowledging the difficulties of scheduling across time zones. Due to this issue, in April, a Regional Group on flexible response was developed. The Minister relayed information on the dissemination of the INSARAG Coordination Management System (ICMS) in the region. Lastly, he mentioned the upcoming Regional Humanitarian Week in the Americas that will take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina in November where the INSARAG and UNDAC Regional Meetings, International Earthquake response Exercise (ERE), and Argentina IRNAP process will also be held.

III. Asia Pacific (AP)

Mr. Yil Lee, Director General of the 119 Rescue & EMS Bureau of the Korean National Fire Agency and Regional Chair for the Asia Pacific Region, presented on the Asia Pacific Regional Workplan for 2022. His presentation included the regional implementation of the four INSARAG strategic objectives outlined in the INSARAG Strategic Plan for 2021-2026 - quality standards, localization, flexible response, and partnerships - as well as detailing the regional activities for 2022 in the AP. The activities included multiple IRNAP workshops and the IRNAP taking place in Singapore in October, the AP Regional Meeting and ERE, a webinar on flexible response and disaster response coordination, and capacity building support in Sri Lanka.

Session 3: Technical Working Group Workplans 2022 - Progress Updates

I. Flexible Response Working Group (FRWG)

Co-Chairs, Mr. Paolo Vaccari and Mr. Paul Baxter presented the progress updates for the FRWG. They provided key updates for i) Global Position, ii) Culture and Heritage, and iii) Damage Assessment Coordination Centre (DACC).

i. Global Position

On behalf of Mr. Thomas Zeiter and Mr. Otty Rusinarsetyo, the Co-Chairs for the Global Position, Mr. Paul Baxter and Mr. Paolo Vaccari presented the Global Position progress updates for FRWG. They highlighted that no new decisions on flexible response have been taken and that current activities are using already existing capabilities. The sub-WG remarked that many skills and capabilities required for responding to weather related disasters like wildfires, water, and flood rescues may already exist within teams, organizations, and agencies, but not specifically the USAR team itself. Furthermore, the Co-Chairs underlined a few issues which still require solving, such as EU issues of coordination and overlap, integration actions required for DACC, global mapping of additional capacities within USAR teams, and determination of a prioritization list for additional capacities.

Action point: A policy decision will be required about the future expansion of INSARAG into capabilities beyond the current USAR system. We expect this to be taken after consultation at the 2022 Regional meetings and with all members at the next ISG meeting in 2023.

ii. Damage Assessment Coordination Centre (DACC)

On behalf Ms. Solveig Thorvaldsdottir and Mr. Mark Scorer, the Co-Chairs of the DACC, Mr. Paul Baxter and Mr. Paolo Vaccari, presented on progress updates. The Co-Chairs informed the participants of the change of Co-Chairmanship from Mr. Josh Macabuag to Mr. Mark Scorer. They highlighted that the DACC sub-WG is currently working as two groups, the Engineering Group, and the Coordination Group, and detailed the focus of each. The sub-WG highlighted that the UC manual has served as a strong format for the DACC Handbook, and that DACC may need to be renamed so that it is easily differentiable. The Co-Chairs presented on the following key decisions:

1. DACC guidance should be generic (not specific to earthquake, but applicable across flood, hurricane, blast, etc).
2. Any output should be as concise as possible, with minimal text (preferable with figure/diagrams) and referring to existing documents wherever possible.

The Co-Chairs also stressed that the DACC and Response to Cultural Heritage WGs must be able to stand on their own regardless the status of flexible response.

Action Point: the draft document is still a work in progress and the sub-working group will advise when the draft guide is completed for global consultation.

iii. Response to Culture Heritage

On behalf of Ms. Aparna Tandon and Ms. Jing Wang, the Co-Chairs of the Response to Culture Heritage, Mr. Paul Baxter and Mr. Paolo Vaccari, presented on progress updates. The Co-Chairs provided updates on feedback received from the draft field guide for USAR operations at heritage sites formulated by UNESCO. The main feedback and recommendations for the field guide were:

1. Formulate a paragraph(s) that is relevant to engineers in the context of cultural heritage.
2. Extract the information that is new for USAR teams in the context of cultural heritage and optimize the use of On-Site Operations and Coordination Centre (OSOCC) or Virtual OSOCC (VOSOCC) to integrate the information.

3. When working on heritage sites Beyond the Rubble, at the request of the Local Emergency Management Authority (LEMA), that USAR teams work jointly in close collaboration with relevant national cultural heritage agencies.

The Co-Chairs acknowledged that there is a natural conflict between search and rescue and with preserving cultural heritage. However, the sub-WG has been able to develop a draft Technical Guidance document and a draft UNESCO Field Guidelines for USAR at Heritage Sites with UNESCO which endorses basic principles.

Action Point: The draft guide will be shared at the upcoming regional and WG meetings for feedback before the finalized document is tabled at the ISG 2023 for endorsement.

II. Transitional Guidelines Review Group (T-GRG)

Mr. Martin Evers and Mr. David Lewis, the Co-Chairs of the T-GRG presented on progress updates. The Co-Chairs wished to clarify to the participants about the binding, updating and governance nature of the Guidelines, Guidance Notes, and the Technical References.

1. Guidelines - are binding in nature, updated every five years and are governed by the INSARAG Steering Group.
2. Guidance Notes - are binding in nature, updated every year and are governed by the INSARAG Steering Group.
3. Technical References - are not binding in nature, they are updated continuously and are governed by the WGs.

The Co-Chairs informed the participants that the T-GRG WG is responsible for consistency, terminology, Guidelines, Guidance Notes, Technical References, and proper administration. They also reported that the T-GRG WG has recently been working on the Bilateral Response Guidance Note.

Action Point: The T-GRG will finalize a draft guidance note on the international non USAR response arrangements and share at the upcoming regional meetings.

III. IEC/R Review Working Group

Ms. Annika Coll and Mr. Dewey Perks, the INSARAG External Classification/ Reclassification (IEC/R) Review WG Co-Chairs, presented on progress updates. Their presentation provided an overview of the achievements of the IEC/R Review WG since creation, and proposals ensuring the quality of the IEC/R process, amendments to the IER system, and revisions to the WG's Terms of References (ToR).

Proposals:

1. Proposals for ensuring quality in the IEC/R process: To ensure the quality of the IEC/R process, Ms. Annika Coll and Mr. Dewey Perks highlighted the need to: increase the responsibilities of Mentors; conduct awareness sessions in the margins of meetings; ensure the current Code of Ethics covers all INSARAG activities; revise and update the Minimum Standards found in Manual A; include a tab for Best Practices on the INSARAG webpage; ensure classifiers are being trained at the local level; and have a

leadership course for Team Leaders, Mentors and the INSARAG Secretariat representatives.

2. Amendments to the IER System: The Co-Chairs informed the participants that the WG will need to conduct an analysis for formulating an efficient plan to identify gaps in personnel for upcoming IEC/Rs. They also proposed options for: considering joint IERs; strengthening the portfolio of evidence (POE) to thereby reduce work in the IER; conducting annual self-evaluations of field exercises; and opening the discussion on creating a separate checklist for re-classifications. Additionally, the Co-Chairs proposed requiring a full IEC every 10 years with a IER every 5, 7, or 8 years, and exploring new options for Reclassification during the upcoming IERs.
3. Revision of the IEC/R Review WG ToR - The Co-Chairs proposed discussing whether the WG remains as is or transitions into a Sub-WG of the Training Working Group (TWG) who holds Vol. 2, Manual C. The Co-Chairs informed participants that they were working on confirming the composition of the WG and redefining the objectives.

Action Points: the WG will internally consult the members to:

1. *Determine if they transition into a sub-working group of the TWG*
2. *Recommend ways to strengthen the predictable quality of the IEC/R system*
3. *Consult the Network on a revised IER system considering the exponential increase of IERs from 2025 onwards*

IV. Information Management Working Group (IMWG)

IMWG Co-Chairs, Mr. Peter Wolff and Mr. Jeff Maunder, presented on progress updates and informed participants that during the pandemic the WG succeeded in translating trainings into multiple languages, and that they will continue to support online training. The IMWG Co-Chairs underlined the outcomes from the Qatar Team Leaders and Working Groups Meetings that included teams becoming comfortable with the ICMS system and identifying the issue with Assessment Search and Rescue Level 2 (ASR2). They also highlighted that the IMWG engages with partners to deliver ICMS trainings to non-English speaking teams, particularly in Spanish and Portuguese.

The key focus strategies for the IMWG include:

1. Working on Strategy Development to update the system and take advantage of technological advances for easy and efficient sharing of data and information across platforms (3-5 years).
2. Developing expectations for the use of drones, while understanding the difficulty of using such in international air spaces. Also, engaging with local drone providers to integrate these projects (12 months).
3. Ensuring linkages across WGs and creating a reliable process to maintain succession.

Action Point: The IMWG continues to provide leadership and support to the INSARAG teams in the implementation of the ICMS system. The IMWG will support operational response, trainings, and INSARAG international Earthquake response exercises (IEREs) accordingly.

V. Light Team Quality Assurance Reference Group (LTQARG)

Co-Chair of the LTQARG, Mr. Brad Commens, participated in the ISG meeting virtually and gave a brief overview of progress updates. He highlighted that in 2018 the WG presented a position paper on a Light USAR IEC format and checklist, which was approved at the ISG in 2019. He then informed the participants that in November 2021 the first Light USAR IEC was completed at the INSIEME exercise in Switzerland.

In March 2022, the WG transitioned into the LTQARG (Reference Group). Mr. Commens presented the activities the group has planned for the near future, such as the Light USAR IEC of GEA Turkey in August 2022, Light USAR IEC of SARAID United Kingdom in September 2022, and the Light USAR IEC of Cyprus in December 2022.

Action Point: The members of the LTQARG welcomes engagements with teams interested in light classification.

VI. Medical Working Group (MWG)

Chair of the MWG, Dr. Anthony Macintyre, presented on progress updates, welcomed the new World Health Organization (WHO) member, Mr. Kevin Ousman, and thanked Mr. Rudi Connix for his contributions to the WG. The Chair relayed that the COVID-19 pandemic presented the WG with challenges that prevented them from meeting in person. Nevertheless, the WG produced a joint statement in coordination with the WHO EMTs that encouraged adherence to entry requirements of disaster impacted countries and obtaining COVID-19 vaccinations as soon as they become available and developed protocols on how to deal with field illness.

Dr. Macintyre also relayed that the COVID-19 Deployment Technical Reference Note was developed to provide updated information to USAR teams seeking to enhance their field operations in the COVID-19 environment. He further expressed that USAR teams should put into practice requesting authority to practice USAR medicine while responding to disaster situations.

Lastly, he highlighted that the WG continues to: monitor COVID-19 scientific evidence for potential new guidance; collaborate with the WHO EMT Strategic group; assist the FRWG; review selected Technical Reference Notes; and work towards guiding the GRG.

Action Point: The MWG introduced the new Co-Chair of the MWG, Dr. Hector Fuentes of Australia. The MWG continues to engage with the WHO EMT and INSARAG WGs to strengthen the guidelines and methodology for effective response.

VII. National Accreditation Working Group (NAWG)

Co-Chairs of the National Accreditation WG, Mr. Sebastian Mocarquer and Ms. Cheng Hong, presented on progress updates. The Co-Chairs reflected on the challenges induced from the COVID-19 pandemic, reporting that they had conducted more than 20 online meetings and met in person for the first time in March in Qatar. They gave a brief overview of the four key areas of the WG: updating the IRNAP Guidance Note, IRNAP Checklist and related documents; conducting IRNAP Trainings (virtual trainings and TSG/TRG roster development); and providing remote support to regions during their IRNAPS.

For the way forward, the WG will continue their IRNAP trainings, performing reviews on the

guidelines, particularly of Manual A on capacity building, and providing regional support for monitoring coherence and support for methodological and translation issues. The WG also put forth a request for the endorsement of an extension for an additional two years to continue supporting the global implementation of the IRNAP.

Action Point: The NAWG is extended for another 2-year term. The members will support regional IRNAP process, including training and exercises and review of the guidelines.

VIII. Training Working Group (TWG)

Chair of the Training WG, Mr. Dewey Perks, presented on the WG's progress updates and thanked all the WGs and sponsors for their support. He also expressed the challenges that the TWG had with convening meetings due to differences in time zones. Mr. Perks then reported on the WGs key focus areas for 2022-2023:

1. preparing for the Training of Trainers (ToT) in Iceland and the Leadership Course in the Netherlands;
2. continuation of work on the online trainings for exercises; and
3. working closely with the TRG/GRG for 2025.

Mr. Perks also expressed the difficulty of conducting the First Responders Course online, however, the WG continues towards improving their strategy for the future.

Action Point: The TWG will lead on the UC ToT (Iceland, Sept. 2022) and IEC/R Leaders course (The Netherlands, Jan. 2023).

Session 4 - INSARAG Steering Group Decisions on Key Issues

I. Flexible Response Global Position

Mr. Paul Baxter and Mr. Paolo Vaccari elaborated in detail the definition of flexible response and the future possibilities of each Flexible Response sub-WG. They discussed extensively what Flexible Response could bring to INSARAG, including the potential large impacts in the future. They noted that it will be key to adapt current flexible response system requests to our current climate change era and to ensure INSARAG is looking forward to the future in a proper way.

Decision: The Global Position sub WG will continue to consult widely with the network and at the Regional Meetings in 2022 and present their recommendations.

II. Improvements of the Guidelines on Bilateral Response

Mr. Martin Evers and Mr. David Lewis, the T-GRG Co-Chairs, shared updates on the Bilateral Response Guidelines.

Following the Team Leaders Meeting 2022 in Qatar, the T-GRG WG has drafted a position paper on bilateral response, which was discussed in Monday's WG meeting. The aim of the guidelines is to provide clear guidance on bilateral response to reduce any confusion in the field. For instance, the use of the USAR signifier cannot be used if a team is not performing

USAR related tasks. The team may be allowed to still use their INSARAG brand name, however, use of patches may need further discussion.

***Decision:** The Transitional Guidelines Review Group will continue to consult widely with the network and at the Regional Meetings in 2022 and present a revised draft Guidance Note on international non USAR response arrangements.*

The T-GRG will propose plans in the upcoming regional meetings for the next GRG to start in 2023-2025.

III. First Responders Programme (FRP) V2.0

Mr. Peter Goxharaj shared the FRP V2.0 after 15-years of existence. The revision extends the target audience to the community and grassroots level, instead of only focusing on professional responders, in hopes to build the capacity of the true first responders in disaster-prone countries. Mr. Goxharaj mentioned that language is one of the main barriers to making the FRP more inclusive. As a solution, the WG is exploring options of re-writing the program to include more visual components and simple language.

Mr. Goxharaj explained that a virtual learning course is under development as well. He updated that three additional virtual learning tests are needed before the course can be implemented. Starting from June, the WG will conduct three to four tests in the mountainous regions of Northern Iraq and Iran. A training in the mountainous region of Georgia is also pending. In terms of the AP region, a test site has not yet been determined, however, Sri Lanka is being discussed. The aims of the tests are to be as local as possible and bring different religious and cultural communities together to create a program that focuses on the local community and providing them with capable skills and confidence to aid when disasters strike.

***Decision:** The First Responders Program V2.0__process and its development for consultations at the Regional and WG meetings in 2022 is Endorsed.*

IV. National Accreditation Process V2.0 - IRNAP Guidance Note V2.0

Mr. Sebastian Mocaquer reported on the IRNAP Guidance Note V2.0 that was up for endorsement.

He first presented on the timeline of the IRNAP Guidance Note, and the development and guidance on capacity building enforcement. Mr. Mocaquer shared how the NAP was first developed in 2014 in the Americas region for quality assurance at the national level and was then converted into a Guideline in 2015. In 2017, the America's region developed the IRNAP Guidance Note, which was endorsed at the 2017 ISG. Four member states, Guatemala and Colombia in 2018 and Turkey and France in 2019, have gone through the IRNAP process. There is currently a large interest from other INSARAG member countries to do the same.

With regards to the upward trend in IRNAPs, a revised IRNAP Guidance Note has been circulated twice for improvement. Changes have been made on the funding and support processes in accordance with member states' requests. Changes to the checklist in section I (national framework) have also been adjusted to increase the diversity and inclusiveness of the checklist by allowing global application and reflecting on the minimum standards needed.

Decision: The INSARAG Recognized National Accreditation Process (IRNAP) Technical Guidance Note is Endorsed.

V. USAR Coordination (UC) Handbook

Ms. Solveig Thorvaldsdottir, DACC sub-WG Co-Chair, presented the UC Handbook that has undergone four revisions after extensive consultations with WGs, USAR Teams, and participants at the Team Leaders Meeting 2022 in Qatar. The revisions altered the flow and structure of the document; the Handbook Annexes; the file format (Excel and PDF); and information on the INSARAG website. Notably, the methodology remains the same.

The ICMS, with the revised forms, was added in the UC Handbook to provide learning access to the coordination system and is addressed in only one section for reader convenience.

Decision: The UC Manual V2.0 was endorsed at ISG. An application form for the upcoming Training of Trainers course in Iceland in 19th – 23rd September 2022 will be sent out soon.

Session 5 - Summary of Key Decisions and Closing Statements

Summary of Key Decisions

Ambassador Manuel Bessler summarised the key ISG decisions following earlier presentations led by the Regional Chairs and ISG members, as follows:

1. The ISG welcomed the HNPW 2022 hybrid format that encouraged in-person events, when possible, with a remote option, considering participants from host countries with COVID-19 restrictions and other constraints.
2. All three INSARAG Regional Workplans in 2022 were endorsed.
3. The INSARAG Recognized National Accreditation Process (IRNAP) Technical Guidance Note was endorsed.
4. The USAR Coordination (UC) Manual V2.0 was endorsed.
5. The First Responders Programme (FRP) V2.0 process and its development for consultations at the Regional and WG meetings in 2022 was endorsed.
6. All eight Working Group Workplans in 2022 were endorsed and:
 - a. The Light Team Quality Assurance WG will transition from a WG to a Reference Group, maintaining the same membership.
 - b. The INSARAG Coordination Management System (ICMS) will be supported until 2024 and incorporated into trainings.
 - c. On INSARAG's Flexible Response Global Position, the Global Position sub-WG will continue to consult widely with the Network and at the Regional Meetings in 2022 and present their recommendations at the ISG Meeting in 2023.
 - d. The Transitional Guidelines Review Group (T-GRG) will continue to consult widely with the Network, present a revised draft Guidance Note on international non-USAR response arrangements at the Regional

Meetings in 2022, and propose plans for the next T-GRG to start in 2023-2025.

- e. The ISG approves the National Accreditation WG's (NAWG) request for a 2-year extension to support the IRNAP.
- f. The INSARAG Network will be consulted on a revised INSARAG External Reclassification (IER) system to tackle the exponential increase of IERs.

Annexes

- [Annex A](#) ISG Registered Participants
- [Annex B](#) ISG PowerPoint Presentation slides

Drafted by the INSARAG Secretariat – 15 June 2022