



# Concept Note for INSARAG’s Engagement in HNPW 2023

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## Background Information

The [Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks \(HNPW\)](#) is the largest event of its kind. In 2022, the HNPW brought together more than 40 network members who participated in over 300 virtual sessions over three 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 to observers and the public.

INSARAG will leverage 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.

In light of the February Türkiye and Syria earthquakes, HNPW 2023 will serve as an opportunity for the INSARAG network and its partners to evaluate their successes and areas for improvement. A technical session is planned together with partner networks who responded, and to share the initial lessons learned from INSARAG Team Leaders, UNDAC, and key partners from the recent response to this crisis.

## HNPW 2023 Format

The HNPW 2023 will be held in a hybrid format from 17 to 28 April 2023, according to the following schedule:

1. Week 1 (17- 21 April): Remote
2. Week 2 (24-28 April): Face-to-face at the International Conference Centre (CICG) in Geneva.

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 2023

### Sessions Overview

The INSARAG Secretariat, alongside valued network members and partners, will host the following events.

#### Network sessions

- 24 - 26 April 2023, 9:00-17:30 UTC+2, **Bilateral meetings** to reaffirm friendly relations among network members, exchange information and discuss strategic objectives. For those wishing to arrange bilateral meetings, please reach out directly to your regional focal point or the INSARAG Secretariat.
- 25 April 2023, 9:00-17:00 UTC+2, **INSARAG Steering Group (ISG)** meeting is INSARAG's flagship event at the HNPW and will be held on 25 April 2023. Sessions will be in person, at CICG in Geneva. INSARAG Steering Group is an open meeting, presided by the Global Chair, in which policy topics are being discussed amongst the Policy Focal Points of all Member States. The ISG Meeting comprises a Meeting of the Global and Regional Chairs, where the Global, Regional and Working Groups' Chairs and the INSARAG Secretariat meet to finalize the discussions on decisions of the past year and to prepare the ISG General Meeting. The ISG General Meeting gathers Global, Regional and Working Groups' Chairs, the INSARAG Secretariat and the INSARAG Policy Focal Points with representatives from INSARAG USAR Teams and partners, to discuss the developments of the previous year and to decide the direction for the year ahead.

#### Technical sessions

- 24 April 2023, 09:00-10:30 UTC+2, **Informal INSARAG Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting (Hybrid)**. This meeting will involve the planning for the year led by the Regional Focal Point of the Asia Pacific, Haruka Ezaki. Contact via email at [haruka.ezaki@un.org](mailto:haruka.ezaki@un.org) for more information.
- 24 April 2023, 16:15-17:15 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 medical and casualty management lessons following the recent earthquake response.

- 26 April 2023, 09:45-12:30 UTC+2, **Presentations on the Türkiye Earthquake USAR Response from INSARAG, UNDAC and Partners** (*Agenda in Annex B*). A platform for INSARAG, UNDAC, and key partners to present on the international USAR response to the Türkiye earthquake and bring awareness to governments on the importance and benefits of engagement with OCHA/RSB-ERS tools and networks.

*Method of delivery:* Formal presentations from INSARAG, UNDAC, and invited partners followed by an open comment period from the floor.

*Objective:*

A platform for INSARAG, UNDAC, and key partners to discuss:

- 1) Presentations on the international USAR response to the Türkiye earthquake.
- 2) Raise greater awareness of governments on the importance and benefits of engagement with OCHA/RSB-ERS tools and networks available 24/7 free of charge.
- 3) Reaffirm the strengths of Effective Partnerships in a major response.
- 4) Reaffirm the adoption of internationally accepted guidelines and methodology for strengthening the coordination and effectiveness in international USAR assistance UN GA 57/150 of 16 Dec 2002.

## Exhibitions

- 24 to 28 April 2023, 09:00 – 17:00 UTC+2, **Partnerships Exhibition INSARAG & EU MODEX**, The Partnerships and EU MODEX Exhibition will showcase the longstanding partnership between EU MODEX and ERS. The platform will feature EU teams and members who will join us for activities during the week.
- 24 to 28 April 2023, 09:00 – 17:00 UTC+2, **INSARAG Exhibition**, The INSARAG Exhibition will strengthen partnerships and look at the success stories of the INSARAG External Classifications/Reclassification. It will showcase INSARAG's methodologies, tools, and services to respond to disasters and coordinate on the field.

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

## INSARAG Steering Group (ISG) Meeting, 25 April 2023, 09:00–17:00 (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 58 USAR teams now having successfully completed INSARAG External Classifications (IECs). INSARAG has become an

international model for USAR standards that over 90 member states and organizations are proud to be part of.

The Steering Group meets annually, providing an opportunity 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 2022, and the New Year Teleconference held on 17 January 2023.

## 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 2023

During the INSARAG Steering Group Meeting, scheduled for 25 April 2023, the network will address the value added of INSARAG following the Türkiye and Syria earthquakes and extreme climate disaster responses and make collective decisions to improve the network's preparedness for effective emergency response, following the guidance outlined in the INSARAG Strategic Plan 2021-2026. Following up on key outcomes from the new year call in January, and the Team Leaders Meeting in Singapore in February-March, the ISG will evaluate quality standards, USAR coordination, flexible response, and localization. This year's ISG will consist of a new consultative approach with breakout sessions for a more active and engaging session with the network.

The topics of the breakout groups are as follows:

Group 1 - Quality Standards - compliance of guidelines and methodology

Group 2 - Flexible Response

Group 3 - Localization

Group 4 – INSARAG and Complex Emergencies Response

Further information on these topics will follow.

## Conclusion

The HNPW 2023 will be an invaluable opportunity for everyone involved in humanitarian affairs and emergency response to learning from one another. INSARAG looks forward to facilitating communications between different stakeholders through the HNPW 2023 Sessions. INSARAG will take this opportunity to exchange best practices and experiences with its network members, partners, and potential new partners to respond more effectively to people in need in the future.

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*Drafted by Daniel Eike, INSARAG Secretariat, in consultation with the Regional and Global Chairs*

## Annex A



### Agenda: INSARAG Steering Group Meeting, Geneva CIGG (draft version) 25 April 2023, 0900 – 1700h UTC+2



0900 – 1600 UTC +2		Agenda: INSARAG Steering Group Meeting, Geneva CIGG
0900 – 0945	Session 1	<b>Preamble and Minute of Silence</b> <b>Thank You Video from Türkiye, Opening Statements</b>
0945 – 1030	Session 2	<b>Adoption of the Agenda</b> <b>Introduction to ISG and Scope of Discussion</b> <i>Theme: INSARAG's value added in earthquake response</i>
1030 – 1100		Tea/Coffee Break
1100 – 1145	Session 3	<b>Breakout Group Discussions Rotation Round 1</b>  <i>Group 1 - Quality Standards - compliance of guidelines and methodology</i>  <i>Group 2 - Flexible Response</i>  <i>Group 3 - Localization</i>  <i>Group 4 – INSARAG and Complex Emergencies Response</i>
1145 – 1230	Session 4	<b>Breakout Group Discussions Rotation Round 2</b>
1230 – 1400		Lunch Break
1400 – 1445	Session 5	<b>Breakout Group Discussions Rotation Round 3</b>
1445 – 1530	Session 6	<b>Breakout Group Discussions Rotation Round 4</b>
1530 – 1600		Tea/Coffee Break
1600 – 1700	Session 7	<b>Breakout Summaries, Recommendations/Endorsements, Member States Announcements, Closing Statements</b>

*Drafted by Daniel Eike, INSARAG Secretariat, in consultation with Winston Chang, INSARAG Unit Head*