

Overview

The annual meeting of the INSARAG Africa-Europe-Middle East (AEME) Regional Group was held on 20 October 2015 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, in conjunction with the second INSARAG Global Meeting.

The meeting was hosted by the Government of UAE and chaired by Lt. Col. Mohammed Al-Ansari (UAE) in his capacity as Regional Chair. It was organized jointly with the two Regional Vice-Chairs Mr. Peter Bos (Netherlands) and Mariusz Feltynowski (Poland), as well as with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) in its capacity as INSARAG Secretariat.

Mr. Lucien Jaggi from the INSARAG Secretariat facilitated the opening of the meeting, followed by the intervention of Lt. Col. Mohammed Al-Ansari, who gave the opening speech emphasizing the importance of the meeting in particular for the implementation of the Abu Dhabi Declaration. The agenda of the meeting was adopted by all the participants.

The meeting gathered a total of 135 participants from 44 countries and 2 organizations. The countries and organizations were represented by their INSARAG focal points or in delegation of the focal points. The meeting was supported by two senior experts, Mr. Ted Pearn and Mr. Terje Skavdal, who facilitated the group work sessions.

The agenda for the meeting was as follows:

1. INSARAG in the AEME Region
 - a. Review of Action Points from the INSARAG Regional Meeting 2014
 - b. Report on 2015 AEME Activities
2. Regional Strategies and Priorities in Connection with the Global Meeting Outcomes
3. Main Action Points from the Meeting
4. Announcement of International and Regional Events
5. Designation of the Regional Chairmanship Group for 2016
6. Closing Statements

Below is the summary of the meeting. All the presentations and meeting documents are in the Virtual OSOCC (<http://vosocc.unocha.org>) and on the INSARAG website (insarag.org).

Summary and Action Points

1. INSARAG in the AEME Region

Mr. Lucien Jaggi updated the participants on the events that have taken place in the region and globally since last AEME Regional Meeting in Krakow, Poland (1-2 Nov 2014).

A. Review of Actions Points from the INSARAG Regional Meeting 2014

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This session started with a review of the action points identified during the last AEME meeting in Krakow. Out of over 40 suggestions proposed by the group during the last meeting some directly actionable points had been highlighted last year (see the 2014 AEME Chairman's Summary as well as the related presentation available on insarag.org for more information). A review of those points in plenary showed that most had been completed. In particular, the contribution from the INSARAG members to the review and approval of the Guidelines, support to IEC/IER and inputs to the INSARAG 25th Anniversary Book were acknowledged. The Secretariat highlighted the following points that are still valid for the period 2015-2016:

- Participants should consider the issue of the frequency of repeat reclassifications and provide recommendations to the Steering Group on possible ways to make the process easier to manage in the future (e.g., regionalization, use of EU Civil Protection MODEX, etc.).
- INSARAG External Classification/Reclassification: It was noted that the nominations to support the work of the IEC/R Classifiers in 2015/6 is generally working well as the INSARAG Secretariat is receiving candidates. However, while some classified teams provided up to five members, others did not provide any. Teams should all plan to provide two classifiers per year.
- EU Civil Protection Modules Exercises (MODEX) for IER: Participants within the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (EU CPM) are strongly encouraged to consider planning to undertake their IER exercises within the EUCP MODEX programme.
- Participants are reminded to plan for the incorporation of the completed First Responder Package (FRP) into their capacity-building programmes from October 2015 onwards. The FRP was endorsed at the Steering Group meeting in February 2015 and are available online at insarag.org.

In conclusion, some key points that were highlighted during the Global Meeting and through informal discussions with teams' representatives were recalled and proposed for consideration during the afternoon session.

Key points for the AEME group to think about are:

- Implementation of the Abu Dhabi Declaration
- Exploration / Revision of the IER process
- Greater regional ownership
- Role of Secretariat
- Capacity-building – think local
- Inclusiveness – engage common partners and responding 'light' teams
- Light team role & standards
- Beyond the Rubble – new thinking

B. Report on 2015 AEME Activities

The INSARAG Secretariat presented several countries from the group that underwent the IEC process since the last AEME Regional meeting (Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Armenia), as well those that underwent the

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IER (Switzerland, France (PUI), Czech Republic, Denmark and Belgium). Highlights from 2015 included the INSARAG Regional Earthquake Exercise Review Workshop in Geneva in April, and the Swiss SIMEX with the participation of 10 teams (Switzerland, Japan, Poland, UAE, KSA, Morocco, China, France, Austria and Jordan).

In 2016 the following activities are planned:

- Classification for Malaysia (Heavy)
- Reclassification for USA-Fairfax (Heavy), Spain – ERICAM (Medium) and UME (Medium), UK-ISAR (Heavy), Austria-SARUV (Medium), Russia-EMERCOM (Heavy), Russia-Siberian Regional SAR (Medium), Turkey-AKUT (Medium), Lithuania-LERT (Medium), and Korea-KDRT (Heavy)

The Year in review session included presentations from INSARAG members that have focused on the IEC process and capacity-building initiatives.

Armenia

Colonel Artavazd Davtyan, Deputy Head of the Rescue Forces Department, provided a historical overview of the Armenian emergency management institution that has developed through the years and has now become the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Emergency Situations. He presented the preparatory works for the IEC exercise that started in 2011 and the challenges pertaining to the legislation / regulation and institutional issues. Colonel Davtyan shared the structure of the Armenian SAR team, the rescuers' procedures / training modules and the support provided by both Poland and Switzerland.

Poland

Lt. Col. Mariusz Feltynowski presented the mentorship work the State Fire Service has done for the Czech Republic and Armenia USAR teams. He explained the processes for the two countries and the support they were provided by Poland, including the assignment of two mentors ("buddy system"), the duration of the mentoring process (two years at least), and the full availability of the mentor to assist the country.

South Africa

Mr. Musiwalo Moses Khangale from South Africa Fire Services providing a high-level summary of the USAR capacity-building approach adopted by South Africa and the request for support from potential partners in this process. He explained the importance of the USAR legal and institutional framework adopted in February 2014. The National Disaster Management Center is the Country Focal Point for INSARAG and is responsible for the overall coordination, policy and strategy development, as well as the support to sub-national and municipal spheres of government on USAR activities.

Russia

Mr. Alexey Avdeev, Desk Officer from EMERCOM, presented the OSOCC Training Course in Armenia as well as the Second International Forum of Rescuers and Firemen. The OSOCC Training Course in Armenia, which took place in August, was sponsored by Russia and attended by rescue officers and officials from the emergency management agencies of Armenia, Kazakhstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Mr. Avdeev also presented on the Second International Forum of Rescue and Firemen held in Moscow in September with the participation of 160 participants from 70 countries. It was an opportunity to familiarize

participants with the Russian Civil Defense Academy and the EMERCOM National Crisis Management Center.

Iceland

Mr. Hjalmar Orn Gudmarsson, Team Leader of ICE SAR, gave a presentation on adapting the INSARAG Exercise Package to small-scale INSARAG training. He explained that the main objective of the initiative was to train all parties to use the INSARAG Guidelines and the INSARAG forms. The activity will be taking place in November and consists of a training over one weekend covering the first phases of a natural disaster response, from the earthquake onset and through the ASR Level 1. Real site assessments will be used in the training instead of simulation rooms for different situations of the incident.

Algeria

Colonel Keffous presented about the deployment of additional specialized resources to better manage the response to emergencies in case of natural disasters. The new entity is called Détachement de Renfort aux Premières Interventions (DPRI) and its human and operational capacity is deployed in case of major emergencies. The Algerian DPRI includes 50 units and 6000 staff that have been participating in training and exercises since 2005. Colonel Keffous listed a series of interventions that Algeria participated in, including several international emergencies such as Nepal earthquake in April. Algeria concluded by expressing their interest in being considered for an IEC to benefit from the international standards set by INSARAG. In this case, following Algeria's request, France would be keen to act as institutional mentorship.

2. Regional Strategies and Priorities in Connection with the Global Meeting Outcomes

Development of 2016 Action Plan based on Global Meeting Outcomes and INSARAG 2015-17 Strategy

In order to discuss the regional strategies and priorities for the AEME region in line with the Abu Dhabi Declaration and to highlight key issues to the Troika for possible implementation in 2016 and beyond, participants were divided into 3 groups supported by Mr. Ted Pearn, Mr. Terje Skavdal and Mr. Peter Bos. Each group was invited to discuss Goal 1 and Goal 2 of the INSARAG 2014-2017 strategy and the key action points suggested during the last AEME meeting to ensure the group built on previous work done. The two INSARAG strategic goals are recalled below:

Goal 1: Promote and support the building of more effective national USAR capacities and national response preparedness

Goal 2: Increase the efficiency of international USAR preparedness and response efforts to emergencies that overwhelm national capacities.

At the end of the session, each group then presented the outcomes of their discussion in plenary. The key areas and points highlighted by the groups are listed below. For some of the issues, the INSARAG Secretariat invited teams to volunteer to further discuss the topics after the meeting and to possibly come up with suggested recommendations to the AEME Chair as to how to tackle them. In this perspective, a short

concept note will be prepared by those teams (task forces) on three key subjects: Beyond the Rubble, Light Teams and RDC.

1. Light teams
 - Will need to discuss their roles and the potential need for guidance
Action: SARAID UK and @Fire Germany will develop a proposal and France teams would like to contribute to the review
2. Beyond the Rubble
 - Need to set boundaries and time limits
 - Need to list and assess the capacities of teams
 - Need to develop recommendations and guidance on this subject
Action: DACH teams will prepare a draft guidance note ahead of the next Steering Group meeting in February 2016
3. National Capacities
 - Determine how the Secretariat can provide support in line with the second statement in the Declaration
 - More inclusive of light teams and recognizing their need in line with statement seven of the Declaration
 - Ensure quality assurance of national capacity-building
4. Reception Departure Centre (RDC)
 - Increase the standards
 - Speed up the set up during operations
 - Provide guidance to affected countries (e.g., share Host Nation Support Guidelines)
Action: France, I.S.A.R. Germany, IHP DEMA, SARAID UK and @Fire Germany to further discuss and provide recommendations
5. Host Nations/Capacity-Building
 - Need to ensure clear request for international assistance
 - Need to have a better system to channel the requests (through FCSS for instance?)
 - EU Civil Protection Host Nation Support Guidelines could be used as an example
6. Capacity-Building Initiatives
 - Determine the potential role for IFRC to support
 - Make proper use of CSR opportunities and private sector partnership
 - Need to have political will for any intervention
 - Assessment for vulnerable / high risk countries (should be led by the countries themselves)
 - Better share and leverage experiences / lessons learnt (use tools and methodologies that are already in place such as capacity assessments)
 - Regional exercises (including training on receiving aid, First Responder Package – i.e., prepare teams but also receiving entities)
 - Carefully look at target audience, lead organization, partners, etc. and map out available

resources

- Develop ToT and e-learning, in multiple languages
- Ensure quality of IER process
- Need to prioritize countries when conducting capacity-building initiatives

7. Advocacy and Information Sharing

- Guidance is provided by UN agencies and they can play role in influencing national policies
- Better use of insarag.org
- Teams to better share information on who is willing to support
- Need to find a forum to know which countries are in need of capacity-building exercises

8. Identify Funding Windows

- EU funding for capacity building available to EU members and neighbouring countries (e.g., through call for proposals and MODEX)
- The following EU neighbourhood countries with IEC teams can do their IER in the EU CP MODEX: Armenia, Belarus, Jordan, Morocco, Turkey and Ukraine

Light teams, beyond the rubble and RDC were given priority as action points and will be followed up with the teams who expressed their interest in providing proposals/feedback.

3. Announcement of International and Regional Events

- THW announced a capacity-building project in Tunisia that started in 2012 and will continue next year. The content is not only USAR but USAR will be part of it. The trainings courses are not available yet.
- PUI France announced a preliminary assessment in May 2016 open to all IEC members and applicants to be aware of structures and vulnerability. It will consist of a three-day event in Switzerland in English.
- Rob Davis, SARAID kindly offered the sponsorship of an OSOCC course in March 2016.
- UAE announced a regional exercise in 2016 (approx. October or December).
- The French INSARAG Focal point kindly offered the translation of INSARAG Guidelines and later of the OSOCC Guidelines
- Morocco announced a project about the mobilisation of mobile units of Casablanca and Fez.
- Finland announced an EU Nordic USAR project with MSB Sweden that began in 2015 and continues into 2016. A joint EU Nordic USAR exercise will be conducted in December, as well as a Cold Conditions training in Lapland in winter 2016.

4. Designation of the Regional Chairmanship Group for 2016

Based on the agreement of the Troika, through which Netherlands entered year as Regional Vice-Chair, Netherlands was designated as holding the position of Region Chair for 2016. In accordance with the principle of rotation, UAE will become Regional Vice-Chair and Morocco will take the role of the incoming Regional Vice-Chair, while Poland will leave the Regional Troika Group.

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The INSARAG Secretariat expressed their appreciation to Lt. Col. Mohammed Al-Ansari for his commitment and leadership during 2015 and congratulated the new Regional Chair, Mr. Peter Bos in his new role.

5. Acknowledgements

OCHA, in its capacity as INSARAG Secretariat, and all participants would like to thank the Government of UAE for hosting this meeting.

Annex A – Participants List

No.	Country	First Name	Last Name	Title	Email
1	Algeria	Merizek	Keffous	SIG	Keffous_m@yahoo.fr
2	Armenia	Artavazd	Davtyan	Deputy Head	Davtyan.artavazd@gmail.com
3	Austria	Robert	Stocker	Head of Department	Robert.Stocker@bmi.gv.at
4	Austria	Mirjana	Jakopec	Civil Servant	Mirjana.Jakopec@bmi.gv.at
5	Austria	Caroline	Fellinger	National FP	Caroline.Fellinger@bmi.gv.at
6	Austria	Thomas	Nesensohn	Deputy Head SARUV	thomas.nesensohn@saruv.at
7	Austria	Markus	Bock	Senior Instruction Officer, AFDRU Team Leader	markus.bock@bmlvs.gv.at
8	Azerbaijan	Rashad	Gasimzade	Head of Division, International Relation Department, Policy Focal Point	rashad.gasimzade@gmail.com
9	Belarus	Ruslan	Salodkin	Chief	tdn17gt@yandex.ru
10	Belarus	Dzmitry	Tkachuk	Chief	tdn17gt@yandex.ru
11	Belgium	Christophe	Dhont	Director (DFA)	Christophe.Dhont@dipobel.fed.be
12	Belgium	Nicolas	Tuts	Colonel - Unit Chief Civil Protection	nicolas.tuts@ibz.fgov.be
13	Belgium	Liliana Daniela	Dorottei	End User Liaison Officer	
14	Belgium	Geert	De Cubber	Project Coordinator	

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15	Czech Republic	Roman	Francl	Fire Officer	Roman.Francl@grh.izscr.cz
16	Czech Republic	Vladimir	Vlcek	Deputy Chief Fire Officer	vladimir.vlcek@hzsmsk.cz
17	Denmark	Michael	Boesgaard Brondel	Head of Int'l Div.	mbb@dema.gov.dk
18	Denmark	Jacob	Bolwinkel	Head of Rescue, Captain	jeb@brs.dk
19	Denmark	Irakli Richard	West	Team Leader	i.west@at-fire.de
20	Egypt	Aly Abdellatif	Abdelsamie Haredy	Director	aliharedy@idsc.net.eg
21	Egypt	Ahmed Wahba	Nasr Ali	Deputy Gen. Director	civilprotection.eg@gmail.com
22	Egypt	Ahmed Abdelrahman	Naguib Abdelfattah	Chief of Rescue Division	civilprotection.eg@gmail.com
23	Estonia	Priit	Laos	Head of the Northern Rescue Centre	priit.laos@rescue.ee
24	European Commission	Juha	Auvinen	Head of Unit, ECHO Emergency Response Unit	Juha.Auvinen@ec.europa.eu
25	European Commission	Pekka	Tiainen	Policy Officer, ECHO Emergency Response Unit	Pekka.tiainen@ec.europa.eu
26	Finland	Jari	Honkanen	Senior Officer	jari.honkanen@intermin.fi
27	Finland	Ville-Veikko	Pitkanen	Training Officer	ville-veikko.pitkanen@cmcf finland.fi
28	France	Philippe	Besson		pompiers.urgence@aliceadsl.fr
29	France	Philippe	Dardant		phil.dardant@wanadoo.fr
30	France	Berengere	Defaye Noblet	Management	bebe.defaye@gmail.com

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31	France	Laurent	Couasne	Staff Officer	laurent.couasne@interieur.gouv.fr
32	France	Philippe	Brugere	Commanding Officer	philippe.brugere@interieur.gouv.fr
33	France	Christian	Baroux	National FP	christian.baroux@interieur.gouv.fr
34	France	Stanislas	Rouquayrol	Commander	stanislas.rouquayrol@interieur.gouv.fr
35	France	Philippe	Meresse	Major, Fire Fighter, Civil Protection	p.meresse@valabre.com
36	France	Marianne	Goeuriot ep. Angeloni	Focal point, President	marianne.angeloni@orange.fr
37	France	Bruno	Besson	Focal Point	bruno.besson68@sfr.fr
38	France	Dominique	Mas	Head of Humanitarian Mission	dominique.mas@diplomatie.gouv.fr
39	Georgia	Shalva	Akhvlediani	Head of International Relations Dept.	Sh_akhvlediani@hotmail.com
40	Germany	Peter	Wolff		peter.wolff04@gmail.com
41	Germany	Johannes	Gust	USAR Project Manager	j.gust@at-fire.de
42	Germany	Mareike	Illing	Project Coordinator, I.S.A.R.	mareike.illing@isar-germany.de
43	Germany	Daniela	Lesmeister	President, I.S.A.R.	daniela.lesmeister@isar-germany.de
44	Germany	Michael	Lesmeister	CEO, I.S.A.R.	michael.lesmeister@isar-germany.de
45	Germany	Albrecht	Broemme	President, THW	Albrecht.Broemme@thw.de
46	Germany	Peter	Goxharaj	Senior Program Officer	Peter.goxharaj@thw.de

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47	Germany	Sascha	Wahlster	Senior Manager IB&S	Sascha.wahlster@gdels.com
48	Germany	Thomas F.	Hönicke	International Relations	Thomas.Hoenicke@thw.de
49	Greece	George	Athanasiou	Manager	ksaini@gscp.gr
50	Iceland	Gunnar	Stefansson	Office Manager	gunnar@landsbjorg.is
51	Iceland	Thorvaldur Fridrik	Hallsson	Vice President	varaformadur@landsbjorg.is
52	Iceland	Hjalmar Orn	Gudmarsson	Team Leader	hjalmar@iav.is
53	Italy	Andrea	Di Bari	Focal Point	andrea.dibari@esteri.it
54	Jordan	Marwan Bader	Ahmad Alsmeiat	Director	rescue_dpt@cdd.gov.jo
55	Jordan	Hashem Mohammad	Obeidat		
56	Kazakhstan	Vladimir	Tsoy	Team Leader	roso_alm@emer.kz
57	Kazakhstan	Dmitry	Beskorovayev	Rescuer	roso_alm@emer.kz
58	Kenya	Joseph	Kipkorir Maritim	Lieutenant-Colonel	kipkorirmar@gmail.com
59	Kuwait	Mansoor Hardan	Mohammed Alenezi	Rescue Department Officer	shwalid@hotmail.com
60	Kuwait	Saud Abdullah	Awwd Alfadhli	NBC Protection Officer	xcxcx.33@hotmail.com
61	Lebanon	Sawsan	Bou Fakhreddine	Chief Technical Officer	3011203@gmail.com
62	Lebanon	Walid	Shaar	Colonel	3011203@gmail.com
63	Lebanon	Mohamed	Kheir	Major General	scd@pcm.gov.lb

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64	Madagascar	Ludovic Christian	Lomotsy	Secrétaire Exécutif du Bureau National de Gestion des Risques et des Catastrophes	sp.bngrc@bngrc.mg
65	Madagascar	Tsirihassina Sitraka	Ranoelirivao	Assistant technique en analyse des données spatiales	sp.bngrc@bngrc.mg
66	Malawi	Dyce Kapumula	Nkhoma	Department of Disaster Management Affairs	dycenkhome@gmail.com
67	Morocco	Aziz	Amzil	Deputy Head	Aziz.amzil@gmail.com
68	Morocco	Hassane	Lamrabet	Head of Service	Lamrabet.hassane@hotmail.com
69	Netherlands	Martin	Evers	Deputy National Commander	Martin.evers@vrh.nl
70	Netherlands	Peter L.J.	Bos	National Commander	Plj.bos@vru.nl
71	Netherlands	Martijn	Boer	Staff Officer	Martijn.boer@ifv.nl
72	Netherlands	Chwm	Post	USAR NL	CHWM.post@vrzhz.nl
73	Nigeria	Owan Vincent	Erim	Search & Rescue Deputy Director	v_owan@yahoo.co.uk
74	Nigeria	Akiode Saheed	Ao	Head, ERM Operations Office	akiodesaoyahoo.com
75	Nigeria	Lawal	Semirah	Planning Officer	sameerahlawal@yahoo.com
76	Norway	Terje	Skavdal	Consultant	Terje.Skavdal@nca.no
77	OCHA GLO	Manzoor	Khoso	Humanitarian Affairs Officer	Khoso@un.org
78	OCHA GLO	Moustafa	Omer		muhumedomer@un.org

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79	OCHA ROMENA	Safaa	Sabbah	Programme Assocate	Sabbah1@un.org
80	OCHA ROMENA	Nihan	Erdogan	Humanitarian Affairs Officer	erdogann@un.org
81	OCHA ROCCA	Marcel	Vaessen	Head of Office	vaessen@un.org
82	OCHA ROCCA	Olga	Prorovskaya	Deputy Head	prorovskaya@un.org
83	Oman	Mohammed bin Hmound	Al-Mahmoudi	Head of Search and Rescue Team	Moh.mahmoodi@hotmail.com
84	Oman	Amer bin Sulaiman	Al-Kayoumi	National Search and Rescue Team Officer	Amer996@hotmail.com
85	Palestine	Colonel Owda	Younis	Head of International Relations Dept.	pal_cdd@yahoo.com
86	Palestine	Capt. Hanan	Bouzia		pal_cdd@yahoo.com
87	Poland	Mariusz	Feltynowski	Deputy Head	mfeltynowski@kgps.gov.pl
88	Poland	Marcin	Kedra	Head of Section	mkedra@kgps.gov.pl
89	Poland	Tomasz	Kolodziejczyk	Head of Int'l Coop. Dept	thkolodziejczyk@kgps.gov.pl
90	Poland	Wieslaw	Lesniakiewicz		
91	Qatar	Khalid Abdulla	S N Hemaidd	Operation Officer	kalhemaidd@isf.gov.qa
92	Qatar	Mubarak Sherida	M Al Kaahi	Deputy Team Leader	Mbk.kaabi@hotmail.com
93	Romania	Vlad	Petre	Deputy Team Leader	petrev@mai.gov.ro
94	Romania	Marius	Dogeanu	Focal Point	dogeanum@gmail.com

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95	Russia	Olga	Proshina	Chief	prolg@rambler.ru
96	Russia	Alexey	Avdeev	Desk Officer	avd_emercom@mail.ru
97	Saudi Arabia	Abdullah Mohammd S	Alqahtani	K9 Officer	Starr-999@hotmail.com
98	Saudi Arabia	Mohammed Abdullah	Altamimi	Planning Officer	m20-21@hotmail.com
99	Saudi Arabia	Humoud Suliman H	Alfaraj	SASART Team Leader	hsf_25@hotmail.com
100	Saudi Arabia	Majed	Alotiescahan	Senior Account Manager (Training Solutions)	
101	Saudi Arabia	Badr A	Alhussain	Partners Relationship Management Manager (Training Solutions)	balhussain@elm.sa
102	Slovenia	Domen	Torkar	National FP	domen.torkar@urszr.si
103	South Africa	Musiwalo Moses	Khangale		MosesK@ndmc.gov.za
104	South Africa	Lazarus	Makola	Fire Chief	tshepomak@joburg.org.za
105	Spain	Annika	Coll Eriksson	Team Leader	annika.coll@madrid.org
106	Sweden	Lars-Goran	Uddholm	Team Leader	lars-goran.uddholm@sbf.se
107	Sweden	Cecilia	Uneram	Deputy Team Leader	cecilia.uneram@svbf.se
108	Sweden	David	Norlin	Advisor	david.norlin@msb.se
109	Sweden	Christian	Di Schiena	Dep. Head of Operations	Christian.dischiena@msb.se
110	Switzerland	David	Sochor	Chief Rapid Response	david.sochor@eda.admin.ch

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111	Switzerland	Mario	Simaz	Programme Officer	mario.simaz@eda.admin.ch
112	Switzerland	Manuel	Bessler	Ambassador	manuel.bessler@eda.admin.ch
113	Switzerland	Niklaus	Eggenberger	Regional Advisor for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid	niklaus.eggenberger@eda.admin.ch
114	Switzerland	Rania	Kirreh	Research Assistant to the regional Advisor	rania.kirreh@eda.admin.ch
115	Switzerland	Adrienne	Schnyder		adrienne.schnyder@eda.admin.ch
116	Tajikistan	Abduhamidov	Abdumalik	Commander of Regional Search and Rescue Team	safedoron77@mail.ru
117	Tajikistan	Valijon	Ranoev	National Disaster Response Advisor	ranoev@un.org
118	Togo	Gani	Koffi	Permanent Secretary	ganikoffi@yahoo.fr
119	Tunisia	Ghofran	Ouertani	Director Colonel Major	ghofran.ouentam@gmail.com
120	Turkey	Belit	Tasdemir	Deputy Team Leader	belittasdemir@akut.org.tr
121	Turkey	Haluk Onay	Erten	USAR Team Leader	Haluk.Erten@afad.gov.tr
122	Turkey	Kemal	Kocak	Team Leader	kemal.kocak@afad.gov.tr
123	Turkey	Dundar	Sahin	Director of Institute	dundar@akutonline.com
124	Turkey	Umut	Diñçşahin		umut@gea.org.tr
125	Turkey	Erkan Ibrahim	Ataker		erkan@gea.org.tr
126	UAE	Mohammed	Al-Ansari		

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127	UK	Christopher	Hurley	Operations Director	kris.hurley@saraid.org.uk
128	UK	Dean	Nankivell	Group Manager	nankivdj@manchesterfire.gov.uk
129	UK	Sean	Moore	National Coordinator	smoore@fireresilience.org.uk
130	UK	Christopher Mark	Pritchard	Spokesperson for Deployment	chris.pritchard@iro-dogs.org
131	UK	Malcolm	Russell	Medical Director	Malcolm.russell@prometheusmed.com
132	UK	Ted	Pearn	Consultant	tedpearn@acronwinsor.fsnet.co.uk
133	Ukraine	Sergii	Lavrynenko	Head	lavrinenko@mns.gov.ua
134	Zambia	Peter	Kavuma	Colonel	peterkavuma@hotmail.com

Annex B – Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, 20 October

- 8:00-9:00 Registration for Participants
- 9:00-9:30 **Opening Statements**
Regional AEME Chair, INSARAG Secretariat
- 9:30-10:00 **Introductions of Participants and Adoption of the Agenda**
Regional AEME Chair
- 10:00-10:15 Group Photo
- 10:15-10:45 Tea/Coffee Break
- 10:45-12:30 **INSARAG in the AEME Region**
- A. Review of Action Points from the INSARAG Regional Meeting 2014**
Troika
- B. Report on 2015 AEME activities**
- B.1 Yearly Review – *Troika*
- B.2 Updates from INSARAG Members
- *Armenia on the process towards IEC*
 - *Algeria on national Search and Rescue experience and the path taken for requesting an IEC*
 - *Poland on mentoring & IEC support*
 - *Russia on the Second International Forum of Rescuers and Fireman*
 - *Iceland on Adapting the INSARAG Exercise Package for National Training*
 - *South Africa on Capacity Building*
- 12:30-13:30 Lunch Break
- 13:30-15:00 **Regional Strategies and Priorities in Connection with the Global Meeting Outcomes**
- A. Development of 2016 Action Plan based on Global Meeting Outcomes and INSARAG 2015-17 Strategy
- Group work*
- Goal 1: Promote and support the building of more effective national USAR capacities and national response preparedness
- Goal 2: Increase the efficiency of international USAR preparedness and response efforts to emergencies that overwhelm national capacities.
- 14:30-15:00 Tea/Coffee Break
- 15:30-16:45 B. Review and open discussion (plenary)
Rapporteur from each group

AEME Regional Group

Chairman's Summary
20 October, 2015, Abu Dhabi UAE

- 16:45-17:00 **Main Action Points from the Meeting**
Regional Chairmanship Group & Secretariat
- 17:00-17:15 **Announcements of International and Regional Events**
Secretariat
- 17:15-17:30 **Designation of the Regional Chairmanship Group for 2016**
Secretariat
- 17:30 **Closing Statements**
Regional Chair, Secretariat

End of INSARAG Africa-Europe-Middle East Regional Meeting