

The International Search and Rescue Advisory Group Strategy 2017-2020



(To be shared at the INSARAG Regional meetings 2016 and endorsed at the INSARAG Steering Group Meeting 2017)



Our Vision and Role

OUR VISION is to save lives by promoting efficiency, enhancing quality and strengthening coordination between national and international Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams on the basis of adherence to common guidelines and methodologies.

OUR ROLE is to prepare for, mobilize and coordinate effective and principled international USAR assistance in support of affected countries in collapsed structure emergencies and to actively support capacity-building at the international, regional, sub-regional and national level. We do this by:

- Developing and promoting common standards for USAR assistance, coordination methodologies and tools
- Mobilizing information exchange protocols between relevant stakeholders
- Promoting cooperation and experience sharing between – and in partnership with – Member States, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) as well as national, regional and international partners.

OUR WORK is recognized and supported by United Nations General Assembly Resolution 57/150 of 16 December 2002 on *Strengthening the Effectiveness of International Urban Search and Rescue Assistance* and recalled in several further Resolutions. The INSARAG Hyogo Declaration on the *Recognition and Strengthening of International Urban Search and Rescue Operational Standards* and the INSARAG Abu Dhabi Declaration on *Strengthening Preparedness and Response Standards of National and International Urban Search and Rescue Operations* adopted in the first and second INSARAG Global Meetings respectively, gave us renewed impetus and guidance for our work ahead and put special emphasis on the need for national capacity building.

Our Values and Operational Norms

Adherence to Common Standards and Methodology: Members of the INSARAG network commit to adhering to the INSARAG Guidelines and methodology as globally accepted minimum standards and procedures, based upon expert knowledge and longtime experience. The INSARAG network continues to develop these standards and procedures through shared continued learning.

Inclusiveness: INSARAG brings together governments, governmental organizations and NGOs as well as disaster response and preparedness professionals. We particularly encourage disaster-prone countries to join the network, as well as any country or organization with USAR response capacities.

Professionalism: INSARAG promotes responsible, ethical and professional standards amongst USAR teams and all relevant stakeholders.

Respect for Diversity: INSARAG acknowledges and respects USAR team's varied operational procedures, doctrines and techniques to achieve common objectives, while disseminating principles and minimum standards agreed upon through the INSARAG network.

Cultural Sensitivity: INSARAG promotes awareness and respect of cultural differences by international USAR teams. This is to ensure that teams can cooperate more effectively with national and other international actors.

Needs Driven: The mobilization and deployment of international USAR teams is only supported when the affected country's capacities are overwhelmed and they agree to accept international assistance. The types of international assistance mobilized is based on the needs of the affected country and not driven by the availability of resources.

Coordination: INSARAG promotes internationally agreed coordination structures managed and advocated by OCHA, promotes coordination of preparedness and capacity building activities, and, throughout an operation, assists countries in coordinating the emergency response.

The Goals for 2017-2020 are underpinned by regionally-agreed objectives that act as a guide to implementation.

All members of the INSARAG community, led by the Global and Regional Chairs as well as the Secretariat, will work to ensure the sustainability and cost-effectiveness of INSARAG activities.

The INSARAG Strategic Goals 2017-2020: “Fit for the Future”

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

“Think Global, Act Local”

Objective 1.1: Promote capacity development in national and “first” responders considering that majority of live rescues are done by them.

Action Plan: Adopting national classification processes and the INSARAG First-Responders Package for communities.

Objective 1.2: Advocate for national and regional ownership of preparedness efforts, and coordination of donor involvement, in line with national priorities.

Action Plan: Facilitate suitable donor and regional network support.

Objective 1.3: Actively encourage innovative approaches to strengthen national capacity building through the sharing of expertise and best practices amongst countries and organizations

Action Plan: Support networking and synergise cross-fertilisation of best practices

Objective 1.4: Adopt the globally accepted INSARAG standards for preparedness and response and ensure INSARAG’s methodology is continually updated, improved and evaluated to be ‘fit for purpose’

Action Plan: Support from INSARAG Working Groups and USAR teams.

Objective 1.5: Strengthen the collaboration and coordination with all relevant partners in preparedness for sudden onset disasters

Action Plan: Training together in INSARAG Earthquake Response Exercises, establishing partnership arrangements.

Objective 1.6: Promote the participation and incorporation of new countries and organizations into the INSARAG family.

Action Plan: Expand and facilitate wider outreach and membership, and participation from Disaster Prone Countries.

Goal 2: Improve the quality and coordination of USAR response

“Strengthening Effectiveness: As Local As Possible, As International As Necessary”

Objective 2.1: Ensure that all USAR teams with a mandate to deploy internationally go through the INSARAG External Classification (IEC) process

Action Plan: Advocacy with member states with international USAR teams to apply for IEC.

Objective 2.3: Actively encourage and facilitate the smooth transition from the ‘rescue phase’ into the ‘relief phase’, and greater integration within the international humanitarian community in initial recovery efforts in disasters.

Action Plan: Teams providing support ‘Beyond the Rubble’ and integrate with and support the relevant clusters.

Objective 2.4: Actively promote and encourage disaster prone countries requesting international USAR assistance, to call upon INSARAG classified teams to support initial life-saving operations.

Action Plan: Advocacy with disaster prone countries, with support from United Nations Resident Coordinators Office, OCHA Country and Regional Offices.

Objective 2.5: Strengthen and expand the ongoing technical partnerships established; such as with the World Health Organisation’s(WHO) Emergency Medical Teams(EMT) and European Union for effective coordination in response.

Action Plan: Strengthening ongoing partnerships through joint meetings, trainings (e.g. Reception and Departure(RDC) and USAR Coordination Cell(UCC) Courses) and exercises.

Objective 2.7: Ensure that INSARAG’s role contributes to the international humanitarian and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) agenda.

Action Plan: Ongoing engagements and partnering with ISDR, IFRC and regional organisations, to help build up a first responder trained and resilient communities

