



## Concept Note for INSARAG's Engagement in HNPW 2025

### Background Information

The [Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks \(HNPW\)](#) is the largest global humanitarian gathering of its kind. In 2024, the HNPW brought together more than 7600 participants, and 48 network members who participated in over 320 sessions over two 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.

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.

HNPW 2025 will not only serve as an opportunity for the INSARAG members to network, but also to discuss the key issues identified, recommendations, and action plans together with INSARAG stakeholders to collectively discuss INSARAG's way forward (2026-2031).

### HNPW 2025 Format

The HNPW 2025 will be held in a hybrid format from 17 to 28 March 2025, according to the following schedule:

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

HNPW sessions will be divided into three different types:

1. Network sessions, internal network meetings that are open to observers.
2. Technical sessions, divided by technical topics.
3. Exhibitions, hosted in CICG Exhibition Area.

More info regarding sessions can be found on the official [HNPW website](#).

### INSARAG Engagement in HNPW 2025

#### Sessions Overview

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

## Network sessions

- 24-28 March, 2025: 9:00-17:00 UTC+1, **Bilateral meetings** to reaffirm friendship and cooperation and explore new areas for collaboration among network members, exchange information and discuss strategic objectives. For those wishing to arrange bilateral meetings, they should reach out directly to their regional focal point or the INSARAG Secretariat.
- 24 March, 2025: 9:00-10:30 UTC+1, **Asia-Pacific Region Informal Meeting** hosted by 2025 Regional Chair, Japan, to introduce participants and new network members, and discuss the regional plan and priorities for 2025.
- 25 March, 2025: 9:00-17:00 UTC+1 (Plenièrè A): **INSARAG Steering Group (ISG)** meeting is INSARAG's flagship event at the HNPW and will be held on 25 March. Sessions will be in person, at the International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG). The INSARAG Steering Group Meeting is an open meeting, presided by the Global Chair, in which policy topics are being discussed amongst the INSARAG Policy Focal Points, including over 100 global participants, from more than 60 Member States. [Register here.](#)

## Technical sessions

- 24 March, 2025: 14:00-16:30 UTC+1 (Salle Lausanne): **INSARAG in Africa: Initial USAR Capacity Development Experiences Sharing**, an opportunity for African USAR teams to share experiences and lessons on USAR capacity development in their respective countries and facilitate collaboration with INSARAG network members. [Register here.](#)
- 24 March, 2025 16:30-17:30 UTC+1 (Salle Lausanne): **Annual meeting of the INSARAG Medical Working Group (MWG) and the World Health Organization's (WHO) Emergency Medical Teams Initiative (EMT)**. This meeting will reinforce the existing partnership between INSARAG and the EMT Secretariat and will provide an opportunity for the MWG and EMT members to discuss medical and casualty management lessons and exchange best practices.
- 26 March, 2025: 9:00-10:30 UTC+1 (Salle 3): **Quality Standards for Effective Response, Saving Lives: INSARAG & WHO EMT**, a joint-session in celebration of the dual milestones of INSARAG's IEC/R 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the WHO EMT initiative's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This session will highlight the transformative impact of peer-reviewed quality assurance systems in humanitarian response and underscore the undeniable value that INSARAG and EMT bring to disaster-affected communities through verifiable, peer-reviewed systems. [Register here.](#)

## Exhibitions

INSARAG will set up exhibition stands to serve as a platform for showcasing relevant methodologies, tools, and services aimed at enhancing disaster response and coordination in the field. The exhibitors include:

- 24 to 28 March, 09:00 – 17:00 UTC+1: **INSARAG: Saving Lives**, the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG), is dedicated to improving international coordination in urban search and rescue (USAR) and emergency response, helping save lives and strengthen disaster preparedness worldwide. The

exhibit showcases INSARAG's comprehensive guidelines and methodologies, setting global standards for life-saving responses. An informative poster will be displayed, detailing INSARAG's mission and approach.

- 24 to 28 March, 09:00 – 17:00 UTC+1: **Paws on the Ground: REDOG & INSARAG**, the exhibit showcases the partnership between the Swiss Search and Rescue Dog Association (REDOG) and the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) in global disaster response. Learn about the rigorous training and international coordination that make their life-saving work possible.
- 24 to 28 March, 09:00 – 17:00 UTC+1: **INSARAG Innovation in Action: INSARAG's Coordination Management System (ICMS) 3.0**, the Information Management Working Group (IMWG) of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) will showcase ICMS v. 3.0. This tool is transforming how disaster response operations are managed and coordinated.

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

### **INSARAG Steering Group (ISG) Meeting, 25 March 2025, 09:00–17:00 (UTC +1)**

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 currently classified. 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 issues identified, recommendations, and action plans outlined in the 2024 Governance Review, the New Year Teleconference held on 16 January 2025, and the 2025 Team Leaders and Working Groups Meeting held in February in Tunisia.

### **Objectives of ISG 2025**

During the upcoming INSARAG Steering Group (ISG) Meeting, the network will focus on addressing key issues, reviewing relevant recommendations, and outlining action plans informed by global events since the last ISG. A significant highlight will be the endorsement of the Global Position from the Governance Review, which will be incorporated into Volume 1 of the V2026 Guidelines.

Member States will be actively encouraged to adopt IRNAP, further enhancing regional and national disaster response capabilities. Similarly, the Voluntary Flood Response Roster will be formalized, expanding INSARAG's capacity to respond to flooding incidents.

The meeting will also address the vital role of expert contributions. IEC teams will be encouraged to contribute their expertise actively, while Working Groups will be called upon to review and refine the IEC/R system to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness.

To promote a more participatory and engaging process, this year's ISG will adopt a consultative approach, incorporating breakout sessions to facilitate dynamic discussions and foster collaborative problem-solving across the network.

### **Conclusion**

The HNPW 2025 is an opportunity for knowledge-sharing and collaboration among stakeholders in humanitarian affairs and emergency response. INSARAG is committed to fostering dialogue and facilitating connections between diverse participants during the event. Through the 2025 HNPW sessions, INSARAG aims to not only exchange best practices and experiences, but also to strengthen partnerships and explore new collaborative approaches, ensuring a more coordinated and effective response for those affected by disasters in the years to come.

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