

Background

Based on the recommendation of the INSARAG Americas Regional Group and on the recognition for the need to greater global coherence on the guidance and support being provided to countries interested in establishing National USAR team accreditation processes in line with the INSARAG guidelines, the INSARAG Steering Group decided to create a National Accreditation Working Group.

This document summarizes the outcomes of the first meeting of the NAWG held by videoconference on August 12 and 13th, 2020.

Meeting Participants

The meeting was attended by the following participants:

- Co-Chair: Ms. Chen Hong (China)
- Co-Chair: Mr. Sebastian Mocarquer (Chile)

AEME

- Azerbaijan - Mr. Rashad Gasimzada
- France - Mr. Christophe Debray
- Germany - Mr. Peter Goxharaj
- Morocco - Colonel Hicham Choukri
- Turkey - Mr. Tahsin Berkant Ataay

Americas

- Argentina - Mr. Martin Gomez Lissarrague
- Colombia - Ms. Diana Patricia Corrales
- Mexico - Mr. Luis Arturo Garcia Pulido
- USA - Mr. Joe Kaleda

Asia Pacific

- Indonesia - Mr. Wahyudi L Putra Yudi
- Pakistan - Dr. Muhammad Farhan Khalid
- Singapore - Mr. Lok Wee Keong
- South Korea - Mr. Jaecheol Sim

INSARAG Secretariat

- Ms. Haruka Ezaki
- Mr. Winston Chang
- Mr. Martin Viersma
- Ms Xiaowei Zhang

Opening Address and Introduction of Participants

Ms. Haruka and Mr. Chang welcomed the participants on behalf of the INSARAG Secretariat.

They thanked participants for their interest and commitment to the work in this newly created INSARAG working group. They provided some background information on the importance of this work for INSARAG and the expectations

placed on the NAWG, which has the potential to become another flagship initiative of INSARAG alongside the IEC process.

Introduction to NAWG Terms of Reference

The Chairs of the NAWG reviewed with participants the terms of reference as endorsed by the ISG in 2020. The purpose of the NAWG is as follows:

1. Collate, review and prepare documents and offer quality control of the guidance and methodology developed on the INSARAG-recognized national accreditation process (IRNAP) globally, in particular the technical guidance note on the IRNAP.
2. Promote the exchange of experiences in the application of national USAR accreditation processes between the different regions.

The specific terms of reference and responsibilities were presented as follows:

1. Review and make the necessary adjustments to the technical guidance note and its annexes on the INSARAG Recognized National Accreditation Process (IRNAP) that serves as a guide and encompasses the basic contents of the process adapted for the three regions.
2. Analyze and compare the NAP and IRNAP processes in countries across the three regions, and consolidate the lessons learned of common and global interest.
3. Provide remote support on methodological issues and interpretation of standards to the Technical Support Groups and Technical Recognition Groups (TSGs/TRGs) that are formed to give support to countries.
4. Establish close coordination links with the INSARAG Training Working Group, in order to identify and develop synergies with the products and training that are developed on the INSARAG External Classification (IEC) process, understanding that these are two very different but related processes.
5. Consolidate and/or develop training for members of the TSG/TRG rosters that can be adapted and implemented at the level of each region.

The following products are expected from the NAWG:

1. Annual update of the Technical Guidance Note on the IRNAP serving as a guide and encompassing the basic contents of the process adjusted for all regions.
2. Analysis and comparison between existing NAP and IRNAP processes in countries across the three regions, and a consolidation of the lessons learned globally to be presented at regional and global level.
3. Links established between the external classification process and the national accreditation processes.
4. Training for the TSG/TRG developed with objectives and program, adaptable to each region.

Proposed Work Plan

The following high-level work plan was proposed by the Co-Chairs and discussed for the 2020-22 period:

Phase 1	Aug 20 – May 21	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analysis and comparison between existing NAP and IRNAP processes in countries 2. NAP and IRNAP global mapping 3. Consolidation of the lessons learned globally 4. Presentation of findings
Phase 2	May 21 – Feb 22	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update of the Technical Guidance Note on the IRNAP and related documents (checklist) 2. Remote support on methodological issues and interpretation of standards to the Technical Support Groups and Technical Recognition Groups (TSGs/TRGs) 3. Develop training for the TSG/TRG with objectives and program, adaptable to each region
Phase 3	Mar 22 – Aug 22	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish links between the external classification process and the national accreditation processes

For Phase 1, the following more detailed plan was discussed:

1. Analysis and comparison between existing NAP and IRNAP processes
 - a. Initial analysis of NAP process in member states represented at the NAWG members
 - b. Online survey of members states globally to gain further insight
2. Consolidation of the lessons learned globally
 - a. How many NAP processes globally and intention of having an IRNAP process?
 - b. Identify best practices
 - c. Gaps compared to INSARAG Guidelines
3. Presentation of findings at the 2021 Steering Group meeting

The following issues were raised and discussed regarding the work plan:

- It was raised the need for a face to face meeting to facilitate the workgroup integration and have dedicated time to advance the required work. The proposed date was January 2021, if conditions allow for it. For that matter, a final decision should be made in October. A member state or organization would need to host the meeting.
- Due to the large composition of the working group, a proposal was made to split the working group in different functional groups so the workload can be divided and approached simultaneously.

The Co-Chairs will work on an amended work plan to reflect the proposals discussed and will present them at the next meeting.

INSARAG Guidelines 2020

Based on the recent endorsement of the 2020 INSARAG Guidelines, The Co-Chairs shared with the participants two presentations to highlight the main changes and new concepts introduced. The presentations shared were the following:

1. Volume II, Manual A: National Capacity Building
2. IRNAP Technical Guidance Note

The challenge for the IRNAP process to integrate NGO's into the system was discussed and highlighted as an issue to be considered in future work.

Another issue raised is regarding the financial burden for countries to run an IRNAP considering the cost of having both TSG and TRG as part of the process.

Finally, interest was expressed to further review the National USAR Coordination Training Course that's been developed by the America's Region.

NAP Presentations

One of the key challenges identified is the lack of cross-understanding of the different National USAR, NAP and IRNAP settings among different countries. Benefiting from the fact that 15 countries are represented in the NAWG, a good place to start is to gain knowledge among participants. Hence, each participant was asked beforehand to prepare a 5-minute presentation of the USAR system in their own countries, based on the following are some guiding questions:

- How is your USAR system organized in your countries?
- How many USAR teams are there in your country?
- Is there a National Accreditation process or similar quality assurance process in your country? If yes, please describe the process.
- Does your country plan to undertake an IRNAP process in the near future?

The countries that gave an overview of the national USAR systems were the following:

1. Azerbaijan - Mr. Rashad Gasimzada
2. France - Mr. Christophe Debray
3. Germany - Mr. Peter Goxharaj
4. Morocco - Colonel Hicham Choukri
5. Turkey - Mr. Tahsin Berkant Ataay
6. Argentina - Mr. Martin Gomez Lissarrague
7. Chile - Mr. Sebastian Mocarquer
8. Colombia - Ms. Diana Patricia Corrales
9. Mexico - Mr. Luis Arturo Garcia Pulido
10. United States – Mr. Joe Kaleda
11. China – Ms. Chen Hong
12. Indonesia - Mr. Wahyudi L Putra Yudi
13. Pakistan - Dr. Muhammad Farhan Khalid
14. Singapore - Mr. Lok Wee Keong
15. South Korea - Mr. Jaecheol Sim

Next steps

Next meeting is scheduled for September 16th via videoconference. The agenda for the next meeting is as follows:

1. Global survey
 - Survey objectives
 - Questionnaire design
 - Implementation
2. Preparations for global teleconference (November)
3. Plans for next meeting (ISG)
4. TSG/TRG training development process presented by members from Americas region

The Co-chairs will send the invitation for the next meeting together with preparation instructions.

Sub-groups will be developed according to thematic areas and the NAWG focal point for each region will be identified in order to facilitate communication between the regional groups and WG.

Other topics

All relevant documents and presentations have been uploaded to the Teams repository.