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XXI INSARAG Regional Meeting and IX UNDAC Consultative Meeting for the Americas



From 7 to 9 November, 2022



Agencia Argentina
de Cooperación Internacional
y Asistencia Humanitaria
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Summary

General description

The XXI INSARAG Regional Group Meeting and IX UNDAC Regional Consultation Meeting in the Americas was held from November 7 to 9, 2022 in the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, Argentina. It was carried out in person and also using the teleconference platform of the National Institute of Civil Defense of Peru and the simultaneous interpretation service into English and Spanish with the support of the International Cooperation Agency - White Helmets of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of the Republic of Argentina.

A total of 66 representatives participated in person and 20 virtually from 15 countries of the region, 3 countries from other regions and 6 international organizations. The call included the INSARAG focal points and the national UNDAC focal points of the region, which in many cases have a common institutional representation in civil protection and defense and disaster risk management entities, as well as in the foreign affairs sector of the countries. The allied organizations of both mechanisms were also convened.

The agenda was organized to cover strategic issues of the UNDAC system and the INSARAG network, considering first the balance of the activities carried out in 2022, combining presentations, group meetings and plenary sessions for discussion and analysis. A session was held to review and commemorate the 20th anniversary of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 50/157, and guidelines were outlined for the work plans for 2023. Finally, the announcement and transfer of the INSARAG Regional Board of Directors for 2023 was made.

Day 1 – November 7, 2022

Opening session

The session began with a video message from Minister Santiago Cafiero, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Argentina, who welcomed the audience and the participation of authorities and representatives of the continent's civil protection systems. He stressed the importance of basing their work on prevention, assistance, horizontal solidarity, multilateralism and respect for the sovereignty of the States. He expressed his expectation that this Regional Humanitarian Week will make it possible to strengthen agreements and synergies to make progress in the current context and underscored the importance and respect that the Argentine Republic has for humanitarian law, humanitarian principles, human rights and humanitarian assistance.

He affirmed that, as pointed out by President Alberto Fernández, horizontal solidarity and multilateralism must be translated into the protection and safeguarding of the environment and the promotion of gender equality and sexual diversity. He also pointed out that Argentine humanitarian assistance is inclusive and equitable and does not discriminate under any condition and that humanitarian assistance guarantees equal attention, especially to vulnerable groups and strengthens the active role of the affected communities and integrates their capacities with the responsibilities of the State at its different levels.

He also highlighted initiatives such as INSARAG and UNDAC and how they allow us to relate to a greater and better extent on a continental scale and with other nations of the world. He reaffirmed Argentina's commitment to both global networks and ratifies this commitment in 2023 once it assumes the Regional Presidency of INSARAG for the Americas.



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He pointed out that the Argentine Republic is convinced that it is time to think of new ways of response and new scenarios for humanitarian work. The continent is increasingly exposed to extreme events and disasters derived from climate change and it is important to work in that direction; looking for collaboration alternatives where resources are increasingly scarce and where disasters are more frequent and intense.

Minister Santiago Cafiero thus opened the meetings and working sessions, wishing success to the participants.

Amb. Sabina Frederic, President of the Argentine Agency for International Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance - White Helmets and incoming President of the INSARAG Regional Board of the Americas, welcomed and thanked those who were involved and participated in the organization of the meeting.

She emphasized that this year is special for Argentina as it will not only head the INSARAG Regional Chairmanship in 2023, but also the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), which will allow to strengthen disaster prevention and assistance.

In addition, she mentioned that the recently created International Cooperation Agency (ACIAH) in 2022 by President Alberto Fernández, will help to rapidly deploy donations and resources for humanitarian missions, while providing simultaneous humanitarian cooperation with technical assistance that will strengthen capacities for prevention, management and mitigation of these same disasters. She mentioned that this unified strategy will allow Argentina's active solidarity and will enable dialogue and planning with partners, which will be done with respect and promotion of human rights, gender equality, productivity and through mutual learning.

Ambassador Frederic emphasized that the creation of the ACIAH as institutional focal point of UNDAC and INSARAG, will be decisive in achieving the goals set by the INSARAG Regional Presidency of the Americas in 2023. He acknowledged the great work carried out at the regional level working in a unified manner in UNDAC and INSARAG, towards which the general regional consensus would like to advance. He mentioned that the regional work done on Flexible Response and the technical note presented, although not easy to address at the global level, has been important to point out the regional common interest for flood response due to climate change, managing to elaborate and present a technical proposal for flood response with the collaboration of more than 20 delegates from the Americas with 4 experts participating in the Flexible Response Working Group.

In addition, she mentioned Argentina's work in the NAP/IRNAP processes, specifically three brigades that have completed their national accreditation process following the INSARAG methodology and standards and that the country has initiated its IRNAP certification process. She thanked the National Director of Civil Protection Operations of Argentina for the work done. Regarding UNDAC, the country currently has 8 active and inactive members, highlighting the gender parity; four men and four women

Ambassador Frederic highlighted the presence of the Kenyan delegation at the meeting, with whom they have had fruitful exchanges on integrated risk and search and rescue methodologies and which constitutes a good practice to strengthen INSARAG components at a global level.

Finally, she congratulated the colleagues of the Regional Chairmanship, the INSARAG Secretariat for their support to the Americas region and the Regional Group asking to work aiming more solidarity, equality and resilience.

Ms. Claudia Mojica, United Nations System Resident Coordinator in Argentina thanked Argentina for the invitation and greets the Regional Chairmanship, OCHA team, and authority focal points.

Ms. Mojica congratulated Argentina regarding the newly created Agency for International Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance-Cascos Blancos and stated that its creation has shown the commitment, leadership and solidarity towards international cooperation, humanitarian assistance and the contribution towards sustainable development. Mentioned that the Americas region is the second region in the world, only superceded



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by Asia-Pacific, where flooding is a major risk and where since the year 2000, 150 million people have been affected by over 1,200 disasters; in which women and girls, due to gender inequality are more vulnerable. Thanked Argentina for pointing out that gender equality and women empowerment are essential in fortifying not only sustainable development but also response and resilience building of disasters, noting that women currently play a vital role in prevention, preparation and response of disasters as they represent 40% of the work force in humanitarian response tasks.

Ms. Mojica also congratulated UNDAC and INSARAG teams in the Americas for their work not only regionally but also at global level in advancing coordinated first response mechanisms and frameworks and the substantial value of this coordination for the United Nations system. Mentioned the aid provided by the UN system for the constitution of the International Humanitarian Assistance Network (RIAH), which will support humanitarian assistance and hoping to become a place for dialogue, information exchange, and strategic and operational coordination with their primary work focused on preparedness, alerts, response and early recovery.

Finally, she reiterated the disposition of the team and the UN system and the continued work towards the agenda for 2023 of "No one left behind".

Mr. Ramón Soto Bonilla, Minister of the Secretary of State in the Offices of Risk Management and National Contingencies (COPECO) and current President of the INSARAG Regional Board of Directors of the Americas welcomed all participants to the UNDAC and INSARAG event.

Minister Soto mentioned that the Americas INSARAG Regional Chairmanship has worked in a joint manner aimed to build a humanitarian force and where INSARAG is a primary partner in allowing civil protection agencies in humanitarian assistance preparedness and coordination, development and risk management. He expressed his gratitude to Argentina through the White Helmets Commission presence and cooperation during the floods that affected Honduras.

He said that Honduras has the pleasure, as Current Chair of the INSARAG Regional Chairmanship and mention that the President of the Republic of Honduras, Iris Xiomara Castro Sarmiento, after 200 institutional years, is the first female president in Honduras and as such refers to the importance for the development of gender equality but emphasizes that this must be translated into actions and not remain just in words. Minister Soto pointed out that by looking around the room, this equality must be considered more in the future as there is a higher male presence than female presence.

He mentioned that as current Chair of the Americas INSARAG Regional Chairmanship and as the next INSARAG Regional Chairmanship will be announced during this meeting during the Humanitarian Week, he will inform the audience about what has been done and under the realistic circumstances, what was halted considering the difficult situations like the pandemic and disasters due to climate change.

Minister Soto emphasized that big decisions must be made to maintain the protection of human beings and not to forget that nature ultimately responds to its mistreatment. This will be the main matter of the next global COP27 meeting.

Finally, he reiterated the permanent objective of ensuring that each country has urban rescue teams recognized by our world organization in each country.

Mr. Sebastian Rhodes Stampa, INSARAG Secretary and Head of OCHA's Emergency Response Section started his welcoming remarks expressing his appreciation to the host country, Argentina and mentioned that this Regional meeting has been one of the most beautiful meetings he has attended in many years. He thanked the Americas INSARAG Regional Chairmanship and all those involved in the organization of the meeting and expressed the importance of having the opportunity to discuss all that has been accomplished during the year and the action plan for 2023 in a coordinated manner.



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Mr. Rhodes Stampa noted that it is very good to return to face-to-face meetings after the pandemic. He participated in the other two regional meetings and it is important to exchange in these valuable networks. He asked the participants to discuss the issues not only from a regional perspective, but rather from a global perspective, since, after all, it is a global family where what comes from one region can be used to build capacity in other regions. In this way, the good practices of the Americas could be taken to colleagues in Africa, Asia or the Pacific; we must bear in mind that we are responding at the global level and that is our responsibility.

He emphasized the strengthening of the UNDACs in the region, especially with the UNDAC Induction course held in Peru and the interoperability process of the national teams and the implementation in the regions of the strengthening of the coordination capacity that will not only benefit the region but the world. There are many advances in this region for the benefit of the world.

Finally, he welcomed the participants of the Kenyan delegation who will have much to contribute to the meeting and expressed his enthusiasm to have the family together once again.

Ambassador Manuel Bessler, INSARAG Global Chairman and Deputy Director General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), thanked everyone for their presence and the invitation to be present at this meeting, in which it is very important for him to participate. He expressed his gratitude to Argentina and its Agency for International Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance-Cascos Blancos for hosting this meeting and the importance and significance of such an event to meet and debate the huge challenges facing us all on a regional and global level.

He emphasized the importance of the regions work towards INSARAG's success and the importance to take on this great responsibility to face new challenges and adapt to new realities and solve issues on a global level in an inclusive manner.

Amb. Bessler stated that it is important to learn from these meetings and not forget the main objective of saving more lives and improving assistance to those affected by emergencies. These meetings provide a platform in the region to brainstorm, discuss and recommend how best to achieve INSARAG's key objectives to be ready to respond.

He mentioned the challenges faced by the Americas region in disasters due to climate change and that this region drives the localization objective and is a pillar of this objective, overcoming the challenges. INSARAG recognizes the importance of the National Accreditation Process as key to local and regional response as well as the need for collaborative strengthening of USAR teams for earthquake response, the role they can play afterwards, as has been discussed on numerous occasions, and finding the necessary flexibility of our response.

He pointed out that within the changing context it is difficult to be ready to face new situations caused by floods or other types of disasters. We must continue to work together to adapt to the challenges presented by climate change, while at the same time paying attention not to dilute INSARAG's mandate. The challenges are different, so the response must be different. We use a methodology that was instituted very successfully in earthquake response, but each challenge needs a tailored response. But the mandate cannot be adapted for another type of response. We have to keep in mind not to dilute the mandate in the search for this flexibility of response adapted to each type of disaster.

He emphasized the need to develop a consensus to keep the network united and improve quality standards within the INSARAG framework, making sure that the mandate is well understood.

Finally, Ambassador Bessler thanked the Regional Group of the Americas for its continued efforts to incorporate the INSARAG methodology into regional response plans and for strengthening the initiative with the incorporation of UNDAC which reinforces synergies.



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Adoption of the agenda and introduction of participants

Ms. Ana Maria Rebaza, Regional Focal Point UNDAC and INSARAG in the Americas for OCHA, mentioned the countries and organizations present and connected to the meeting, and briefly outlined the agenda for the 3 days (See List of Participants in **Annex 1** and the full Agenda in **Annex 2**).

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
Opening Welcoming remarks Group photo	S4: Quality Standards ✓ Gender approach and USAR ✓ Dissemination of INSARAG Guidelines ✓ IEC/IER ✓ IERE 2023	S7: Forum on Local Brigades ✓ IFRC Experience ✓ Peru Experience ✓ Argentina Experience
S1: Overview in 2022 ✓ Americas INSARAG Group ✓ UNDAC in the Americas	S5: Localization ✓ IRNAP Process Update ✓ USAR National Coordination	S8: 20th Anniversary of GA Res. 57/150 of December 16, 2002
S2: Lessons Learned in UNDAC Missions	S6: Flexible Response ✓ Haiti Response ✓ Flood response	S9: Chile IRNAP process
S3: UNDAC Strategic Issues ✓ UNDAC Roster (profiles) ✓ Deployment ✓ Capacity building ✓ Partnerships and integration ✓ Resources ✓ Participation and communications	S6: Alliances ✓ USAR-EMT Community of Practice ✓ Capacity building	S10: INSARAG and UNDAC Las Americas Work Plans in 2023
		S11: Appointment and handover to the new Americas INSARAG Regional Chairmanship for 2023

Session 1: 2022 INSARAG & UNDAC annual overview

Moderation

Ms. Débora Luzzi, White Helmets Commission, ACIAH, Argentina

Report on INSARAG activities in the Americas region in 2022

Minister Ramón Soto Bonilla, Chair of the INSARAG Americas Regional Board of Directors, presented a summary of the main advances of the INSARAG Americas Regional Group in 2022.

At the beginning of his speech, he expressed the gratitude from Honduras for the support received from Argentina, Brazil and the United States in the response to the floods this year.

Regarding strategic objective 1 on Quality Standards, he highlighted the participation of the Americas delegation in the Humanitarian Networking and Partnership Week (HNPW) and the INSARAG Steering Group (ISG) meeting.

Regarding strategic objective 2 on Localization, he pointed out as relevant activities the reclassification of the USA-01 Fairfax team, the IRNAP certification of Chile and the IRNAP processes underway in Argentina, Panama and Ecuador, as well as those in the application process in Honduras and Canada, among others. He highlighted the importance of the NAP/IRNAP strengthening process in Central America through the SDC-funded project.

Regarding strategic objective 3 on Flexible Response, he emphasized the importance of the creation of the Regional Roundtable to discuss Flexible Response and the preparation of the proposal document on Flood Response, as well as the systematization of the coordinated work between Argentina and Brazil in



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the response to the earthquake in Haiti, and the participation of regional representatives in the Flexible Response Global Working Group (FRWG).

Regarding strategic objective 4 on Partnerships, he pointed out the creation of a community of practice for the exchange of information and possible development of working protocols between the Emergency Medical Teams (EMT) and the medical component of the USAR teams in the region.

Min. Soto also mentioned upcoming activities such as:

- The III Regional Humanitarian Assistance Drill scheduled for the month of June 2023.
- The International Earthquake Response Exercise (IERE) in 2023.

Report of UNDAC activities in 2022

Ms. Ana Maria Rebaza, Regional Focal Point UNDAC and INSARAG in the Americas for OCHA, presented a regional and global report of UNDAC activities.

She reported on the UNDAC courses held in 2022 in the region and globally:

- UNDAC Virtual Refresher Course for Europe, February.
- UNDAC Virtual Refresher Course for the Americas, April
- UNDAC Induction Course in Peru, June
- OSOCC Coordination Course in Panama, September
- EOC/OSOCC Assessment and Analysis (A&A) course in Estonia, September
- UNDAC Virtual Refresher Course for Africa, October
- UNDAC Induction Course in Kenya, November.

She also reported on the UNDAC missions (Peru, Madagascar, Afghanistan, Gambia and Paraguay) and the CADRI preparation missions (Kyrgyzstan, Ghana and Maldives) carried out during the year.

She finally mentioned other relevant activities such as:

- The evaluation of the Central Committee of the UNDAC Advisory Council.
- The UNDAC Advisory Council Meeting in May within the framework of the HNPW in Geneva.
- The Virtual Seminar on Assessment and Analysis (A&A).
- The initiation of the UNDAC Strategic Planning 2023-2026

Session 2: UNDAC missions and lessons learned

Moderation

Ms. Ana María Rebaza, INSARAG and UNDAC Regional Focal Point for the Americas, OCHA

Haiti earthquake UNDAC mission in 2021

Presented by Juan Pablo O'Farrill, National Disaster Response Advisor, OCHA Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, UNDAC Team Leader on the mission to Haiti).

He mentioned that Haiti suffers from recurrent crises and presents high vulnerability and there are multidimensional cumulative impacts while there is valuable resilience capacity.



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The mission had 2 team rotations and the working structure included not only the UNDAC team but also an integration with the EUCPT (European Union Civil Protection team) and a close collaboration with the Haitian Civil Protection. There were Emergency Medical Teams (EMT), USAR teams and several other actors. The OSOCC was installed in the capital and a Sub-OSOCC near the epicenter in Les Cayes, as well as a presence in two other areas.

He pointed out that the main elements to consider for the lessons learned were:

- Among the lessons learned from this mission is the issue of humanitarian access due to criminal gangs that prevented aid access to the affected people. This was in addition to the already limited access due to the damage to roads and other infrastructure caused by the earthquake.
- The support and collaboration with the government was strong through civil protection. However, the country's capabilities in terms of operational resources were limited, so it was complex to carry out a rapid response.
- There was a need to coordinate with multiple partners. Haiti had a lot of cooperation from countries and humanitarian, development and private sector organizations and actors. UNDAC contributed to a more coordinated articulation.
- It is necessary to consider language issues in the personnel profiles; there were not enough personnel with French or Creole language skills.
- In emergencies such as this one, the humanitarian ecosystem is quite complex; it is necessary to achieve an efficient and effective humanitarian coordination not only in humanitarian terms but also to take advantage of resources, strengthen the link between humanitarian and development, environmental approach, among others.
- Meeting operational challenges requires a strong, inclusive and well-articulated humanitarian system given pandemic conditions, climate change and security issues.
- In terms of relevance, the UNDAC team is key for the region and provides added value due to its capacity and experience. In practice, it is possible to see the convening power and synergy, as well as the analysis and products that contribute to the humanitarian response.

Paraguay droughts UNDAC mission in 2022

Presented by Gianni Morelli, Regional Disaster Response Advisor, OCHA Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, UNDAC Team Leader on the mission to Paraguay.

A team of 4 experts was formed who articulated with government institutions and the United Nations.

He pointed out that the main elements to consider for lessons learned were:

- Normally an UNDAC team is mobilized in sudden-onset disasters such as earthquakes and hurricanes, but this mission proved the validity of an UNDAC mission in a slowly developing emergency where analysis is needed to have a shared view of the situation.
- The humanitarian impact is reported but it is important to build a baseline or average baseline to see the deterioration of the situation. This can guide and assist the interventions of organizations and institutions in the country.
- The comprehensive evidence of the humanitarian situation allows us to carry out advocacy and awareness-raising actions in situations that we consider almost "normal", as was the case in this situation (drought areas). This mission made it possible to identify the deterioration of the situation with respect to chronic vulnerability.
- The participatory methodology made it possible to make visible the role and participation of the communities in identifying their own needs. It was possible to help reconstruct the process experienced by the communities and the team learned how to work in an environment where there



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was resistance to providing information because they normally do not receive feedback and there are no subsequent actions. It generated a process of sensitization of local institutions so that they would consider the importance of feedback.

Interventions of participants

- Further use of the assessment in Paraguay: Not only the report but also infographics produced are useful for decision makers. The mission is requested by the UNRC and the Province Governor. The assessment is normally used to mobilize response resources based on advocacy actions at national and international level.
- UNDAC teams and security issues: An intervention in Haiti is very complex and it is important to be better prepared because there is an increasing complexity. The UN security system is the one used for UNDAC teams, which is also aligned with national standards and capacities.

Session 3: Evaluation of the UNDAC Advisory Board Central Committee

Moderation

Ms. Ana María Rebaza, INSARAG and UNDAC Regional Focal Point for the Americas, OCHA

Participation of the Americas in the Evaluation of the Central Committee of the UNDAC Advisory Council

Ms. Adriana Patricia Diaz, Undersecretary of Civil Protection of San Carlos de Bariloche, Member of Cascos Blancos Argentina, and UNDAC Member, presented her reflections on her participation in the Evaluation process of the UNDAC Advisory Board Central Committee.

The evaluation team consisted of UNDAC members from Israel, Singapore, Ireland and Argentina and was supported by the ERS/OCHA team.

She reported that the process evaluated the functionality and challenges of the Central Committee to streamline the work of the focal points in each country. The evaluation team drafted a series of questions with the participation of ERS, the UNDAC Advisory Board, based on which interviews were conducted by telephone.

Among the most relevant findings, she indicated the following:

- Overall, the evaluation indicates that the Central Committee has not achieved the expected level and results in terms of improving communication.
- While COVID-19 affected the process, it was not a decisive factor in the performance of the Central Committee.
- Frequent change in participation limited the effectiveness of the Central Committee. New participants were unsure of the role they were supposed to play.
- The level of knowledge about UNDAC and UNDAC governance is quite varied, some had no knowledge about the Central Committee.
- The Central Committee meeting is often seen as more of an OCHA information exchange and not enough sharing with focal points and regions. Interviewees said that OCHA should share information with all focal points.
- Interviewees felt that if the Terms of Reference of the Central Committee had provided for a rotating Chair and a Work Plan there would have been more guidance and effectiveness. However, on the other hand, there was no willingness to assume the Presidency on a rotating basis.



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- The members of the Central Committee did not feel empowered to take the information to other focal points in their region and some felt they did not have the mandate to do so.
- Interviewees were satisfied with the geographic distribution of members and several said they support various OCHA working groups.
- Interviewees felt that most of the work is done by OCHA and there was little input from the focal points to the agendas.
- The responses obtained were less comprehensive than expected by the evaluation team. Several potential interviewees were busy with the response in Ukraine, others did not respond, and not all of the expected information was obtained.

Conclusions:

- The meeting agendas of the Central Committee are generated by ERS.
- The information does not reach a wider group of UNDAC Focal Points.
- The Central Committee members do not seem to raise issues on behalf of the Advisory Council
- The meetings function more as information exchange rather than contributing to improved governance of UNDAC
- Better knowledge of and compliance with the Terms of Reference would better meet expectations
- The need for a Chair and work plan is evident.

Recommendations:

- The Focal Points should be more familiarized with the Central Committee terms of reference, as well as with the responsibilities of the membership .
- The nomination of a Chair would give more ownership to the members of the Central Committee.
- The development of an action plan linked to an UNDAC strategic plan would better guide the Central Committee work.
- OCHA ERS should give more responsibility to the Central Committee members.
- Advisory Board and Central Committee meeting to be held every 3 months.

The evaluation has already been carried out and the report has been delivered to the Advisory Council, now what would follow is for the Advisory Council to decide what actions to take in considering the results and recommendations.

Interventions in plenary

- The terms of reference of the UNDAC teams in the missions are sometimes unclear, although countries have an active participation in the UNDAC teams. The proposal is to follow up on the participation of the countries and better analyze the terms of reference, even more so when it is the country that requests the UNDAC team.
- In this region, the members of the Central Committee from the United States and Argentina were active in proposing a work plan in the region since 2020. It was seen that it was important to strengthen the network of UNDAC members beyond the courses.
- Some UNDAC members indicate that there is a disconnect with their national Focal Point.
- An additional dynamic is needed between UNDAC members in addition to missions and courses.
- It can be said that the UNDAC system works very well on the ground, but it does not have a governance system that properly includes countries. This is different in INSARAG where countries are very active and OCHA provides the Technical Secretariat.

Session 4 : UNDAC Strategic Themes



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Moderation

Ms. Débora Luzzi, White Helmets Commission, ACIAH, Argentina

Ms. Ana María Rebaza, INSARAG and UNDAC Regional Focal Point for the Americas, OCHA

The work was carried out in 3 groups, which worked in relation to 2 strategic themes in two sessions each.

Intervention Group 1: Development of National Capacities - Associations and Integration

Facilitators: Patricio Fuentes and Patricia Díaz

- There was little clarity on what the challenges of UNDAC members are and how they play out in their own countries.
- It was seen that it is necessary for the UNDAC response and the UNDAC members of a country to be part of a policy, not only of civil protection, but also with the participation of the Foreign Ministry (as is the case in Brazil).
- The UNDAC concept should not focus only on people, but should be more linked to national institutions.
- The State needs to better understand what UNDAC means so that internal capacities can be harnessed through UNDAC members.
- The question that arises is whether there should be a Political Focal Point and an Operational Focal Point as there is with INSARAG.
- Regarding internal capacity, tools and knowledge can be better used at the national level, for example in coordination and analysis. UNDAC members could also see this possibility as well.
- It was also pointed out that there are UNDAC members who are left out of the system when they cease to belong to national entities.
- On the other hand, it is not possible to work with the United Nations System when you are an UNDAC member due to the contract that is signed to be active as UNDAC.
- It was indicated that there are countries that have UNDAC members but the Focal Point is not named, despite the fact that sometimes they do have INSARAG Focal Points, and thus the country does not have information on the activities of these UNDAC members for that reason.
- Countries without UNDAC focal points should have one in order to have more control and knowledge of the activity of their UNDAC members.
- It is good that UNDAC members within their countries have the good practice of explaining the UNDAC system and its functions.
- OCHA could better inform countries about the UNDAC system so that they can nominate candidates with better information.
- To strengthen the network at the regional level, it would be necessary to have more courses. It is also useful to share more information in the countries about what the UNDAC team does.
- In addition to UNDAC supporting organizations, there are other organizations that can support the work of the UNDAC team in countries.
- Regarding the concept of integration, it is clear that in a response it is about contributing to the national structure.
- Work should be done on prior arrangements to articulate the UNDAC country team in the event of a response.

Intervention Group 2: Resource Mobilization - Participation and Communication

Facilitators: Walter Fonseca and Verónica Ayala





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- Resource mobilization: Need to strengthen operational advice in the political decision-making of the member states so that the missions are received and conformed according to the norms provided when national capacities are exceeded.
- Take advantage of the presence of UNDAC members in the countries as a resource available in the country to be able to move within and outside the country.
- It is important that in all countries there is recognition of the national UNDAC members because in some countries the national UNDAC members are not known. This is also important where there are coordination and regional mechanisms such as CEPREDENAC in which it is important to include UNDAC as a resource.
- National mechanisms address immigration, customs and direct response situations that allow UNDAC teams to enter or exit when they enter the country. It can be foreseen in the national mechanisms that are already registered to enter the country in a more expeditious manner.
- Improve the articulation of UNDAC members in regional drills. There is some disengagement because there are no specific scripts for UNDAC participation in the exercises.
- Lack of comprehensive identification of needs.
- It would be important to have a financing mechanism for a rapid mobilization of UNDAC members and that this happens by having the country accounts.
- The UNDAC members are always available and they await the final selection of the team.
- There are obstacles in the matter of activation of UNDAC members. Members are being renewed with induction courses.
- There are communication procedures within the countries for the activation of UNDAC members.
- Reports on the missions have begun to be implemented at the country level to maintain communication of participation and experiences that can be implemented at the national level.
- The selection of the participants in the induction courses is at the discretion of OCHA and is not necessarily based on the recommendation of the country candidates.
- It is emphasized that the Terms of Reference of the mission must be clear for the request of the teams by the countries and/or the Resident Coordinators of the United Nations.

Intervention Group 3: List of UNDAC members - Deployment

Facilitators : Martín Torres and Natalia de Ávila

- The changes made so far are positively valued.
- The need to analyze the characteristics of the roster was pointed out, taking into account these changes and the necessary capacities. We refer to the role of UNDAC in terms of coordination, more linked to advocacy, information management, needs analysis, but there is a need for greater specialization.
- It would be necessary to systematize the changes in terms of specialization.
- It was raised whether the Terms of Reference reflect these needs in the necessary profile.
- The problem of non-renewal of the contracts of the inactive was discussed. A strategy was proposed to create an agenda of UNDAC Focal Points for UNDAC members, strengthening communication and ties.
- An Operational Focal Point was also proposed with the possibility of articulation with the UNDAC missions that arrive in a country, which can support, for example, in logistics. This has been happening in practice, but it needs to be formalized and made explicit.
- Gender balance: a lot of work has been done in recent years, but the availability is less in women, it would be necessary to evaluate how to guarantee mechanisms to advance in this regard.
- On the issue of deployment, the administrative and logistical aspects of it were highly valued.
- The need was seen to guarantee the autonomy of the team in terms of logistics and to reinforce the coordination mechanisms to find other ways to meet these needs of the team.



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- Lately the missions have been carried out with a team of few members (3-4 people). Discussed how to ensure that they can provide an adequate response. It would be good to discuss what is a sufficient size of the UNDAC team.
- Not so big emergencies in the region, but a lot of support is required.

Plenary discussion

- Ideas to see how to implement were underlined: improve dynamism, strengthen the institutional framework with a role of Operational Focal Point, strengthen national/regional recognition of the UNDAC mechanism.
- There is an administrative issue regarding the receipt of per diems. It is suggested that OCHA Geneva open international accounts where the UNDAC member can have a card, which facilitates the receipt of transfers in the countries. This would remove a cause for concern that sometimes arises.
- Having a United Nations contract conflicts with job opportunities at the United Nations. It would be necessary to study this issue to find a way out.
- Strengthening of the network: Greater linkage of UNDAC members with their Focal Points_UNDAC; report after the mission.
- See how national mechanisms recognize the UNDAC system in their own legal frameworks or procedures that could be integrated at the regional level, and practice in simulation exercises.
- Processes that facilitate the entry and exit of USAR teams can be used to accommodate the entry of cooperation or assessment teams.
- The involvement of the Foreign Ministries is relevant because the relationship between the United Nations Resident Coordination in the affected country and the relationship with another type of international cooperation during an emergency corresponds to the Foreign Ministry. It is a topic that would be interesting to work on. This would institutionalize the mobilization of resources through the Chancellery for the UNDAC account.
- Reinforce UNDAC Focal Points with roles of Operational Focal Points.
- Explore that the UNDAC accounts serve so that the UNDAC members can mobilize in their countries.
- See how to best leverage UNDAC members within countries. OCHA can accompany with a shared strategy with the countries. The UNDAC members have a lot of will and know the system, although they do not have political responsibility, but they can help the interior of the countries to articulate with the foreign policy of humanitarian assistance. Supporting the mechanisms for both receiving and delivering humanitarian assistance.
- It was pointed out that it is the responsibility of the UNDAC Focal Point to disseminate the methodology and procedure of the UNDAC system and what it means to have national UNDAC members. It is clear that the management of the emergency is in charge of each country. But there are UNDAC procedures that OCHA conducts. UNDAC will support and facilitate coordination and evaluation in support of the affected country. However, there is a level of ignorance of what it means to have UNDAC members in the countries. This is the responsibility of both the United Nations and the UNDAC Focal Points.
- It would be important to know both the national systems and the functioning of the United Nations, to favor the integration of all capacities.

Day 2 – November 8, 2022

Session 5: Strategic Objective 1: Quality standards

Moderation

Col. César Sierra, INDECI Response Director, INSARAG Operational Focal Point, UNDAC member, Peru

Secretary



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Ms. Débora Luzzi, White Helmets Commission, ACIAH, Argentina

USAR and Gender

This presentation could not be presented by Ms. Silvia Ballén, UNDAC focal point of Colombia, member of the USAR COL-01 team, and specialist of the National Disaster Risk Management Unit (UNGRD). There is the experience developed in Colombia with the support of UN Women of a course on Gender and USAR team that will be shared in a next opportunity.

INSARAG Guidelines: Dissemination, INSARAG Guidelines Review Working Group

- Mr. Patricio Fuentes, Team Leader of the USAR CHI-01 team of the Chilean Fire Department, OCHA Consultant member and of the Transition Group for the Review of the INSARAG Guidelines 2020-2025, began his presentation by mentioning the presence at the meeting of Mr. Martin Evers, co-Chair of the INSARAG Guidelines 2020-2025 Revision Transition Group, and Mr. Sebastián Mocarquer, who participated in the INSARAG Guidelines 2015-2020 revision working group.
- The INSARAG guidelines provide a methodology for response in a sudden-onset emergency with large-scale collapse of structures that includes international USAR teams in support of the affected country. It addresses the process of preparation and coordination at the national and international level.
- The Guidelines currently have three volumes:
 - The first volume provides an overview of the general concepts and processes to guide decision makers.
 - The second volume has 3 parts: The first part (Vol. II - A) focuses on the development of national capacities. The second part (Vol. II - B) deals with the USAR response cycle, coordination, USAR roles and responsibilities, and the marking system. The third part (Vol. II - C) addresses the IEC/IER process and the responsibilities of the classified teams.
 - The third volume is the field operational guide with the different areas of responsibility in the USAR team.
- In addition, good USAR practices are reflected in Guidance and Clarification Notes.
- The issues of planning, logistics, and administration must be strengthened as well as the technical issues of operation.
- There is currently a Transitional Guideline Review Working Group with representation from all 3 INSARAG regions. In 2023 the final review group should be consolidated. Its role is to support and advise INSARAG Member States, INSARAG Regions and Working Groups in the dissemination and implementation of the INSARAG 2020 Guidelines in conjunction with the INSARAG Secretariat.

INSARAG Classification and Reclassification Processes (IEC/IER)

- Mr. Patricio Fuentes pointed out that the classification and reclassification processes (IEC/IER) are capacity certification processes that teams have to go through to be considered classified by INSARAG.
- Once classified, they must reclassify every 5 years. Due to the pandemic we are behind in the processes that should be 5 years old.
- Light equipment is currently being classified, not just medium or heavy. He provided an explanation of the differences between the 3 types of teams in relation to the number of members, the equipment and the type of operation they can perform.
- The INSARAG classification and reclassification make it possible to establish that the teams meet the required minimum of the expected standards, including a very rapid deployment because the first 72 hours are crucial to be able to find victims alive, as well as USAR coordination and self-sufficient operations, fulfilling their roles and responsibilities in coordination with national authorities.
- It is based on the USAR response cycle starting from the preparation, monitoring and alert phase.



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- Demobilization and post mission are part of the USAR response cycle and are very important phases because it means having information on what has been done and informing the authorities.
- The checklist is the basis for evaluation of classification and reclassification.
- There is a mentor or a mentor team that goes through a process of almost 2 years to ensure that all the expected elements are achieved. Chile currently has the United States as a mentor team for its reclassification.
- There is an INSARAG Classification and Reclassification Working Group, which is made up of members of classified USAR teams.
- There is a list of classifiers that are authorized to evaluate in the classification and reclassification processes. It is a peer system.
- It is also possible to participate as observers for learning purposes.
- The schedule is on the INSARAG website
- He emphasized the need for requesting governments to be aware of the added value received from classified USAR Teams.

Plenary Interventions

- This issue is pretty much the core of INSARAG's work. INSARAG quality standards and guidelines are at the heart of what INSARAG does. There are always challenges and as the context changes, it is important to update them.
- INSARAG is a victim of its own success, there are 61 teams and there are at least 10 more countries that want to join. The pandemic has made the reclassification process difficult and it has been necessary to extend 2 years for the reclassification. It is necessary to see how to improve the reclassification process.
- The guides are a fundamental element for all INSARAG members since preparation. They should be part of the national disaster plan, especially for events like earthquakes.
- It is the responsibility of the qualified teams to provide members of the list of qualifiers and this must be global, not just regional.
- The delay due to the pandemic can be recovered in about 4-5 years.

International Earthquake Response Exercise- IERE 2023

- Mr. Esteban Chalá, National Director of Civil Protection Operations and INSARAG Operations Focal Point of Argentina introduced the team that is working on the organization of the exercise: Mr. Gonzalo Dominique, from the ARG-13 USAR team of the Argentine Federal Police, recently nationally accredited, and Mr. Martín Gómez Lissarrague, Civil Protection official.
- The scenario for the exercise, because it is a seismic risk area, has been defined to be in the province of San Juan.
- The plans, protocols, methodology and tools to practice, evaluate and strengthen the coordination of actions between national and international agents in the event of an earthquake will be put to the test.
- There are several components that will intervene at the local, regional, national and international levels.
- This exercise will allow you to review national policies and procedures to be better prepared.
- He detailed the elements of the organization in relation to the components that will participate, the scheme of the use of time including the preparation and evaluation activities, as well as the roles for the organization of the exercise.

Session 6: Strategic Objective 2: Localization

Moderation

Ms. Silvia La Ruffa, Federal Security Articulation Secretary , Ministry of Security, Argentina



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Secretary

Ms. Ana María Rebaza, INSARAG and UNDAC Regional Focal Point for the Americas, OCHA

Mrs. Silvia La Ruffa, Federal Security Articulation Secretary of the Argentine Ministry of Security, gave a brief introduction to the subject, highlighting that the protocols and standards promoted by INSARAG and national regulations require harmonization and this is promoted through the IRNAP process. It is also important to be able to reach the local and community level through local search and rescue brigades aligned with humanitarian principles knowing the national and international environment. The region has contributed significantly in this aspect and this is a constant process of development and learning.

IRNAP: Global progress and the way forward

- Mr. Sebastián Mocarquer, Bomberos de Chile, Co-Chairman of the National Accreditation Working Group (NAWG) and UNDAC Member of Chile made this presentation.
- The IRNAP process crosses 2 axes, both the localization and the quality standards, and it was an approach that originated from the Americas region.
- After a chapter on capacity building was included in 2007, a first reflection in this direction was made when the experience of response to the earthquake in Haiti in 2010 was reviewed and it was proposed to revise the concept of national capacity building.
- The 2011 guidelines include a section on national USAR systems.
- Around 2013, the concept of national USAR accreditation began to be discussed in the region, which was incorporated into the INSARAG 2015 Guidelines.
- In 2017, the Americas region develops a Technical Guidance Note on the National USAR accreditation process with INSARAG recognition through a certificate and a Technical Guidance Note on the IRNAP process with INSARAG recognition is published.
- In 2020, the creation of the National Accreditation Working Group (NAWG) is approved, made up of 15 members, 5 from each INSARAG regional group with a 2-year mandate and an extension of 2 more years.
- An initial survey was done on what is the need of the countries in relation to the IRNAP process and there was a quite positive response of interest in taking it forward.
- Progress was made in 4 aspects:
 - The updated IRNAP Guidance Note that was approved in 2022
 - Updating of the IRNAP Checklist, an integral part of the IRNAP Guidance Note.
 - Capacity development, working on an online course and a 5-day face-to-face course.
 - Support to the regions in methodological aspects and application of standards
- As for countries with completed IRNAP processes, they are: France (2017), Turkey (2017), Colombia (2018), Guatemala (2018), Chile (2022), Cyprus (2022) and Singapore (2022).
- With the process started are: Panama, Argentina, Ecuador and China. It is important to note that a country like China with a very large national scale, with possibly around 1,000 USAR teams, is in this process.
- Ready to start the process are: Honduras, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Indonesia and Sri Lanka.
- As next steps in the Americas region we have:
 - The IRNAP course for GTA/GTR experts in Ecuador, which will be used globally later.
 - NAP workshop in six of the seven CEPREDENAC member countries as part of the project financed by COSUDE
 - The update of the regional roster of specialists for the GTA / GTR
 - IRNAP recertification process
- Regarding the National Accreditation Working Group (NAWG), there are 3 objectives that it intends to develop in the next 2 years:
 - Training:



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- Review of the course for GTA/GTR developed by the Americas and facilitate its global delivery
- Adapt the IRNAP Virtual Workshop for a duration of 4 hours aimed at decision makers, national authorities and future members of the GTA/GTR
- Contribution to the review of the INSARAG Guidelines:
 - Update Technical Guidance Note based on application experience
 - Contribute to the review and synthesis of Manual A: Building Capacity
 - Review and develop supporting documentation
- Support to the Regions:
 - Continue supporting the regions in methodological aspects and interpretation of the standard
 - Monitor the coherent and consistent implementation of the IRNAP globally

USAR National Coordination course

- Mr. Juan Alfredo Campos, Consultant, INSARAG and UNDAC Expert, UNDAC Member, member of the GTA/GTR roster, from Costa Rica made the presentation on the USAR National Coordination Course.
- It was proposed in the region to develop this course to cover some gaps found in national capacities. At the national level, the focus is generally on developing the capacities of USAR teams, but it is also necessary to strengthen USAR processes and systems at the national level. It is also necessary to have the regulatory support.
- Therefore, the course includes various aspects in terms of organization, operation, information management, articulation with the international organization if an emergency occurs that requires external support.
- In 2016, the course for international USAR coordination was developed, focused on the operation of the USAR Coordination Cell. It was translated into Spanish, there was a course in Costa Rica in 2018.
- In 2020 the region develops a workshop to define the design of a USAR Coordination course.
- In 2022 there were 2 USAR National Coordination courses in Colombia and Peru.
- It is important to point out that there is a preparation work prior to the development of the course based on the characteristics and national environment of the country where it will be developed.
- There are 2 versions of the course, one face-to-face and one virtual.
- As next activities we have:
 - USAR National Coordination Course in 6 of the 7 CEPREDENAC member countries.
 - Follow up on the courses already carried out that have initiated processes at the national level to strengthen the USAR system

Interventions in plenary

- Mr. Sebastian Rhodes Stampa indicated that the Americas region is showing a path towards a response that is as local as possible and international if necessary. Therefore, it is important to strengthen the country and be able to receive international support if necessary.
- The delegation of Kenya indicated that they are happy to learn of the regional efforts that are taking place. They are interested in the exchange and being able to participate in some courses.
- The NAWG will respond to requests that are necessary in Kenya or at the regional level, and have ad hoc sessions to clarify what is necessary in relation to the IRNAP processes.
- Mrs. Claudia Herrera, Executive Secretary of CEPREDENAC, indicated that they would be interested if the activities could also contribute to the III Regional Drill to be held in June in Panama.
- Mrs. Ana María Rebaza indicated that both the USAR National Accreditation and USAR National Coordination courses have been planned to be held before June precisely to strengthen capacities



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for the III Drill in Panama. Likewise, the OSOCC course that was carried out in Panama recently had an earthquake in Panama as its setting with the same objective.

First Responders course V.02

- Mr. Cristian Torres Bermeo, General Director of the National Risk and Emergency Service (SNGRE) made this presentation.
- Ecuador decided to take input from the First Responders Course that will be adapted to the governance of disaster risk management in Ecuador at the community level. Therefore, it is articulated to public policy.
- Comprehensive disaster risk management in Ecuador contemplates risk analysis, risk reduction, emergency and disaster management, and recovery, taking into account institutional aspects, territorial levels, and sectoral articulation, which determines the governance of disaster risk management.
- This implies working based on guidelines for action at the local government level, especially the fourth guideline that talks about carrying out strategic Disaster Risk Management actions as a transversal axis in the different processes and services provided by the 221 Local Governments.
- The work of first responders is anchored, then, in this governance framework and is linked to the Community Disaster Risk Management Committees, including the assessment of the situation, information to government agencies and the ability to provide first aid services. where specialized services do not arrive.
- The training of first responders should play a role in public policy and allow action with local and cultural knowledge.

Interventions in plenary

- In Costa Rica, a community training process has been generated as part of the national USAR process. The course was taken in its first version and a virtual course was generated to make it available to local platforms. Since the course was revised, it was expected to be able to update the course, but so far there is no second version. However, the process has already begun.
- Ecuador is also waiting for the revised course and offers to translate it into Spanish.
- The review carried out by the Training Work Group (TWG) is in its last phase and the pilot implementation will begin in Ecuador and two other countries.
- What needs to be traced to advance in these processes? It is not just a matter of financing. There is also a factor of political continuity when there are changes of government. In order for these processes to be implemented, it is important to see that these are long-term issues that must be integrated into state policies so that they can be sustained over time.
- The support between countries in the INSARAG network and also in UNDAC, must have more sustained support in order to move forward.
- Regulatory support is important in order to have a foundation to continue working on these issues. Good regulations and a good coordination mechanism allow progress.
- The role of the Political Focal Points could be rethought, who are the ones with the capacity or authority to develop the necessary policies. The foreign policy of the country must also be taken into account .
- It is also necessary to have flexibility so that the countries can integrate the proposed processes.

Session 7: Strategic Objective 3: Flexible Response

Moderation

Mr. Sebastián Mocarquer, Fire Department of Chile, Co-Chair of the National Accreditation Working Group (NAWG), UNDAC Member, Chile



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Secretary

Ms. Débora Luzzi, White Helmets Commission, ACIAH, Argentina

Mr. Sebastián Mocarquer introduced this session by indicating that there is a discussion that has been going on for a few years about how INSARAG, and USAR teams, can respond to new challenges. A Flexible Response Working Group (FRWG) has been created in which the region participates. A position paper has been published outlining the current vision for Flexible Response. The region of the Americas has had an active participation, there have been regional meetings and it has been discussed in Geneva as well.

Response in Haiti

- Mr. Armin Braun, Director of the National Center for Risk and Disaster Management (CENAD) of the National Secretariat for Civil Protection and Defense in the Ministry of Integration and Regional Development of Brazil, UNDAC Focal Point and INSARAG Operational Focal Point of Brazil presented a summary of the experience developed in the response in Haiti.
- He mentioned that the Brazilian Civil Protection works together with the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) and there has been much progress on these issues.
- He presented the Brazilian multidisciplinary mission that was deployed in Haiti in 2021.
- The mission carried out activities in the area of health and controlled demolition of buildings at risk, among other actions.
- The mobilization was carried out with the participation of several ministries (Foreign Relations, Regional Development, Justice and Public Security, Defense and Health, as well as the National Secretariat for Civil Protection and Defense, the Fire Brigade of the Public Security Force, and the Corps Fire Department of the Federal District and Minas Gerais, and lasted 3 weeks).
- The mobilization required diplomatic coordination with Haiti upon receiving the request for help, logistical arrangements for the flight, the preparation of equipment and donations, backed by a presidential decree.
- There was bilateral aid from other countries, including Argentina, the United States and Colombia. The Brazilian team had prior knowledge of experts from other countries and organizations, which facilitated coordination.
- Upon arrival, he coordinated with the government, the Haitian Civil Protection, OCHA and the different teams present, many of whom were known to be UNDAC members.
- The base of operations was a construction that did not suffer damage in Les Cayes, built with the cooperation of Brazil in previous years.
- When you think of an earthquake, you think above all of search and rescue, but with the knowledge of the terrain it was known that a USAR team was not the only important thing and they took the following capabilities:
 - Search and rescue
 - risk assessment
 - Elimination of risks
 - Medical attention
 - Recovery of structures with teams of engineers (bridges, health centers, hospitals, water tanks)
 - Food distribution, hygiene kits.
 - Water treatment. (In the first flight they took different supplies and in the next flight they took more water purifiers)
- Videos of the operation carried out in Haiti were presented.
- Safety during operations was a very important aspect, especially during ground transfers.
- Food was distributed through a religious organization.
- In Corail there was a controlled demolition of a badly damaged school.
- In the city of Corail , it coincided with the White Helmets team, Argentina, which was supported by the reinforcement of the hospital structure in which there was a White Helmets medical team. Part of the medical team from Brazil worked with the one from Argentina at two points of care.



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- A final thought on this mission is that the classic answer is not enough and you have to work together with a broader approach being prepared to include other components.

Regional Proposal on Flexible Response: Development and Certification of Response Capacities in the Context of Floods for USAR Brigades or other Specialized Teams

- Minister Pablo Virasoro, Vice President of the White Helmets Commission of Argentina, presented the work carried out in the region on this issue.
- It indicated as background that a nodal point in the approach of Res AG 50/157 was "the importance of timely, coordinated and technically sound international assistance, provided in close coordination with the receiving State, in particular in the field of search and rescue in urban areas after earthquakes and other events that lead to the collapse of structures". The reference to "other events" leaves enough room to think about other scenarios.
- Given the increasing intensity and frequency of disasters caused by the climate crisis, in 2020 the ISG called for the formation of the Flexible Response Working Group (FRWG). In 2021, 3 working subgroups are created within the FRWG: Global Position, Structural Damage Assessment Center and Cultural Heritage. The Americas region participates in the 3 subgroups through national experts.
- In Subgroup A for the Global Position on Flexible Response, made up of 18 experts, 4 of them belong to the Americas region: Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Uruguay. A first draft of the Final Document of the Subgroup on Global Position was prepared. The position of the Americas region, critical of this first draft, was in favor of prioritizing the response to floods, a disaster that has a higher incidence and frequency not only in the Americas region. Said position was supported at the meeting of the Subgroup held in Geneva during the Week of Humanitarian Networks and Alliances in May 2022, and also elevated to the INSARAG Secretariat by the Regional Board of Directors.
- On that occasion, the INSARAG Regional Board of Directors of the Americas committed to raising a technical proposal that began to be discussed in May 2022. In July 2022, a virtual regional meeting was held, in which 13 participated. countries of the region, to discuss a first version prepared by experts from Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay. The proposal was circulated to all the countries, and once approved, it was submitted to the co-chairs of the Subgroup in August, with a request that it be incorporated into the draft of the Global Position document as an annex, which was not done. Only a summary was incorporated into the text of the draft Final Document of the Global Position Subgroup
- In addition, given that the aforementioned draft was inconsistent with the proposal to prioritize the response to floods, the co-chairs of the Subgroup were informed that they were going to present contributions to the draft, which was completed in September 2022. However, in response, a communication was received from the co-chairs of the FRWG indicating that they were not going to consider more changes or incorporate more contributions to the draft, which was sent in October to all the member countries of subgroup A as "Approved Document"
- The draft of the document does not reflect the points of view of all regions and even included points that were not discussed in the subgroup meetings.
- The AEME position includes the experience of the European Union through a modular system that certifies response teams with other capabilities. And it explicitly states its opposition to approving the concept of flexible response in INSARAG, alleging that it would create duplication between the European system and INSARAG.
- However, European standards can serve as a reference to establish those of INSARAG.
- The Asia-Pacific region believes that USAR teams with additional capabilities should report their capabilities to the INSARAG Secretariat. Additional capacity deployments would use the INSARAG system and methodology.
- The experts from the Americas region consider that the discussions should not be closed and the draft of the Final Document of the Global Position Subgroup should continue to be developed.



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- There are elements of this draft that do not add to the discussion, for example the distinction between 'beyond the rubble' and flexible response, because this is already defined in the INSARAG guidelines.
- If there are existing capabilities that are already part of the network, it doesn't make sense for them to be listed for approval when they already are.
- There is an exhaustive list of other possible capacities, such as mountain rescue, avalanche rescue, etc. This takes us away from the objective of improving the response, concentrating on the events that are more frequent, relevant and that generate the greatest impact, such as the case of the floods.
- Recommendations are proposed for the revision of the Guidelines that do not help the precision required by the document.
- In point 6 the minimum standards are mentioned, no priority is established, and this document should include it.
- Point 7 could be regulated later.
- The draft takes as valid the responses to a survey conducted in Qatar. However, these polls reflect only the opinions of qualified team leaders present in Qatar. The member countries of the INSARAG Network were not consulted, and should have had their say through their political focal points.
- The issue of identifications should not necessarily be included in this document.
- Despite the prioritization that was requested, the recommendations do not mention flood response as capacities that could be prioritized.
- Faced with all these observed difficulties, the Americas region supports the proposal to prioritize the response to floods, and promotes:
 - Increase the number of first responders
 - Prioritize the development of local capacities as the first phase
 - Develop quality standards and best practices for flood response, which may have those of the European Union as a reference, as a second phase
 - The inclusion of flood response in the NAP and IRNAP processes
 - That the response to floods be included in Manual A of Volume II of the INSARAG Guidelines, as a third phase.
- To achieve this, the need to reach a consensus regarding the draft of the Final Document of the Global Position Subgroup on Flexible Response is maintained. Likewise, that the region can incorporate its suggestions into the document, for which it is proposed that a new meeting of the Subgroup be convened to carry out this discussion before the ISG in April 2023, with a view to continuing the work there.
- It is also proposed to review the composition and functioning of Subgroup A of the FRWG. The region has only 4 of the 18 members of Subgroup A, a balanced composition should be 6 experts for each region.
- Finally, it is proposed that the ISG extend the mandate of Subgroup A of the FRWG until the draft document reaches a consensus of all regions.

Interventions in plenary

- Mr. Tomás Lastra, member of Subgroup A for Argentina, indicated that the terms of reference included a comparative work between the different types of disasters to better understand the context. Hydrometeorological disasters are on the rise due to climate change and have a far greater impact than disasters of geophysical origin. However, this work is not listed as part of the rationale for the global position paper. Countries may become more politically committed to INSARAG if hydrometeorological disasters are included, which will allow for a greater number of response actions while maintaining quality.
- Mr. Esteban Chalá, Operational Focal Point of Argentina, pointed out that work is normally done in this area, as it is done in all countries. The teams have the capacity for search and rescue in collapsed structures, but also in the face of floods, and the same teams respond to these



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emergencies. It is important that there is compliance with standards and that it serves to save more lives.

- Mr. José Solla, Focal Point for Brazil and member of FRWG Subgroup A, commented that the success of the Brazilian mission in Haiti had to do with the experience of the team leader and the knowledge of the actors who participated in the response. The presentation made by Pablo Virasoro reflects the difficulties that existed to represent the region in Subgroup A in which the global position was worked on. INSARAG was built 31 years ago with a high quality and could also work to maintain this same quality for the response to floods. This would allow more countries to be included in the Network. Brazil wants to collaborate more and offers to host a meeting in 2023 on flexible response at the regional or global level. They also offer to host two UNDAC courses, refresher and induction. Brazil has participated in this meeting with a fairly large delegation and wants to contribute more in the future.
- Mr. Luis Ángel Macareño, Second Chief of the General Staff of the Civil Defense of Cuba, indicated that the response to floods seems to Cuba to be a positive proposal. He also commented that Cuba collaborates with Haiti and they learned of Brazil's response. It is important to remember that disasters are not natural and it is also very important to work on prevention.
- Ms. Natalia de Ávila, UNDAC Focal Point for Uruguay, pointed out that Uruguay has not been very active in INSARAG. However, as a country they must also be prepared for international assistance. The flexible response proposal is also an opportunity to make more resources available. Uruguay participated in Subgroup A, although the expert had to withdraw from this work. It is seen that it is necessary to make the participation mechanisms in the working groups more flexible.
- Mr. Martin Evers from the Netherlands, co-chair of the Guideline Revision Transitional Working Group, shared his personal point of view from a European perspective. He pointed out that INSARAG belongs to the member states and the Secretariat helps its operation. It is clear that there is still no consensus within INSARAG as to what is flexible response, and this makes discussion difficult. The European Union should be left out of this discussion because it is about INSARAG. The coordination and logistics components are very valuable and can be added to the other capabilities. What would not be good is for INSARAG to develop standards for issues other than search and rescue in collapsed structures. There are other expert entities for other specialties.
- Mr. Sebastian Rhodes Stampa, Secretary of INSARAG, thanked Brazil for its presentation, recalling its intervention in Mozambique as well, and congratulated the work carried out in Haiti. Currently there are more people affected by floods. The question is whether INSARAG is the tool to deal with this, there are different opinions in the regions. There is a high level of dissatisfaction with how this discussion was conducted because all positions were not sufficiently included. We want to save lives and we must look forward. There must be opportunity to be able to discuss more on this topic.
- Mrs. Débora Luzzi, from the White Helmets Argentine Agency for International Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance (ACIAH), pointed out that it might have been necessary first to have a discussion at a strategic and political level and then move on to a technical working group for its development. The idea is not to dilute INSARAG's mandate, but to enrich it. Flexible response is not leaving aside the work done in these more than 30 years, and it is necessary to discuss where the concert of nations can advance with the flexible response.

Session 8: Strategic Objective 4: Partnerships

Moderation

Ms. Débora Luzzi, White Helmets Commission, ACIAH, Argentina

Secretary



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Ms. Ana María Rebaza, INSARAG and UNDAC Regional Focal Point for the Americas, OCHA

USAR Community of Practice - EMT in the region

- Mr. Luis de la Fuente, head of the Emergency Medical Teams at the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), presented this experience.
- He commented that the Emergency Medical Teams were developed following the experience of INSARAG and are linked in their development and intervention, for which it is essential to have coordinated work so that rescued people can be referred to health services that provide them with quality care. for your recovery.
- At a global level, the architecture that EMTs and the health response must have to be resilient in the face of any type of natural hazard or in the context of a pandemic is being discussed.
- The health response includes the first responders, the USAR health component and finally the health services for your recovery.
- It requires rapid response teams, interdisciplinary, specialized, with mobile equipment, with a rapid task force.
- The rapid response framework applies to the 3 levels, global, regional and national. It covers not only the networks, INSARAG, the network for epidemics, the health task forces and other instances that are part of it.
- The EMT 2023 agenda seeks to ensure that affected populations can have access to quality essential services that save lives in an integrated manner with all health components and systems.
- Among the spaces for collaboration with INSARAG is the USAR-EMT community of practice that already had a first coordination meeting of the driving group, to ensure the quality of care from rescue to care. The exchange of knowledge, tools and methods will be the way to share this common interest.
- Simulation exercises are another area of collaboration between INSARAG and EMTs. It was the first region to integrate this collaboration since 2014. This coordination has been strengthened over the years.
- The PAHO/WHO Regional EMT Secretariat developed a platform for SIMEX exercises. It was used in the II Regional Simulation of Humanitarian Assistance in Guatemala in February 2022. This tool will be available both for the health sector and for USAR and other exercises in coordination with OCHA.
- The CICOM for the EMTs, as well as the USAR UCC, allow efficient deployment and operation of the equipment. The guide and the tools, as well as the Virtual CICOM are available.
- There are 27 registered EMTs already.
- Joining efforts to save lives is very important.

Links for the CICOM Course in the 4 languages

- Spanish CICOM: <https://bit.ly/CVOPSCICOM>
- CICOM English: <https://bit.ly/PAHOVC-Medical-Coordination-CICOM>
- CICOM Portuguese: <https://bit.ly/CVOPS-CICOM-PORT>
- French CICOM: <https://bit.ly/CVOPS-CICOM-FRAN>

CICOM Guide (In Spanish)

Recommendations for the implementation of the CICOM methodology during the response to COVID-19, June 10, 2020 (paho.org)

Guide (In English)



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Collaboration for dissemination and capacity building

- Ms. Lucía Vilariño, Executive Secretary of the Organization of American Firefighters (OBA), thanked INSARAG for the space and expressed her congratulations for the 30 years of existence celebrated in 2021.
- OBA wants to strengthen the alliance with INSARAG fundamentally in the issues of dissemination and training.
- He presented the OBA network, which is made up of more than 40 organizations representing 1.5 million firefighters in the region. OBA is here to contribute to the professionalization of the work of firefighters: integrate, train and standardize.
- In the last 4 years, more than 470 men and women firefighters have been trained in the OBA course, and through the online platform it has reached 336,789 people. Work is also underway to reach more than 85,000 boys and girls with training activities in the prevention of unintentional injuries.
- In addition, there are training spaces with members, for example, with the Chilean Fire Academy. There are also spaces for seminars on topics of interest.
- Exchanges and agreements were made with other entities outside the region, such as MAPFRE, Metro Chiefs, CTIF (on fires) and UN Women on issues of equity and inclusion of the gender perspective in humanitarian assistance.
- An agreement was signed with INSARAG in 2019 and initial activities were carried out. A seminar was held for the dissemination of the INSARAG 2020 guides with the support of the INSARAG Secretariat and countries of the network. The activity of the OBA and Fundación Mapfre Congress included sessions to promote the INSARAG methodology and guides in 2020 and 2021, which was virtual due to the pandemic.
- It was planned from the beginning that an asynchronous course on the INSARAG 2020 guidelines would be carried out. Partial progress has been made. The platform has an average of 180,000 unique users.
- Other topics that can be developed with this format are: Operations Coordination, Information Management and Marking.
- It is proposed to disseminate the IRNAP processes to facilitate information and support for the GTA/GTR course.
- newsletter, etc.) is to be made available to distribute INSARAG content.
- The communication team is made available to make the information that promotes the USAR accreditation processes more accessible.
- The region's fire marshals are eager to improve their standards and procedures.

Interventions in plenary

- Ms. Débora Luzzi highlighted the importance of the resources that OBA makes available.
- Although the courses offered by OBA are fundamentally in Spanish, some material could be developed in another language if required.
- For the organization of the III Regional Simulation of Humanitarian Assistance, we want to use again the SIMEX Platform of PAHO/WHO. As a lesson learned is the need to have previous training for its use. A specific health emergency mechanism is being developed with the Ministries of Health of the CEPREDENAC member countries within the framework of international mechanisms and it is necessary to carry out consultations in the countries, and also strengthen the EMT teams.
- OBA is also invited to the III Regional Simulation of Humanitarian Assistance, as well as other countries in the region.
- The CEPREDENAC virtual campus is made available as an information space for risk management.



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- On how to reinforce these initiatives at the regional level, Mr. Luis de la Fuente pointed out that the concept of comprehensive response be reinforced and that all channels be established to guarantee effective assistance with procedures and tools to ensure the continuity of actions.
- EMTs and USAR teams can also join efforts in a collaborative space to reinforce operational capacity, to assess impacted health capacity, among others.
- It is a challenge for OBA to work with fire teams and emergency services to motivate local actors and also influence national systems. The INSARAG network is very valuable and should be made more accessible to fire brigades. On the other hand, the willingness of the teams to cooperate is very positive, but it is important to understand that coordination is central. This can be worked together with clearer and simpler messages about why INSARAG's work is so important.

Closing session of the day: Summary and discussion

- Ambassador Sabina Frederic congratulated the sessions presented on the strategic objectives with information and experiences that allow strengthening the work of INSARAG.
- Regarding the subject of Flexible Response, he highlighted the willingness of the INSARAG Secretariat to attend to the work of the region and favor a path to be able to offer its contribution.
- Regarding the procedures to carry out this discussion on the flexible response, it would be important to have information on what the way forward will be so that there are no communication problems and all positions can be adequately expressed, and the mechanisms to be able to resolve them in the decision of decisions.
- He thanked all those present for their contribution to carry out these discussions.
- The Col. César Sierra pointed out that the day was very positive to point out various issues that will allow the work of INSARAG to advance.

Day 3 – November 9, 2022

Session 9: Local brigades – community level response

The session was moderated by Ms. Shelley Cheatham, Head of OCHA's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean. Ms. Cheatham stressed the importance of working at the community level in order to strengthen the capacities and resilience of the population.

IFRC Experience

- Ms. Melina Miele, Disasters and Crisis Department, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Regional Office – IFRC introduced the IFRC experience in this work from a global, regional, national perspective reaching out to communities, as local as possible and as global as necessary.
- The IFRC response system comes from the global level, with regional offices, delegations and national societies. The local response system is made up of volunteers who are 90% of the organization and community response teams that are part of the communities affected by disasters and crises.
- National societies are responsible for the preparedness and response of the local response system.
- The operating procedures are global and are constantly reviewed to feed them to the local response system.
- The information management system is reflected in a platform that registers alerts, ongoing events, and the entire response system and regional and global extended capacity. It includes the programs that exist in the countries and that are linked to the response.



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- The financing is for the immediate response with the DREF funds that in 24-48 hours make it possible to have between 500,000 and 1,000,000 Swiss francs for interventions of 3 to 6 months. There is also a collection system through the appeal mechanism that allows a more extensive response in coverage and time.
- There are funds that can be activated in advance based on forecasts that correspond to the concept of anticipatory action.
- There are rapid response units: personnel and response materials available to be deployed to attend to issues of health, water, sanitation and hygiene, logistics, telecommunications, base camp, relief, livelihoods, migration, protection, accommodation.
- Even if time is pressing in an emergency, we work with local personnel so that they can be trained together with the rapid response unit team and thus can continue with the response work.
- Each national society also has national response teams with volunteers located in the different branches in the country and work directly with the communities.
- The projects and programs are based on the analysis of vulnerabilities and capacities with the participation of the communities.
- In the preparation phase, first aid courses are taught.

Experience in Argentina

- Mr. Esteban Chalá, National Director of Civil Protection Operations, INSARAG Operations Focal Point and UNDAC member from Argentina presented the experience in Argentina.
- The Civil Protection Operations Directorate is located in the Undersecretariat for Risk Management and Civil Protection, which is part of the Federal Security Articulation Secretariat of the Ministry of Security.
- In order for neighborhood and neighborhood structures to build a safe society, the necessary tools must be provided from an inclusive State.
- The law of the National System of Comprehensive Risk Management (SINAGIR) among other aspects, points out the importance of communities and resilience, associations and the social construction of resilience and the strengthening of risk reduction actions, the management of crises and recovery, in a system articulated from the national, federal, municipal and local levels, including NGOs and civil society.
- The integral protection of the communities is a responsibility of the State that we are all and we all build it. This includes the neighbors of the communities.
- In Argentina there are more than 5,000 civil associations that work in the social development of communities. There are native communities also constituted as civil associations to protect their culture and territory.
- Taking this into account, the Registry of Associations for Comprehensive Risk Management (RAGIR) was instituted to find out who they are, how they work in prevention, response, rehabilitation, mitigation and recovery, and to find out what they need to be able to integrate the State into the process. of strengthening. The realities are very different in different areas of the country.
- They are recognized as part of SINAGIR and this allows a broad inclusion of civil society.
- The National Directorate of Civil Protection Operations approaches the associations to find out how they can work together.
- Response organizations are registered in the Response Organizations Registry (ROR), to know their capabilities and location, so that they can be identified in work rings according to their capabilities in the face of a crisis zone or ground zero. Some 12 organizations are registered because the requirements are more specific (capacities, standards, insurance, etc.)
 - The Volunteer Firefighters system has 1,052 stations and 55,000 volunteer firefighters.
 - The Scouts of Argentina have 30,000 volunteers
 - The Argentine Red Cross has 8,000 volunteers
 - More other response associations
- The response work is carried out in cooperation with civil society.



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- Mr. Mauro Rivas, from the White Helmets Argentine Agency for International Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance, presented the work of the White Helmets Commission in terms of its work at the community level.
- In the context of the pandemic, it was important to work for prevention in the case of vulnerable groups. Among other cases, the volunteers of the White Helmets worked with people who could not return to their countries and in local missions in urban areas with greater population density to promote solidarity and community strengthening and also in emergencies.
- Action is also taken in mass mobilization events that are frequent in the country, to contain possible critical situations in this context.
- When there is a request for international humanitarian assistance, we respond with the mobilization of volunteers from the White Helmets in different types of emergencies.
- The lines of work are disaster response, environmental risk reduction, and prevention and healthcare.
- White Helmets provided support on the Ukrainian border to people from Argentina and Latin America who left due to the war situation. In coordination with the Honduran authorities, people affected by floods and landslides were also supported.
- The alert, organization and deployment process of international humanitarian assistance missions was presented, as well as post-mission actions.

Experience in Peru

- The Col. César Sierra, Response Director of the National Civil Defense Institute, INSARAG Operational Focal Point of Peru, presented the experience of working with volunteers and community brigade members to respond to emergencies.
- As background, he pointed out that there are legally recognized rural community organizations that originated in situations of insecurity and the need for self-protection.
- Under the principles of solidarity and self-help, the communities created local brigades as a community response to respond to emergencies by participating with state authorities.
- The system of Volunteers in Emergencies (VER) was established, which integrates these community brigades that participate in risk analysis at the local level, community alert systems, damage assessment in emergencies and logistical support for the distribution of humanitarian assistance., for which INDECI provides training.
- In an emergency, the families and local brigades act in the initial intervention phase in the first hours until the first response support arrives, and finally the complementary response to organize humanitarian assistance.
- In the initial intervention they can support search and rescue, first aid, and preliminary damage assessment.

Ms. Shelley Cheatham highlighted the concept of “as local as possible and as global as necessary” which was highlighted by the intervention of Ms. Melina Miele from the IFRC, as well as the importance of exchanging experiences in the region.

Session 10: 20th Anniversary of GA Res. 57/150

In this session, Ms. Ana María Rebaza, presented the context and content of this resolution of the United Nations General Assembly that supports the work of INSARAG.

- In the interventions, Mr. Pablo Virasoro, Vice President of White Helmets, Argentina, pointed out that given the current circumstances that give rise to the discussion on flexible response, the definition of urban search and rescue could be expanded to search and rescue in other contexts, which could lead to a supplementary motion for a resolution.



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- Mr. José Solla, from the Brazilian Cooperation Agency, agreed with this possibility.

In commemoration of this anniversary, the session closed with the delivery of some INSARAG pins to the meeting participants.

Session 11: Chile IRNAP

This session was moderated by Ms. Ana María Rebaza, Regional Focal Point INSARAG and UNDAC, OCHA.

- Mr. Alejandro Artigas, Secretary General of the Chilean Fire Department, INSARAG Operational Focal Point, presented the experience followed by Chile, accompanied by Mr. Juan Carlos Field, President of the Chilean Fire Department, recently appointed after the Presidency of Mr. Raúl Bustos .
- Chile has 313 volunteer fire brigades, divided into companies, and a total of some 55,000 volunteer firefighters throughout the country. Each fire brigade is autonomous.
- Although in Chile construction regulations are strict and it is highly resilient, it is a country that is highly exposed to severe earthquakes and it will be necessary to have USAR capabilities to respond to these emergencies.
- At the beginning of the USAR process, around 1998, some companies received training in confined space search and rescue (BREC) in the United States. There was no USAR system yet.
- the trained teams began to give courses and the National Fire Academy of Chile participated.
- In 2008 Bomberos de Chile was already actively participating in INSARAG in the Americas.
- In the 2010 earthquake, capable teams showed up, but also several groups that were not capable. This led to the decision of the National Board of Firefighters of Chile to assimilate the INSARAG regulations.
- It was necessary not only to have common procedures and rules in the country , but also to speak the same language with the teams that come to provide assistance from other countries.
- Lessons learned from the 2010 earthquake, a national USAR accreditation system was created by the Chilean Fire Department by government delegation. The National Board finances the ANB prepares and the Chilean National Fire Operations System accredits the USAR teams.
- Currently there are 10 accredited and reaccredited teams plus 7 in the accreditation process.
- In 2017 the components of several teams came together to seek international classification and managed to qualify in 2018.
- Based on all this experience, a USAR Accreditation and Re-accreditation Manual was developed and is available.
- For the IRNAP process, we worked based on this scheme for two years.
- In the final exercise, 4 USAR teams were reaccredited.
- He thanked the colleagues who were part of the IRNAP review, both in the Support phase, Mr. José Perdomo from Colombia, and in the Recognition phase, Mr. Walter Fonseca from Costa Rica, Jefferson de Mello from Brazil and Ana María Rebaza for the INSARAG Secretariat.
- Likewise, he thanked the team that was in charge of the work for 2 years in Chile to make this achievement possible, from the Chilean Fire Department: Mr. Dante Nasi, Mr. Carlos Vega, Mr. Mauricio Nanning, Ms. Lilian Magaña, Mr. Sebastián Mocarquer, Mr. Alejandro Artigas, and on behalf of ONEMI: Ms. Natalia Silva, INSARAG Political Focal Point of Chile.
- Mr. Sebastian Rhodes Stampa delivered the IRNAP certificate to the President of the Chilean Fire Department, Mr. Juan Carlos Field.

Session 12: INSARAG and UNDAC Work Plans for 2023



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Advances and Challenges of the 2022 Plan and Lines of Action for 2023 of the INSARAG Regional Group of the Americas and of the UNDAC work in the Americas

Ms. Ana María Rebaza presented a summary of the progress of 2022 and lines of action for 2023 regarding the INSARAG Regional Group and the work of UNDAC in the Americas.

- Mr. José Solla intervened to inform that Brazil is starting the translation of the INSARAG guidelines into Portuguese. Brazil offers to organize a meeting on Flexible Response either regional or global when possible. Likewise, Brazil is interested in assuming a role of responsibility in the Presidency of the Regional Board of Directors, presenting itself at the next opportunity.
- Regarding UNDAC, Mr. José Solla reported that the final version of the translation of the UNDAC Manual into Portuguese is being reviewed, and 1,000 copies are going to be printed to distribute to the 27 states of Brazil and to the Portuguese-speaking countries through OCHA. In 2023 Brazil offers to host an UNDAC Update course. In 2024 Brazil offers to organize an UNDAC Induction course.
- Mr. José Solla commented that Brazil supports gender balance in the workplace.
- Mr. Cristian Torres requested to include the operational agreements with United Nations agencies in the countries for UNDAC deployment, and to explore the issue of UNDAC contracts so that it does not hinder membership in relation to XXXXXX This paragraph was left unfinished.
- Mrs. Claudia Herrera, Executive Secretary of CEPREDENAC, informed that it is going to send a formal communication ratifying the UNDAC focal points of the 7 countries that make up CEPREDENAC, prior information on the current focal points.
- Mr. Pablo Virasoro indicated that Objective 3 should reiterate the initiative to include the contributions of the Americas Region to the draft Final Document of the Subgroup Global Position on Flexible Response, and the proposal that the Subgroup meet again before the meeting in Geneva in April 2023 - despite the fact that it has been announced that there will be no more meetings until the ISG meeting.
- Mr. José Solla indicated that he agrees with Argentina regarding the discussion on Flexible Response, it is necessary that there be a timely dialogue and Brazil will do everything possible to favor it. Offers from Brazil for UNDAC courses could also be included in the Work Plan.
- Mr. Sebastian Rhodes Stampa informed that it is important to have a more robust and inclusive discussion to reach better levels of consensus.
- Mr. Esteban Chalá proposed that UNDAC members be able to carry out other activities so that they are active in national humanitarian systems so that this capacity is not lost.
- The Emb. Sabina Frederic pointed out that there may be a commitment to do everything possible so that the discussion does not end, and to clarify the procedures for how these discussions and decision-making will be carried out.
- Mr. Sebastián Mocarquer pointed out that it seems that the possibilities of consensus are limited. You can have conversations, but also look for alternative paths. As a reference, he recalled that the region brought the IRNAP issue to the ISG and it was included with a Guidance Note. Eventually it was included in Manual A and then a Working Group. This entire process took several years since 2013. Perhaps a mandate could be assumed from the region to work on the concept and that could serve other regions such as Asia Pacific, develop it and return to a global discussion with more concrete advances.

Session 13: Appointment and Handover to the 2023 INSARAG Regional Chairmanship

Announcement on the composition of the INSARAG Americas Regional Board of Directors 2023



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Mr. Sebastián Rhodes Stampa, Secretary of INSARAG and Head of the OCHA Emergency Response Section, congratulated the work of the INSARAG Regional Board of Directors for the Americas in 2022 and dedicated a few words of thanks to General Carlos Manuel Yáñez, Head of the National Institute of Civil Defense that integrated the INSARAG Regional Board of Directors until 2022, and presented him with an INSARAG commemorative plaque.

General Carlos Manuel Yáñez thanked Mr. Sebastián Rhodes Stampa for his words and expressed his satisfaction with the work carried out and Peru's commitment to continue its support in future activities.

Ms. Ana María Rebaza, UNDAC and INSARAG Regional Focal Point in the Americas of OCHA, announced that Argentina will assume the Chair of the INSARAG Regional Board for the Americas in 2023, Ecuador will assume the incoming Chair (Ingoing Chair) and Honduras will assume the outgoing Presidency (Outgoing Chair).

Mr. Cristian Torres Bermeo, General Director of the National Risk and Emergency Management Service of Ecuador, took the floor to express Ecuador's commitment to the responsibility they are assuming in 2023. He also thanked the country of the outgoing Presidency that made a work in difficult circumstances due to the pandemic and also to OCHA for its support in the work in the region. In Ecuador, we are on the way to start the IRNAP process as a State policy and an objective of the country's Risk Management entity. All budgets, plans and programs are oriented towards this and possibly in the future the classification of a team. He pointed out that it is important to continue contributing from the region as was done with the IRNAP issue. Finally, he stressed the shared mission of saving lives.

Closing Remarks

Minister Ramón Soto Bonilla, President of the INSARAG Las Americas Regional Board of Directors in 2022 expressed its gratitude to the Regional Group of the Americas for the support provided during this term of the presidency. He thanked Argentina for allowing this regional meeting to go ahead and for the work of the Humanitarian Week that was also carried out. He thanked Peru for its work on the Regional Board of Directors. He welcomed Ecuador to the Regional Board of Directors. He wished that everyone had been able to collect important learning for our work to save lives.

The Amb. Sabina Frederic gave closing remarks to summarize the discussions indicating that these three useful days that provide us with challenges and opportunities to advance in the region. On the first day, the UNDAC topics were reviewed experiences in the region, and lessons learned. There is the challenge of strengthening the system with resources. It is also a challenge to work at the local level. It is important to improve the relationship between UNDAC members and their Focal Points, that there are reports on the activities carried out, and involve the Foreign Ministries more. When addressing the INSARAG issues, it was possible to point out the progress and main difficulties in the four strategic objectives. The importance of quality standards through compliance with the INSARAG guidelines was emphasized. The national accreditation processes have advanced significantly, and there is room for further progress, such as linking it to State policies. Alliances between different levels of government and civil society are very important to build more resilience. It is important to continue strengthening alliances. Regarding the flexible response, the discussion led to the affirmation of the conviction of the Americas of the need to move towards new forms of response to face the challenges of climate change, building consensus in the face of differences, and also institutionalizing and making visible the procedures through which urgent needs are debated and agreements are reached. It became clear that the region is not in favor of diluting INSARAG's mandate but of strengthening the network, adapting it to the new scenarios and challenges presented by climate change. The challenge that the Regional Board of Directors will have will be great and requires the effort of all the members of the region.

Mr. Sebastian Rhodes Stampa indicated that he was impressed by the energy, unity of purpose, and commitment of the Americas. He thanked the INSARAG Regional Board of Directors and especially Argentina for organizing the meeting, and those present for their active participation. OCHA is there to support your work



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and get the messages across at the global level. Surely the light that INSARAG sheds on the humanitarian world must be sustained and will surely be sustained by this region as well.



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ANNEX 1 - List of Participants

Participants in person

Name	Institutional role	Country / Organization
Sabina Frederic	President of the Argentine Agency for International Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance White Helmets (ACIAH) Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Worship <i>INSARAG Policy Focal point</i> <i>UNDAC Focal point</i>	Argentina
Silvia La Ruffa	Secretary of Federal Articulation of Security, Ministry of Security	Argentina
Esteban Chalá	National Director of Civil Protection Operations Undersecretariat of Risk Management and Civil Protection Secretariat of Federal Articulation of Security Ministry of Security Ministry of Security <i>INSARAG Operational Focal point</i>	Argentina
Pablo Virasoro	Vice President of the White Helmets Commission ACIAH White Helmets Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Worship	Argentina
Débora Luzzi	Multilateral Affairs ACIAH White Helmets Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Cult <i>Assistant to the INSARAG Policy Focal Point</i>	Argentina
Mariana Galvani	Director of Humanitarian Assistance ACIAH White Helmets Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Worship	Argentina
Alina Ríos	International Cooperation, ACIAH White Helmets Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Worship <i>Policy Focal Point Assistant INSARAG</i>	Argentina
Adriana Patricia Diaz	Undersecretary of Civil Protection of San Carlos de Bariloche Member of Cascos Blancos <i>UNDAC member</i>	Argentina
Verónica Ayala	ACIAH White Helmets Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Worship <i>UNDAC member</i>	Argentina
Mauro Vivas	ACIAH White Helmets Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Worship	Argentina
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Gonzalo Dominique	ARG USAR Policía Federal Ministerio de Seguridad	Argentina



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Diracy Betânia Lacerda	Superintendent of Social Supply	Brazil
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Natalia Ribeiro de Souza e Silva	Assistant at the General Secretariat Presidency of the Republic	Brazil
Diracy Betânia Lacerda	Superintendent of the National Supply Company - CONAB	Brazil
Fernando Marcos Silva	CEO PWTech	Brazil
José Américo de Souza Gaia	Director, National Public Security Force Ministry of Justice and Public Security	Brazil
Jackeline Pereira Pavin	General Coordinator for Public Health Emergency Surveillance Ministry of Health	Brazil
Welter Alves das Chagas	Military Fire Brigade of Minas Gerais	Brazil
Thais Alcantara	Ministry of Health	Brazil
Barbara Bresani Salvi	Ministry of Health	Brazil
Claudia Herrera	Executive Secretary, Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America and the Dominican Republic - CEPREDENAC <i>INSARAG Policy Focal Point UNDAC Focal Point</i>	CEPREDENAC
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Patricio Fuentes	Bomberos de Chile Team Leader USAR CHI 01 <i>UNDAC Member</i>	Chile



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	<i>INSARAG Expert, INSARAG Transitional Guidelines Review Group</i>	
Alejandro Artigas	Secretary General Bomberos de Chile <i>INSARAG Operational Focal point</i>	Chile
Juan Carlos Field	President Bomberos de Chile	Chile
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Javier Guaman Yunga	Cuenca Firefighters	Ecuador
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Peter Schecter	Senior Planning and Operations Officer USAID Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance - USAID/BHA DART Expert	United States of America
Pablo Ramón Soto Bonilla	Minister of the Secretariat of State in the Offices of Risk Management and National Contingencies - COPECO <i>INSARAG Policy Focal Point</i>	Honduras



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Melina Miele	Disaster Management Focal Point Disaster Management Unit International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies - IFRC	IFRC
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Javier Chamorro	Head of the Resident Coordination Office Team United Nations System in Argentina	United Nations
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Lucia Vilariño	Executive Director Organization of American Firefighters – OBA <i>INSARAG Focal Point</i>	OBA
Sebastian Rhodes Stampa	Chief, Emergency Response Section, Response Support Branch Coordination Division <i>INSARAG Secretary</i> <i>UNDAC member</i>	OCHA
Shelley Cheatham	Head of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean	OCHA
Ana Maria Rebaza	Regional Focal Point for UNDAC and INSARAG in the Americas	OCHA
Carlos Rumbo	General Director National System of Civil Protection - SINAPROC <i>INSARAG Policy Focal Point</i>	Panama
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Osvaldo Martin Bogao Litvinov	National Fire Department	Uruguay



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Online participants

Name	Institutional role	Country / Organization
Martín Gomez Lissarrague	Patagonia Regional Office National Directorate of Operations Undersecretariat for Civil Protection and Risk Management Ministry of Security <i>UNDAC Member INSARAG Expert, National Accreditation Working Group (NAWG)</i>	Argentina
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Jorge Francisco Rovira Guzmán	Director of the National Emergency Commission - CNE	Costa Rica
Paul Ugarte Estrada	National Response Director SE CONRED	Guatemala
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Lucía Belén Vilariño Fiore	Executive Director Organization of American Firefighters - OBA	OBA
Juan Pablo O'Farrill	National Disaster Response Advisor	OCHA
Gianni Morelli	Regional Disaster Response Advisor	OCHA
Inaara Jivraj	Intern INSARAG Unit Emergency Response Section	OCHA
Martin Perez	Administrative Officer Emergency Response Section	OCHA
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Yasmin Delgado	USAR Planning General Direction SINAPROC <i>UNDAC Focal Point</i>	Panama



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Maria del Pilar Cantero	Directorate of International and Inter-Institutional Affairs (DRII) National Emergency Secretariat (SEN)	Paraguay
Bernardo Rodríguez Vidal	Civil Defense	República Dominicana
Jose Luis German	Deputy Director Head of Information Management Emergency Operations Center <i>UNDAC Focal Point</i>	República Dominicana

Observers

Name	Institutional role	Country / Organization
Duncan Ochieng	National Disaster Management Unit, Ministry of Interior and Coordination of the National Government	Kenya
Cyrus Muturi	National Disaster Management Unit, Ministry of Interior and Coordination of the National Government	Kenya
Monica Musyoni	International Peace Support Training Center (NGO)	Kenya
Venant Ndighila	Kenya Red Cross Society	Kenya
Amos Anyeni	National Disaster Management Unit, Ministry of Interior and Coordination of the National Government	Kenya
Solomon Nyangena	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Kenya
Edward Moriasi	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Kenya



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Annex 2 – Agenda

Regional Meeting - Day 1

Monday, November 7

0800 – 0900	Registration of participants	
0900 – 0930	Opening ceremony	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minister of Foreign Affairs from Argentina (greeting video)• Ambassador Sabina Frederic, President of the Argentine Agency for International Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance White Helmets• Ms. Claudia Mojica, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Argentina• Ambassador Manuel Bessler, INSARAG Global President (online)• Minister Ramón Soto Bonilla, President of the Americas INSARAG Regional Chairmanship, COPECO, Honduras• Mr. Sebastian Rhodes Stampa, INSARAG Secretary, Chief of OCHA Emergency Response Section
0930 – 0940	Official photo	
0940 – 0950	Agenda	Adoption of the agenda and presentation of participants
0950 – 1030	Annual balance	2021 Report – INSARAG and UNDAC <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minister Ramón Soto Bonilla, President of the INSARAG Board of the Americas, COPECO Commission, Honduras• Ms. Ana María Rebaza, Americas INSARAG & UNDAC Regional Focal Point, OCHA
1030 – 1100	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
1100 – 1145	UNDAC missions and lessons learned	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Haiti 2021• Paraguay 2022
1145 – 1245	Evaluation of the Central Committee of the UNDAC Advisory Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General context• Participation of the Americas
1245 – 1400	<i>Midday snack</i>	
1400 – 1530	UNDAC Strategic Themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation on the review of the UNDAC Global Strategy and regional issues• Group work (3 groups)



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1530 – 1600	<i>Coffee break</i>	
1600 – 1700	UNDAC Strategic Themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group work (3 groups)
1700 – 1800	UNDAC Strategic Themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plenary<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Groups Overview○ Plenary discussion for conclusions

Regional Meeting - Day 2

Tuesday, November 8

0900 – 1030	SO1: Quality Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentations;<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Gender and USAR○ INSARAG Guidelines: Dissemination, INSARAG Guidelines Revision Working Group○ IEC/IER○ 2023 International Earthquake Response Exercise (IERE)• Plenary discussion
1030 – 1100	<i>Coffee break</i>	
1100 – 1245	SO2: Localization	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentations;<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ IRNAP○ National Coordination USAR○ First Responders Course V.02• Plenary discussion
1245 – 1400	<i>Midday refreshment</i>	
1400 – 1530	SO3: Flexible Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentations;<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Response in Haiti (Brazil)○ Regional Proposal on Flexible Response (Argentina)• Plenary discussion
1530 – 1600	<i>Coffee break</i>	
1600 – 1700	SO4: Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentations;<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ USAR Community of Practice - EMT in the Region○ Collaboration for dissemination and capacity building• Plenary discussion
1700 – 1800	Conclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plenary<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Summary of the 4 sessions by Strategic Objectives○ Plenary discussion for conclusions



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Regional Meeting - Day 3

Wednesday, November 9

0900 – 10:30	Local brigades (community response)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentations<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Experiences in the region• Plenary discussion
1030 – 1100	<i>Coffee break</i>	
1100 – 1145	Res. AG UN 57/150 20th Anniversary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation on United Nations General Assembly Resolution 57/150 of 16 December 2002 on 'Strengthening the effectiveness and coordination of international search and rescue assistance'• Plenary discussion
1145 – 1245	IRNAP Chile	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation• IRNAP Certificate award
1245 – 1400	<i>Midday refreshment</i>	
1400 – 1530	INSARAG and UNDAC 2023 Work Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guidelines for the INSARAG 2023 work plan<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Presentation○ Plenary discussion• Guidelines for the UNDAC 2023 work plan<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Presentation○ Plenary discussion
1530 – 1600	<i>Coffee break</i>	
1600 – 1640	Transfer of the INSARAG Regional Chairmanship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• INSARAG Secretariat Recognition of the Americas INSARAG Regional Chairmanship 2022• Remarks by Gen. Carlos Manuel Yañez, Peru, outgoing Chair of the Americas INSARAG Regional Chairmanship 2022• Announcement of the Americas INSARAG Regional Chairmanship 2023• Remarks by Mr. Cristian Torres Bermeo, Ecuador, incoming Chair of the Americas INSARAG Regional Chairmanship 2023
1660 – 1700	Closing ceremony	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Min. Ramón Soto Bonilla, Honduras• Amb. Sabina Frederic, Argentina• Mr. Sebastian Rhodes Stampa, INSARAG Secretary, Chief OCHA ERS



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