

FINAL DRAFT FOR ADOPTION  
09 July 2026

FOZ DO IGUAÇU DECLARATION 2026  
Fourth INSARAG Global Meeting

STRENGTHENING LOCAL CAPACITY AND RESILIENCE:  
Partnership, Innovation and Flexibility for Urban Search and Rescue  
Operations in a Changing World

The International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) reaffirms its commitment to United Nations General Assembly Resolution 57/150 of 2002 on strengthening the effectiveness and coordination of international urban search and rescue assistance.

INSARAG's objectives were reaffirmed during the Fourth INSARAG Global Meeting, held in Foz do Iguaçu, in the state of Paraná, Brazil, attended by XXX participants from 46 countries and 8 organisations. The meeting served to discuss implementation of the 2026-2031 Strategy, launch the 2026 INSARAG Guidelines, consolidate the network's agenda, and advance its capacity to respond to a broader spectrum of disasters, building on the foundations established by the Hyogo Declaration (2010), the Abu Dhabi Declaration (2015) and the Warsaw Declaration (2021).

INSARAG acknowledges the support and encouragement provided to the network and its activities by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in its capacity as Secretariat; by the United Nations Economic and Social Council; and by the UN General Assembly. INSARAG further expresses its sincere gratitude to the Government of Brazil for its generous hospitality and strong commitment to strengthening the network through the organisation of the Fourth INSARAG Global Meeting.

Recognising 35 years of progress in building and sustaining a coordinated, professional, and operationally effective urban search and rescue network dedicated to preparedness and rapid response in support of disaster affected populations as well as capacities of governments of the affected States; acknowledging that the global humanitarian landscape is undergoing profound transformation, marked by unprecedented resource constraints, the accelerating impacts of adverse effects of climate change, an expanding diversity of disasters types, and an increased emphasis particularly on local authorities, the Fourth INSARAG Global Meeting resolves as follows:

1. Urges United Nations Member States to continue fully supporting the implementation of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 57/150 of 16

December 2002 on “*Strengthening the effectiveness and coordination of international assistance in urban search and rescue operations*”, as well as the activities of INSARAG, including the priorities and objectives set out in the INSARAG Strategy for 2026-2031.

2. Reaffirms its full support for disaster affected States in exercising their sovereign responsibility to initiate, coordinate and organise international humanitarian assistance within their territories, in accordance with the UN Guiding principles of humanitarian assistance, as agreed in the General Assembly resolution 46/182, including principles of humanity, neutrality, and impartiality, and to facilitate international humanitarian assistance when requested.

3. Recalls the INSARAG Guidelines, revised, updated and endorsed at the INSARAG Steering Group meeting in 2026 in Geneva, as the standardized operational framework incorporating lessons learnt since the establishment of INSARAG and comprehensively describing the network’s preparedness and response methodologies, and encourages Member States, as appropriate to integrate them into national disaster response frameworks and disseminate them in relevant languages to improve operational effectiveness.

4. Recalls the INSARAG Strategy, for 2026 to 2031, as the network’s strategic roadmap for strengthening USAR preparedness, capacity-building, and response mechanisms guided by the following strategic objectives:

- a. Maintaining and enhancing globally recognised quality standards for urban search and rescue operations, preserving the integrity and standing of the INSARAG External Classification and Re-Classification (IEC/R) process as the network’s benchmark;
- b. Promoting the agility and adaptability of search and rescue teams across an expanding range of high-impact natural disasters and extreme weather events, as well as operational environments, including hydrometeorological events while preserving established IEC/R standards;
- c. Strengthening localisation by enhancing capacities of relevant regional, national and local actors through inclusive collaboration that reflects local realities and regional priorities, operationalising the principle of ‘as local as possible, as international as necessary’.
- d. Fostering strong partnerships and encouraging the use of innovative tools and methodologies, including digital technologies, artificial intelligence and shared data systems, to improve operational effectiveness where appropriate; and
- e. Exploring operational frameworks that may enable the network to contribute to life-saving operations in complex emergencies, including in contexts with security challenges.

5. Urges all internationally deploying USAR teams and their sponsoring organisations responding to sudden-onset disasters to fully utilise field coordination

mechanisms established by OCHA and the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) system, including the Reception and Departure Centre (RDC) the On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC), and the USAR Coordination Cell (UCC), as outlined in the INSARAG Guidelines.

6. Urges Member States maintaining internationally deployable USAR teams to ensure compliance with internationally recognised standards through participation in the INSARAG External Classification and Re-Classification (IEC/R) process, supported by mentors from classified USAR teams.

7. Commits INSARAG, at global, regional and national levels, to strengthening inclusivity, and reinforcing cooperation among the three INSARAG Regional Groups, as well as with regional and sub-regional organisations, particularly in preparedness, training, capacity building, and operational response.

8. Recognises that the evolving humanitarian environment, marked by stronger emphasis on local leadership, operational simplification, and the search for new and sustainable funding models, requires INSARAG to demonstrate its value more effectively, to countries at high risk of sudden-onset disasters, particularly those with USAR capabilities still under development; urges the network's mobilisation of technical support to strengthen national capacities and facilitate progress through the accreditation and response mechanisms.

9. Encourages the INSARAG Regional Groups to actively support the development of national USAR capabilities, including through engagement with light teams, implementation of the National Accreditation Process (NAP), and the Community First Responders Package, as practical mechanisms for strengthening local response capacity and community resilience, and for the progression of Member States with lower capacity to higher levels of preparedness and performance within the network.

10. Recognises that hydrometeorological disasters and extreme weather events, particularly floods, represent the most frequent and increasingly severe disaster type globally, especially in tropical and subtropical regions; acknowledges the imperative for INSARAG to adapt accordingly, following the reorganisation of the global humanitarian system in response to challenges related to climate change and requests the Secretariat, through the relevant working group and in collaboration with the Regional Groups and technical partners, to continue developing minimum standards and complementary operational guidelines for flood search and rescue operations, subject to the availability of resources and the support of members, with preliminary findings to be presented at the 2028 INSARAG Steering Group (ISG).

11. Recognises the lessons learnt by INSARAG from increasingly complex and insecure operational environments, and urges the Secretariat, in close

cooperation with relevant humanitarian partners, to strengthen risk management and safety guidance within the INSARAG Guidelines, to enhance team protection and operational effectiveness, consistent with humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law.

12. Recognises the urgent need to adapt humanitarian response models to situations of constrained resources and increasing demands for measurable impact; reaffirms that the OSOCC/RDC/UCC models serve as a shared operational support platform in support of national authorities; and encourages INSARAG to continue promoting streamlined and agile coordination mechanisms that reduce bureaucracy while preserving quality and interoperability.

13. Reaffirms the determination of INSARAG members to strengthen collaboration and partnership with OCHA, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the World Health Organisation (WHO), relevant UN agencies, regional and sub-regional organisations, governments, non-governmental organisations and the private sector, to enhance disaster preparedness and response capacities.

14. Recognises the continued growth and strengthening of the INSARAG network and expresses appreciation to all members for their sustained commitment to advancing INSARAG's mission, with particular gratitude to Brazil as the first country in the Americas to host an INSARAG Global Meeting, marking an important milestone for the region and the network.

15. Expresses satisfaction with the outcomes of the Fourth INSARAG Global Meeting and affirms the intention to convene the Fifth INSARAG Global Meeting in 2031.