

(IGM Warsaw Declaration - DRAFT Version as of 31 August 2021)

Strengthen Quality, Predictability, Speed, and Flexibility in Support of National and Local Urban Search and Rescue Capacities

The International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) gathered on 6 October 2021 for its **third Global Meeting hosted virtually by Poland**. **XY** policy and technical experts from **XY** Member States and **XY** organizations met to present updates on the implementation of the **INSARAG Strategic Plan 2021-2026** and to commemorate **30 years of life-saving assistance** based on globally recognized quality standards for preparedness and response in search and rescue operations.

INSARAG expresses its gratitude to the **Government of the Republic of Poland** for hosting virtually the third INSARAG Global Meeting. INSARAG commends its frontline responders for their continuous support to the national COVID-19 response effort and for adapting to challenges in order to continue to serve those in need.

Considering the progress INSARAG has made in the past 30 years to create and cultivate a coordinated global and professional USAR network, that aims to ensure rapid search-and-rescue preparedness and response in support of affected people and Governments leading the response in sudden-onset disasters, the INSARAG 2021 Global Meeting hereby resolves the following:

1. *Urges* all Member States of the United Nations *to adhere to the concept of “people first, life first”*, to continue to fully support the implementation of the provisions of **UN General Assembly Resolution 57/150** on ‘*Strengthening the Effectiveness and Coordination of International Urban Search and Rescue Assistance*’ of 16 December 2002 and the activities of INSARAG, including the priorities and objectives as laid out by the **INSARAG Strategic Plan 2021-2026**, *and to build a community with a shared future for mankind*.
2. *Calls upon* Member States to ensure the implementation of the **Sustainable Development Goals** and the action targets and priorities of the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030**.
3. *Reaffirms* the full support for **disaster-affected countries in executing their sovereign role** to initiate, coordinate and organize international humanitarian assistance on their territories within the framework of the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, and, when needed, to facilitate the access and operations of international USAR teams.
4. *Encourages* Member States to adopt and adapt the **INSARAG Guidelines 2020 to their national disaster preparedness and response plans and to translate them into local languages for wider dissemination**. The Guidelines outline INSARAG’s preparedness and response methodology and quality standards building on lessons learned since INSARAG’s inception.



5. *Urges* all Member States possessing USAR teams with international deployment mandates to ensure that their teams adhere to the internationally agreed standards through their participation in the **INSARAG External Classification (IEC) and Reclassification (IER)**, fully recognizing the vital importance for **quality assurance** and practices to ensure **interoperability** and complementarity to the national response efforts.
6. *Encourages* Member States, supported by the INSARAG Regional Groups, to enhance the **efficiency of the response coordination** through the adaptation of the INSARAG coordination methodology and concepts to **local contexts and the establishment of a national USAR team accreditation mechanism**. In this regard, it *reaffirms* the relevance of the promulgation of the National Accreditation Process (NAP) to strengthen the **localization** agenda and raise the capacities of national response teams.
7. *Promotes* **agility and flexibility** of rescue teams in response to operations across other disaster relief activities, given the increasing intensity and frequency of extreme-weather related events due to climate change, and *urges* the INSARAG network to continue the development of **flexible response** operations in accordance with the INSARAG's commitment to agreed quality standards and coordination. In this regard, it *reaffirms* the relevance of the newly created Flexible Response Working Group.
8. *Commends* the efforts of the INSARAG members to support their respective governments and local organizations in fighting the global pandemic crisis and *reaffirms* the **COVID-19 USAR Operational Guidance Note** for regional implementation.
9. *Encourages* all field response personnel considered for potential international deployment to obtain COVID-19 **vaccination** as soon as it becomes available to them through the prioritization schemes in their host country and/or sponsoring organization, following the latest joint statement on "**Field Response During Times of COVID-19 Outbreak**" jointly developed by the INSARAG Medical Working Group with the WHO Emergency Medical Team initiative.
10. *Acknowledges* the determination of the INSARAG members to **bolster partnerships** and **closely work** with national, regional and international networks and institutions and to welcome **new Member States and organizations to the Network**.
11. *Encourages* Member States to continue to leverage platforms such as the annual **Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week (HNPW)** and the **International Earthquake Response Exercises (ERE)** to bring together national and international responders and networks, the UN and Regional organizations in order to strengthen the effectiveness of a collective response to major disasters.
12. *Calls* upon INSARAG members to support and guide **Regional Chairs and Troikas** to facilitate regional activities as well as to encourage information exchange, with the aim of enhancing transparency and inclusiveness.

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13. Expresses satisfaction with the outcome of the third INSARAG Global Meeting and affirms the intent to hold the **next INSARAG Global Meeting in 2026 in XXX (Country in the Americas TBC)**

Ambassador Manuel Bessler, INSARAG Global Chair

Brigadier General Andrzej Bartkowiak, Republic of Poland, INSARAG Regional Co-Chair Africa-Europe-Middle East

Mr. Mmaphaka Tau, Republic of South Africa, INSARAG Regional Co-Chair Africa-Europe-Middle East

Mr. Alfredo Enrique Murgueytio Espinoza, Republic of Peru, INSARAG Regional Chair the Americas

Air Marshal Henri Alfiandi, Republic of Indonesia, INSARAG Regional Chair Asia-Pacific

Ms. Wafaa Saeed, Acting Director of OCHA Coordination Division

Mr. Sebastian Rhodes Stampa, Chief of the Emergency Response Section and INSARAG Secretary

6 October 2021
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