

## ***Proposed Terms of Reference***

### **INSARAG Search and Rescue in Flood Response Working Group**

#### **(i) Background**

- The INSARAG Steering Group (ISG) approved the creation of the INSARAG Search and Rescue in Flood Response Working Group (SAR-FR WG) in 2023 after the Flexible Response Working Group (FRWG) presented the results of its three Sub-groups.
- The recommendations of the ISG in 2023 for this working group were included in the Terms of Reference<sup>1</sup> to initiate its process.
- The SAR-FR WG complied with the expected products in the two-years period of its mandate.

#### **(ii) Name**

- INSARAG Search and Rescue in Flood Response Working Group (SAR-FR WG).

#### **(iii) Purpose**

The purpose is to extend the period for the INSARAG Search and Rescue Flood Response Working Group after complying the products indicated in the previous Terms of Reference.

The WG will aim to follow up what has been developed including: the maintenance of the Directory for Search and Rescue in Flood Response capabilities of INSARAG member states, on a voluntary basis, giving the opportunity to include more teams; promote the discussion and exchange of experience in this field based on the diverse standards adopted by the INSARAG member states in order to enrich the Technical Reference Note on Search and Rescue in Flood Response, and contribute to the global discussion in the context of the INSARAG Guidelines review process.

#### **(iv) Specific terms of reference and responsibilities**

- To continue identifying existing capabilities, experience, standards, methodologies, processes and legislation of members States or regional and professional water-related life-saving organizations on flood response, and to promote the sharing of expertise and good practices amongst countries and organizations.
- To disseminate the Search and Rescue in Flood Response Directory and request additional inclusions of Search and Rescue in Flood Response teams prepared to deploy on request of affected flood ravaged countries requiring international assistance, which may be based on classified USAR teams, nationally accredited USAR teams and specialized search and rescue teams of INSARAG country members in the three INSARAG regions on an Opt-in and voluntary basis, as well as proposing procedures for its use.
- To continue identifying the areas of improvement of the efficiency and effectiveness of frontline emergency response to floods, in accordance with the guidelines for USAR teams to deploy internationally and the coordination systems relevant to the context of assisting incoming assistance.
- To promote the exchange of experience and contribute to the national capacity building in establishing a search and rescue in flood response framework that could be used by flood prone member states, and contribute to the development of a guidance note that may guide member states in developing national search and rescue in flood response capacities aligned with INSARAG management and coordination standards and procedures at national and local levels and to foster integration of national and international USAR teams, or specialized teams.
- To update the Technical Reference Note on Search and Rescue in Flood Response encompassing the definition, existing capabilities, and basic standards, and to contribute to further reviews of the INSARAG Guidelines.

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<sup>1</sup> [Terms of Reference – INSARAG Search and Rescue in Floods Response Working Group](#)

**(v) Duration**

- One year and will require review at the next ISG.

**(vi) Members**

- This group would consist of at least four active members from each region, appointed or reconfirmed from the current group by the respective INSARAG Policy Focal point.
- Newly appointed members should present at least two of the following criteria:
  - Good knowledge of the INSARAG guidelines;
  - Have performed the role of INSARAG Policy or Operational focal point;
  - USAR experience especially in coordination and management area;
  - Experience in floods or/and search and rescue in collapsed urban structures;
- Members must be fluent in the English language, which will be the main working language, or else, have the support of its country member for translation as needed.
- Members must be available to attend in person at least to the Team Leaders' and Working Groups' meetings and be self-funded.
- The INSARAG Secretariat, in consultation with the SAR-WG Co-chairs and the Regional Chairs will support the appointment, as well as the confirmation, of the members of the group.

**(vii) Governance of the working group**

- The WG will be led by three co-chairs appointed from this group from the 3 INSARAG regions. It is strongly encouraged that the WG be suitably diverse and inclusive. The WG will be supported by an OCHA Regional Focal Point assigned by the INSARAG Secretariat.
- The WG will report to the INSARAG Steering Group and is requested to present progress of its work in the regional meetings as well as in the Team Leader's meetings.

**(viii) Work method**

- Face to face as well as virtual meetings will be held at least 4 times per year.
- The face-to-face meetings shall as much as possible coincide and be conducted preferably back-to-back with global or regional INSARAG events or meetings.
- The WG Co-chairs will be prepared to engage in-person in consultations at the TL, Regional and ISG meetings annually.

**(ix) Products**

The main expected products of this working group will be:

- Procedures for the use and maintenance of the Search and Rescue in Flood Response Directory.
- Updated Search and Rescue in Flood Response Directory.
- Regional or global meetings or webinars on Search and Rescue in Flood Response to discuss the existing experience, share lessons, improved capabilities, and organizational issues.
- Contribution to revisions of the INSARAG Guidelines.
- Demonstrate interoperability through shared opportunities for countries to train and exercise together.
- Updated Technical Reference Note on Search and Rescue in Flood Response and active contribution to the efforts of the National Capacity Building Working Group to guide capacity building of the member states at national and local level, to guide INSARAG teams wishing to develop or offer Flood Response assistance.
- Creation of training and lessons identified material for the INSARAG Technical Reference Library - Flood Response.