

*A message from  
Ambassador Manuel Bessler  
INSARAG Chairman*



*The 2016 INSARAG Steering Group meeting, held as a part of the Humanitarian Networks Partnership Week, has successfully concluded in Geneva, Switzerland on 3 February 2016. The meeting was a good platform for us all to consider the current challenges facing INSARAG, and they will be further discussed in various Regional, Team Leaders' and Working Group's meetings later this year, with a view of developing some concrete resolutions. As we move forward in 2016, it is important for us to work together as members of the humanitarian community and not only strengthen the global disaster response capabilities, but also consider how to make INSARAG 'fit for the future'. The Earthquake Response Exercise to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, in May 2016 will be a good testament to INSARAG's contribution to strengthen local capacities and be a good example of international collaboration.*

*To ensure that we properly test and challenge the skills, capacities and capabilities of first-, national- and international responders, this Exercise will take place under realistic circumstances and in a risk-prone area. This Exercise is very timely as it allows INSARAG to exemplify the good practices of preparedness and response, shortly before the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul.”*