



International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

**Building a “Global Network of NGOs for
Community Resilience to Disasters”**
Preliminary Consultative Meeting

Meeting Report

Geneva, 25-26 October 2006



United Nations

Background

The ISDR secretariat is facilitating the development of a “Global Network of NGOs for Community Resilience to Disasters”, with the aim to strengthen its cooperation with the NGO community and advance its efforts to reduce the impact of disasters at the community level. The Global Network would provide NGOs with an opportunity to share information and knowledge, increase their voice and visibility at the global level and get easier access to global resources for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and related activities. In order to build the leadership and ownership of NGOs, the ISDR secretariat has held a preliminary consultative meeting in Geneva, on 25-26 October 2006. The meeting was organized in collaboration with the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in the UNDP Regional Center in Bangkok, and attended by 14 representatives of non-governmental organisations and NGO networks from Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America (for a full list of participants see Annex III).

Goal

The goal of the meeting was to stimulate initial discussions on several issues related to the development of the Global Network of NGOs. Issues such as the potential added value of the Global Network, its objectives, activities and governance mechanism, were among the items proposed in the agenda. The main content questions to be addressed during the meeting had been summarized as follows:

- Do we need a Global Network of NGOs for Community Resilience to Disasters?
- If so, what would be its purpose and added value?
- What would be the incentives for participation and involvement?
- What criteria would ensure a broad participation of stakeholders?
- What mechanisms should be established to sustain the Network in the medium and long term?
- What would be the Network structure and governance?
- What would be the means to measure its performance?

Outcomes

As a result of this preliminary consultation, participants have endorsed the concept of the Global Network, and developed a first draft of its Terms of Reference (ToR) (a copy of which is attached to this document in Annex II). Next steps required to develop the Global Network and gain greater support in this initial phase have also been agreed upon. They can be summarized as follows:

1. To circulate, review and agree on the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Global Network of NGOs
2. To prepare a joint statement to be endorsed by NGOs and delivered during the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP/DRR)
3. To prepare a showcase of community-based DRR activities (through the documentation of good practices and lessons learned), in order to support the launch of the Global Network

Detailed activities for each of these objectives, along with proposed deadlines and focal points, are outlined in Annex I. It was suggested that the Global Network initially focuses on the above activities, to be undertaken by June 2007. This would allow the emerging Network to test and demonstrate its ability to work together, while growing stronger and gaining increased external support. By the time of the GP/DRR in June 2007, the Network will then be ready for its official launch.

Preliminary Recommendations

A number of inputs and suggestions were provided during the meeting to guide the development of the Global Network of NGOs, bearing in mind the need to ensure its sustainability and positive impact in the long run. Most of the recommendations made during the consultative meeting were incorporated in the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) prepared on day 2 (see Annex II). Others were only briefly discussed, and have been summarized as follows:

I. General Recommendations

- The Global Network of NGOs should be represented in the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP/DRR)
- The Global Network should build on existing networks and focus its activities on what National and Regional Networks cannot achieve by their own means

II. Added Value of the Global Network of NGOs

Based on the potential objectives and activities identified by participants in the consultative meeting, it was agreed that that the added value of the Global Network would be:

- To provide significant inputs to the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP/DRR) and influence global policy more effectively.
- To facilitate the identification and understanding of critical issues related to DRR
- To convey and express “one voice” on critical issues related to DRR, thus ensuring greater impact
- To represent the voice of communities and community-based organisations at the global level
- To strengthen linkages and promote synergies between NGOs and NGO networks

III. Governance

The general feeling among participants was that the issue of Governance should be discussed at a later stage, after consultation on the preliminary outcomes of this meeting through their respective networks. Nevertheless, the following preliminary recommendations were offered during the consultative meeting:

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- Guidance to the Global Network should be provided by a “core group” of NGO networks representatives (representatives of NGOs may also be considered, on a case-by-case basis). Initially, the members of this core group will be those who attended the first consultative meeting
 - Representatives should be self-nominated rather than appointed, with consensus provided by other Network members
 - A rotating policy should be defined for the Chairs/Co-chairs of the Global Network
 - Regional Advisory Steering Committees (RASC) and a Global Advisory Steering Committee (GASC) may also be established, as proposed in the concept note prepared by the ISDR secretariat

IV. Performance Monitoring

Finally, with regard to performance monitoring, the meeting suggested that:

- Performance monitoring should be kept minimal, in order to avoid work overload
- Specific activities should be defined in order to assess performance
- Minimum level criteria and standards should be set, based on identified activities, in order to facilitate this process

Annex I

Agreed Actions up to June 2007

1. Agreement on Draft ToR for the Global Network of NGOs		
Activity	Deadline	Focal Point
1.1 Review Draft 1 through consultation process	1 January, 2007	“Set up” Group, ISDR secretariat
1.2 Compile inputs received and prepare Draft 2	28 February, 2007	ISDR secretariat, SU-SSC-UNDP, ProVention Consortium
1.3 Circulate Draft 2 among “Set up” Group members and get further comments	31 March, 2007	“Set up” Group, ISDR secretariat
1.4 Circulate Draft 3 for reading	30 April, 2007	ISDR secretariat
1.5 Present Draft 3 during the GP/DRR	5-7 June, 2007	-

2. Prepare NGO Statement to be released during the GP/DRR, 5-7 June 2007		
Activity	Deadline	Focal Point
2.1 Collect inputs for Draft 1	1 January, 2007	Tearfund
2.2 Prepare Draft 1 based on collected inputs	28 February, 2007	Tearfund, Duryog Nivaran
2.3 Circulate Draft 1 for comments	31 March, 2007	ISDR secretariat
2.4 Prepare Draft 2	30 April, 2007	Tearfund, Duryog Nivaran
2.5 Circulate Draft 2 among NGO networks and through NGOs mailing lists	15 May, 2007	“Set up” Group, ISDR secretariat
2.6 Read statement during the launch of the Global Network of NGOs	4 June, 2007	Oenone Chadburn (BOND) and Manu Gupta (ADRRN)

3. Showcase of Community-based Disaster Risk Reduction Initiatives		
Activity	Deadline	Focal Point
3.1 Prepare guidelines and template to collect good practices	15 December, 2007	ISDR secretariat, SUSSC-UNDP, ProVention Consortium, IFRC
3.2 Collect inputs through NGO networks and other channels	28 February, 2007	“Set up” Group, ISDR secretariat
3.3 Review and edit inputs, prepare final draft	31 March, 2007	ISDR secretariat, SUSSC - UNDP, ProVention Consortium, IFRC
3.4 Finalize and design publication	30 April, 2007	ISDR secretariat
3.5 Print and disseminate publication	4 June, 2007	ISDR secretariat

Annex II

Draft Terms of Reference (ToR)

For a “Global Network of NGOs
for Community Resilience to Disasters”

Background

The ISDR secretariat is facilitating the development of a “Global Network of NGOs for Community Resilience to Disasters”, with the aim to strengthen its cooperation with the NGO community and advance its efforts to reduce the impact of disasters at the community level. The first consultative meeting for this initiative was organized by the ISDR secretariat in collaboration with the UNDP Special Unit for South-South cooperation, in Geneva, on 25-26 October 2006. Representatives of NGO networks from Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America attended the meeting and provided guidance on how to proceed in order to develop a value-added NGO network. As a result of this preliminary consultation, participants have endorsed the concept of the Global Network, and prepared the present draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Global Network.

I. Goal

The overarching goal for building the “Global Network of NGOs” is to represent the voice of the people vulnerable to hazards and to influence global policy to strengthen their efforts to build resilience against disasters.

II. Objectives and Activities

Objective 1

To provide a forum for south-south and south-north cooperation among NGOs and CBOs which promotes community-managed disaster risk reduction through information sharing, knowledge exchange and capacity building.

Activities:

- 1.1 To provide information for the ISDR web section dedicated to NGOs, promote web-based discussions and e-groups focusing on community-managed disaster risk reduction
- 1.2 To build upon regional networks meetings as a mechanism to promote information sharing, knowledge exchange and capacity building
- 1.3 To hold annual network meetings with core members on the day before the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP/DRR)
- 1.4 To send (a) representative(s) of the Global Network to attend the annual GP/DRR Meeting

Objective 2

To encourage the quality of risk reduction practice through the promotion of endorsed standards and indicators.

Activities:

- 2.1 To advise practitioners through collation and critique (including gaps analysis) of existing standards and indicators of community-managed disaster risk reduction
- 2.2 To discuss with ISDR on ways and means to fill the gap identified

Objective 3

To continually review and represent the critical issues affecting communities vulnerable to hazards for the purpose of influencing policy and policy makers (i.e., ISDR system, national governments and donors).

Activities:

- 3.1 To analyze the latest regional trends and issues for presentation at the annual Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
- 3.2 To provide guidance to the Network members on reviewing and monitoring the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action by national and local governments at the community level

Objective 4

To increase the voice and visibility of disaster-prone communities (particularly women) and their representatives in disaster risk reduction decision making, policy setting, planning and implementation.

Activities:

- 4.1 To promote the rights of all groups in civil society (community-level organisations, women's groups, non-governmental organisations) to participate in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development and post-recovery programmes
- 4.2 To raise awareness on disaster risk reduction
- 4.3 To promote existing tools for planning and identifying the social dimensions of disasters
- 4.4 To promote inclusive national platforms with the support of the ISDR secretariat

Objective 5

To facilitate disaster-prone groups' access to resources (i.e., knowledge, skills, networks, partnerships, funding) for building resilient communities.

Activities:

- 5.1 To review funding opportunities available for an annual global conference for the Network to be held in a southern location

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- 5.2 To raise awareness among national NGOs and NGO networks on how to access resources
 - 5.3 To identify both private and public resources to scale up successful initiatives and promote good practice
 - 5.4 To identify learning opportunities and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience

III. Founding Principles

The Global Network of NGOs is based on the following principle(s):

- Diversity of membership
- ...

IV. Membership Criteria

Membership is based on the principle of equitable and balanced representation (i.e., South, North, gender, and community representation). The Global Network of NGOs is opened to NGOs and NGO networks that meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrate a general understanding of the concept of DRR, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (as a strategy) and the Hyogo Framework for Action
- Demonstrate commitment to the implementation of the HFA.
- Demonstrate commitment to establishing and developing the Global Network of NGOs
- Advocate for DRR and promote its mainstreaming into development and disaster recovery processes

IV. Role of the ISDR secretariat

- The ISDR secretariat should continue serving as an anchor institution (i.e., organise meetings, facilitate a focal point for NGOs, etc.).
- The ISDR secretariat should play and advocacy role in promoting the inclusion of NGOs in National Platforms

Annex III

List of Participants

Name and Surname	Organisation/Network	E-mail
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