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**WORLD CONFERENCE ON DISASTER REDUCTION**

Preparatory Committee  
Second Session  
Geneva, 11-12 October 2004  
Item 8 of the provisional agenda

**PROPOSED PARTNERSHIPS MECHANISM IN THE CONTEXT OF THE WORLD  
CONFERENCE ON DISASTER REDUCTION**

Note by the secretariat

The partnerships mechanism in the context of the World conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) is proposed by the Secretariat. The Preparatory Committee is invited to comment on the proposed mechanism.

## **I. Background**

1. In its Resolution A/RES/58/214, the General Assembly set the objectives of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) in 2005, one of which stipulates: “(b) to identify specific activities aimed at ensuring the implementation of relevant provisions of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”) on vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management.” This paper provides a review on the partnerships launched and initiated at the WSSD and on the existing partnerships mechanism co-ordinated by the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development<sup>1</sup> (CSD), on the basis of which the new initiatives may be launched at the WCDR.

2. Partnerships are proposed as an additional means to enhance the quality of implementation by involving multi-stakeholders in concrete, action-oriented activities that have a direct impact on reducing risks. They respond to the importance of engaging all significant stakeholders to bring about tangible results to a multi-dimensional problem.

## **II. Partnerships launched at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)**

3. Partnerships were an important outcome of the WSSD held in Johannesburg in 2002. More than 200 partnerships were launched during the Summit process. In the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, governments designated the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) as a focal point for the discussion of partnerships that promote sustainable development, including sharing lessons learned, progress made and good practices.

4. Partnerships for sustainable development, in the context of WSSD and its follow-up, are voluntary, multi-stakeholder initiatives that can contribute to the implementation of sustainable development. These initiatives are complementary means of supporting the implementation of Agenda 21 (the global action plan for sustainable development agreed at the UN Conference on Environment and Development – Earth Summit – held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992), the Programme agreed at the “Rio + 5” meeting in 1997, to enhance the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation agreed at WSSD in 2002. These partnerships are not intended to substitute to, but complement the intergovernmental commitments.

5. At its 11th Session in May 2003 (CSD-11), the CSD stressed that partnerships in the context of the World Summit on Sustainable Development process and its follow-up should be developed and implemented in accordance with a set of agreed criteria and guidelines, taking note of the preliminary work undertaken on partnerships during the preparatory process for the Summit, including the Bali Guiding Principles and General Assembly

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<sup>1</sup> CSD is a functional commission of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), created in December 1992 to ensure an effective follow up of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

Resolution A/RES/56/76.<sup>2</sup> The CSD-11 adopted the decision on “Future Programme, Organization and Method of Work of the CSD”, which included the criteria and guidelines for CSD partnerships. In December 2003, in its resolution A/RES/58/129, the General Assembly recalled the CSD’s designation as the focal point for partnerships that promote sustainable development and reaffirmed the criteria and guidelines adopted at CSD-11 and endorsed by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session in 2003.

### **III. Partnerships under “Disaster Management and Vulnerability”**

6. The CSD-11 also decided that its multi-year programme of work beyond 2003 would be organized on the basis of seven two-year cycles, with each cycle focusing on selected thematic clusters of issues. One of the issues identified for this purpose is “Disaster Management and Vulnerability” which will be reviewed in 2014-15. Currently, thirty-six partnerships are registered under this theme in the CSD Partnership database. (Annex)

7. Besides the initiatives mentioned above, some of the registered initiatives under the other themes of the multi-year programme of the work of the CSD such as “Climate change”, “Desertification”, “Drought” and others might also be relevant to the discussion at the WCDR.

### **IV. Partnerships in the context of WCDR**

8. Partnerships in the context of WCDR can be described as specific commitments and initiatives by a number of institutions at different levels to contribute to, and reinforce the implementation of the disaster risk reduction goals and targets, building on existing or new partnerships in the field of disaster risk reduction. A number of key partnerships to support the implementation of national priorities could be launched at the Conference and afterwards. Partnerships are not intended to substitute inter-governmental commitments to be made at the Conference, but to contribute to their implementation. The Conference is also an important opportunity to strengthen and highlight existing partnerships which seek to reduce natural disaster risks, and to explore and develop synergies with other partnerships where reducing natural disaster risks is not be a chief goal but where it could nonetheless be an important consequence.

9. In order not to duplicate efforts but to maximize existing resources, the ISDR Secretariat does not intend to establish a parallel or separate registration system of partnerships that may be launched at the WCDR. Instead, partners who wish to launch a specific and new partnership in the field of disaster risk reduction are encouraged to register such initiatives with the CSD Secretariat. The ISDR Secretariat will cooperate with the CSD Secretariat in promotion, dissemination, support and follow-up of new partnerships working in disaster management, vulnerability and other related areas. The ISDR Secretariat will encourage existing and potential new partnerships working in disaster management,

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<sup>2</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Supplement No. 9 (E/2003/29).*

vulnerability and other related areas to register their initiatives with the CSD, utilize the CSD partnerships database to share information and participate in CSD partnership activities.

10. It is expected that many of the partners will use the opportunity of the thematic panels, thematic sessions, as well as of the regional session in the thematic segment to launch new initiatives and share information with participants on the activities of existing partnerships. A list of partnerships will be distributed at the WCDR.

**Annex**

(ENGLISH ONLY)

**Partnerships listed under the theme of “Disaster Management and Vulnerability” in the Commission on Sustainable Development Partnership database**

- 1) Abu-Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative (AGEDI)
- 2) Asia-Pacific Environmental Innovation Strategy Project (APEIS)
- 3) Capacity Building in SIDS Manage Vulnerability and Develop Resilience Particularly to Disasters
- 4) Caribbean Adaptation to Climate Change and Sea Level Rise
- 5) Environmental Emergencies Partnership (formerly Integrated Approach to Prevention, Preparedness for and Response to Environmental Emergencies in Support of Sustainable Development)
- 6) Euro-Mediterranean Water and Poverty Facility (EuroMed WPF): A Tripartite Programme of Action
- 7) Global Mapping
- 8) Global Ocean Data Assimilation Experiment (GODAE)
- 9) Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the Globally harmonized System for Chemical Classification and Labelling (GHS)
- 10) Human Resources Development in Disaster Management
- 11) Initiative on the Internationally Shared (Transboundary) Aquifer Resource Management
- 12) Institutional consolidation for systemic planning and management toward poverty alleviation and environmental conservation in a framework of sustainable regional development in the Hindu Kush, Karakorum, Himalaya mountain complex
- 13) Integrating early warning and disaster risk management into the sustainable development agenda and practice
- 14) International Center for Sustainable Development
- 15) International Flood Network
- 16) International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions (Mountain Partnership)
- 17) Local Capacity-Building and Training on Sustainable Urbanization: a Public-Private Partnership
- 18) MEDIES: Mediterranean Education Initiative for Environment & Sustainability – With an emphasis on water and waste
- 19) Multinational Andean Project: Geoscience for Andean Communities (MAP:GAC)
- 20) My Community, Our Earth (MyCOE) – Geographic Learning for Sustainable Development
- 21) Nile Basin Initiative
- 22) OneCoast
- 23) Pacific Island Adaptation Initiative
- 24) Pacific Umbrella Initiative: Pacific Islands Health for Sustainable Development
- 25) Pilot Project on Rapid Environmental and Health Risk Assessment (REHRA) in secondary rivers of the mean and lower Danube basin
- 26) Poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation in islands with high biodiversity value: sustainable development planning and management in the Galapagos (Ecuador) and Socotra (Yemen) archipelagos
- 27) Project Proteus

- 28) Resilient Communities
- 29) SIDS 2015 – Developing capacities to reduce vulnerability
- 30) SIDS 2015 – Developing capacities to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters
- 31) Scientific Capacity Building/Enhancement for Sustainable Development in Developing Countries
- 32) Sister Cities Network for Sustainable Development
- 33) Southern Caucus of NGOs for Sustainable Development Five Multi Regional Partnership and Policy Centers
- 34) Subregional Initiative for the Promotion and Implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
- 35) Sustainable water management in the Balkan and Southeast Mediterranean area
- 36) White Water to Blue Water

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