



United Nations
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
Secretariat, Geneva

Global Network for
Disaster Reduction



ANNOUNCEMENT

In October 2006, the UN/ISDR secretariat initiated the development of a "Global Network of NGOs for Disaster Risk Reduction", in collaboration with the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, UNDP. After an initial period of consultations and joint work, the Global Network was officially launched in Geneva during the first session of the "Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction – GP/DRR", in June 2007.

At that time, it was agreed that the 'Working Group' which supported the development of the Global Network during the early stage, should take the lead in advancing its development in the following months. UN/ISDR would therefore start playing a facilitating role, after having successfully initiated the process. In July 2007, a 'Steering Group' was formally established and Mr. Marcus Oxley from Tearfund was appointed as the Chairman of the Global Network.

Throughout 2007 and 2008 the UN/ISDR secretariat has supported the development of the Global Network in different ways. This included the publication of an annual compilation of "Good Practices and Lessons Learned" by NGOs in DRR, as well as the provision of online services and IT support for the Global Network. In May and June 2008, two regional NGO consultative meetings were organized in Bangkok and Cairo, to strengthen representation of NGOs and civil society organizations in Asia and West Asia & North Africa respectively (for more information on the process leading to the launch of the Global Network and subsequent activities visit: www.unisdr.org/ngos).

Meanwhile, the Global Network has agreed primary objectives, identified priority work streams, developed internal management procedures and mobilised financial resources in support of network activities. Two key initiatives planned for 2008-9 include 1) undertaking a membership inventory to understand better the composition and needs of the current memberships; and 2) developing a global review process designed to measure progress towards implementation of the Hyogo Framework at the local grassroots level.

The Global Network has recently agreed to rename itself the "**Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction**". It has developed its own visual identity and is in the process of setting up its own website, which will soon be available online at <http://www.globalnetwork-dr.org>. Although still relatively early days in the development of the Global Network it is felt steps are in place to maximise the potential of civil society organisations to support the building of resilient communities and nations through increased exchange of

knowledge, ideas and viewpoints and by supporting collaborative and coordinated approaches and actions.

In view of the above and given the greater independence reached by the Global Network at this stage, it has been agreed that the "Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction" will start functioning as an independent entity, under the leadership of its Chairman and through the guidance of its Steering Group.

In line with its mandate, the UN/ISDR secretariat will continue to serve as a facilitator and a catalyst in the promotion of NGO partnerships and networks. It will also continue to facilitate, on an ongoing basis, sharing of information and knowledge on DRR that is relevant to NGOs and Civil Society Organisations.

Mr. Sálvamo Briceño,
Director,
UN/ISDR secretariat



Mr. Marcus Oxley,
Chairman,
Global Network of CSO for DRR


