



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Civil protection and humanitarian aid facing disasters and crises together

Reinforcing cooperation on the field for a more efficient international response capacity

Rome, 10-11 November 2011

Agenda – draft

Thursday, 10 November 2011

3:00 – 4:00 pm Opening and Welcome

Gianni Letta
Italian Under-Secretary of State

Franco Frattini
Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs

EU Polish Presidency - (*tbd*)

4:00 – 5:15 pm “Defining the framework”

Chair: Franco Gabrielli - Head of Italian Department of Civil Protection - Prime Minister’s Office

Kristalina Georgieva
Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response

Catherine Ashton (tbc)
High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Valerie Ann Amos (tbc)
UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Relief and Emergency Relief Coordinator

Bekele Geleta (tbc)
Secretary General of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

8:00 – 10:00 pm Dinner and Social event

Friday, 11 November 2011

9:00 – 9:30 am

Opening remarks

Director General for Development Cooperation - Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Elisabetta Belloni

Head of Italian Department of Civil Protection - Prime Minister's Office
Franco Gabrielli

9:30 – 11:00 am

First session: “Coordination on the field”

Recent international disasters and major crisis show that the number of actors on the field has considerably increased: civil protection authorities, military and private companies have joined the traditional humanitarian community. For this reason the issue of coordination is becoming more and more critical in order to avoid gaps and duplications. In this situation the overall coordination role of the United Nations is essential to achieve the full effectiveness of the response.

What is the level of cooperation so far? How can mistakes, gaps and duplications be avoided and what are the possible steps forward needed to enhance the level of response of the international community?

9:30– 10:15am

Chair: Luigi D'Angelo (Italian Department of Civil Protection)

- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
- European Commission - Directorate General Humanitarian aid and Civil Protection DG.ECHO
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

10:15 - 11:00 am

Open discussion

11:00 - 11:30 am

Coffee Break

11:30am - 1:00 pm

Second session: “Civil-military cooperation/coordination”

Civil-military cooperation/coordination is still a serious concern for the whole Humanitarian Community; however, the use of military forces in disasters is becoming ever more frequent. In recent years Civil Protections have offered possible examples of good practice in cooperation between the civilian and military components.

To what extent is such an interaction capable of facilitating the effort in providing relief, how can those synergies be optimized in compliance with the principles of international humanitarian law, MCDA and Oslo guidelines?

11:30 am – 12:15 am

Chair: Claus Sørensen (DG ECHO - Director General)

- North Atlantic Treaty Organization
- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
- European External Action Service
- Voice

12:15 am - 1:00 pm

Open discussion

1:00 – 2:30 pm

Buffet Lunch

2:30 – 4:00 pm

Third session: “International Disaster Response Law frame of reference”

The increasing number of international operations following disasters causes a growing number of legal problems related to the response actions. Working without a clear legal framework in a complex environment is becoming more and more difficult; for this reason the International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) is becoming a key priority for the International Community.

Is the current legal framework sufficiently developed? Do we still have gaps in the overall picture of the rules regarding the response to a crisis?

2:30 – 3:15 pm

Chair: Giovanni De Siervo (Italian Department of Civil Protection)

- Scuola Superiore Sant’ Anna
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- United Nations International Law Commission

3:15 – 4:00 pm

Open discussion

4:00 – 4:30 pm

Coffee Break

4:30 – 6:00 pm

Fourth session: “The role of Non Governmental Organizations and Volunteers”

Starting from different perspectives Civil protection and Humanitarian NGOs are today working together toward the same objective, aiming at achieving more effective results. Volunteers are also playing a major role both in the humanitarian and civil protection sector and in each of these fields many different good practices have been established worldwide. Is it time to mutually contaminate their way of thinking and working methodologies? How can their actions be made more effective? What role can they play in current and future major international disasters?

4:30 – 5:15 pm

Chair: Stefano Taliani (Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

- Association of Italian NGOs
- European Commission - Directorate General Humanitarian aid and Civil Protection DG.ECHO
- Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW)

5:15 – 6:00 pm

Open discussion

6:00 – 6:30 pm

Closing remarks