

Terms of Reference (ToR)

“Local Government Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction – LGA/DRR”

26 November 2008

Background

Local level implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action is a vital goal, requiring the active participation and involvement of local government actors at different levels, from regional to municipal¹. It is at the local level that development planning is expected to first take place, and where disaster risk reduction must be first integrated into development processes.

To this end, the UN/ISDR secretariat is facilitating the development of a “Local Government Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction – LGA/DRR” that will aim to strengthen the engagement of local authorities in DRR. The LGA/DRR is being developed through consultative meetings with representatives of local authorities from Africa, Asia, Europe and the United States, as well as from UN agencies, NGOs and the academia.

As a result of the preliminary consultations held in 2008, participants have endorsed the concept of the LGA/DRR and agreed upon the present Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Alliance.

I. Goal

The overarching goal of the LGA/DRR is to serve as an open forum for local governments to exchange knowledge and information on DRR, trigger local level DRR action, and influence policy at the local, national and global levels.

II. Objectives and Activities³

Objective 1

To serve as an open forum for local authorities to advance DRR implementation through information sharing, knowledge exchange and capacity building.

¹ For the purpose of this document, the definition of “local government” or “local authority” includes all government bodies and institutions working below the national level.

³ The Objectives and Activities of the Alliance will be reviewed by the LGA/DRR “Advisory Group” on an annual basis.

Activities:

- 1.1 To promote and facilitate online discussions and exchanges highlighting the role of local governments in DRR.
- 1.2 To facilitate access to training, capacity building and other online tools for DRR, relevant to local authorities.
- 1.3 To facilitate the collection and dissemination of good practices and lessons learned in this area of work.
- 1.4 To provide inputs and content to be published on PreventionWeb and on the UN/ISDR website.

Objective 2

To advocate for the local level implementation of DRR, and highlight the role of local governments at the sub-national and local levels.

Activities:

- 2.1 To participate in and contribute to the sessions of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP/DRR), once every two years.
- 2.2 To participate in and provide inputs to key international and national events on DRR (i.e. preparation of LGA/DRR position papers, official statements, and so forth).
- 2.3 To raise the overall level of awareness on DRR, particularly with respect to the role local governments can play at the sub-national and local levels.

Objective 3

To bridge the existing gaps between global, national, and local level disaster risk reduction policies and practice.

Activities:

- 3.1 To help reflecting local governments' needs and concerns in national and international agendas and policy development.
- 3.2 To promote more inclusive national platforms, with the support of the UN/ISDR secretariat.
- 3.3 To encourage national authorities to allocate supplementary resources to meet local needs and priorities for DRR.

III. Membership Criteria

The Local Government Alliance for DRR is open to local government representatives that meet the following minimum criteria:

- Are members of a local government body or institution working at the sub-national level.
- Have a general understanding of the DRR concept and the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA).
- Are committed to advocating and implementing the HFA at the local and sub-national levels.
- Commit to supporting the development of the LGA/DRR in their own capacity.

IV. Role of the ISDR secretariat

The UN/ISDR secretariat, in collaboration with the UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation and the International Training Center of the ILO, will:

- Serve as the focal point for the LGA/DRR for communication and development;
- Facilitate information and knowledge sharing among members of the Alliance.
- Organise meetings of the Alliance, and support the work of the Advisory Group of the LGA/DRR.
- Advocate representation of local authorities in national level planning and policy making on DRR.