Terms of Reference (ToR)
For Arab Civil Society Major Group For Disaster Risk Reduction
Title:

“The Arab Civil Society Major Group (ACSMG)” for DRR.
Objectives:

- **A:** Advance the localization of international and regional DRR frameworks and strategies through a human rights approach
- **C:** Collaborate with relevant stakeholders such as national governments, local authorities, UN agencies, private sector, local communities, and scientific and technical communities, in the implementation of the national and regional DRR plans
- **S:** Strengthen the capacities and engagement of the local communities and leaders in DRR, with special attention to the vulnerable groups
- **M:** Mobilize possible civil society logistical, knowledge and financial resources towards sustainable people-oriented DRR efforts
- **G:** Generate partnerships, reports, recommendations and public participation activities in relevant regional DRR platforms
Criteria for ACSMG Entities:

• Possessing legal status of non-profit in one of the Arab countries;
• Having a common group interest in advancing civil society participation and communal needs in terms of reducing disaster risks;
• Expertise and/or knowledge in DRR is preferred;
• Capacity to operate in a local/ national/ regional/ international scope towards DRR activities;
• Organizational expertise such as, but not limited to:
  • Networking
  • Advocacy
  • Awareness
  • Outreach
  • Capacity building
  • Grassroots;
• Members attending the ACSMG meetings and activities must be authorized by their organizations and/or institutes to represent them.
Representation

• The Group will ensure geographical, gender and age balance, as well as diversity of expertise by bringing together organizations and/or institutes that are:
  • Gender-balanced, and apply a gender-sensitive lens to the design and implementation of their activities;
  • Geographically representative across the Arab region, whether in West Asia or in North Africa;
  • Possessing global policy process expertise;
  • Possessing regional expertise;
  • Relevant thematic expertise such as, but not limited to
    • Local communities
    • Women
    • Children
    • Youth
    • Older men and women
    • Persons with disabilities
    • Education and academia
    • Workers and trade unions

The possibility of having a steering committee and/or creating task force/sub-committees concerned with different actions/thematic areas could be an issue for discussion.
General Roles:

• Contributing to policy analysis, policymaking and strategy formulation at the international, national and sub-national levels, including aggregating and advocating the preferences and interests of affected populations to strengthen linkages between regional policies, national policies, and local practices;

• Advancing the whole-of-society-approach that supports changes in societal and individual behavior, norms and value systems, together with changes within government institutions, public policies and associated legislation towards achieving a substantial reduction in disaster losses;

• Assisting in the implementation and localization of The Sendai Framework on DRR (2015-2030), the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2030, and The Work Programme of the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2030.

• Strengthening south-south knowledge exchange and sharing of best practices.
General Roles:

- Strengthening domestic accountability and holding states to account for policy duties and obligations
- Promoting and strengthening of local leadership (including grassroots women) to increase effective community mobilization and representation;
- Supporting multi-level monitoring and evaluation processes to measure the execution of national DRR policy programmes;
- Strengthen policy coherence with other development actors on the ground to promote and support harmonized programming and build relationships across related policy frameworks.
- Enhancing the inclusion and meaningful participation of vulnerable, marginalized people who are disproportionately impacted by disasters.
- Developing innovative approaches, good practices, participatory methodologies and new types of multi-stakeholder partnerships;
Specific Responsibilities

- Consult with national/regional civil society networks and members to prepare written inputs for regional policy processes in the form of discussion papers, research papers, and priorities for action plans that address the roles and needs of various communal interest groups in DRR within economic, social and environmental spheres.

- Organize, manage and disseminate data and information on the Group, the Arab Strategy for DRR 2020, and the Arab Mechanism for recommendations, follow up, and review processes amongst different audiences targeted.

- Consult with civil society organizations and networks to identify participants for global and/or regional events related to DRR;
Specific Responsibilities

• Coordinate and facilitate the public representation and effective lobbying of the Group, and coordinate active member participation at regional and global DRR meetings and forums.

• Work in collaboration with other major groups such as STAG to ensure continued space for civil society engagement in the DRR sphere and other related global and/or regional processes.

• Collaborate with national governments in localizing the regional and national DRR strategies and commitments from a civil society prospective, and assisting in enhancing institutional capacities;

• Advocate for and support the establishment of National Disaster Risk Management Forums

• Assist the establishment of institutional modalities for the inclusion of civil society in national, regional and interregional mechanisms designed to facilitate the further implementation of the Sendai Framework on DRR;
Specific Responsibilities

• Empower local leaders and build the capacities of the local communities towards better disaster risk management and resilience;

• Conduct effective disaster risk information dissemination to the Group members’ constituencies as well as awareness raising on international, regional, national efforts in DRR, and inform the Group constituencies at all levels of ACSMG activities and strategies;

• Organize and facilitate working groups on key themes, issues and processes for the ACSMG, as well as lobbying targets;

• Provide strategic direction and guidance within the Group and to the regional office of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and the League of Arab States (LAS) through an inclusive, consultative and transparent process, of decisions surrounding the Group’s positions on DRR processes’ outcomes;

• Streamline policy papers and positions developed by various ACSMG thematic and/or advocacy working groups and convert materials for regional and global advocacy purposes;

• Ensure that the ACSMG has a well-functioning secretariat, which can be covered by organizing partners, which includes maintaining websites, other social media activities, managing logistical arrangements for meetings, etc.
Thank You