

**The “Towards a Safer World” network of pandemic preparedness practitioners at  
The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP-DRR)  
“Taking Stock of Achievements: Charting Future Directions”  
20<sup>th</sup> May 2013 (09.00 to 15.00)  
Geneva International Conference Centre**

## **Background**

The Towards a Safer World (TASW) initiative was launched after the last ISDR Global Platform in 2011.

The **first phase** of the initiative was to review the impact of 'whole-of-society' pandemic preparedness efforts since 2005. 11 parameters were used in the analysis and key achievements and lessons were identified.

The **second phase** was an examination of the recommendations at a meeting in Rome (September 2011) by over 200 pandemic preparedness practitioners from a variety of sectors, organisations and countries over five continents. They resolved to create a network of practitioners committed to refining their practices, sharing experiences, communicating them widely, mainstreaming them within their institutions, and reaching out to engage others.

The **third phase** was the creation of this network. It was initially set up and managed from within the World Food Programme. Since mid-2012 the network has been managed by the UN System Influenza Coordinator's office (UNSIC) in Geneva. The network manager encourages exchanges of experiences, tools and practices among members through (a) the TASW website, (b) the periodic TASW newsletter, (c) a regularly updated roster of expert practitioners, (d) participation in regional and global preparedness forums and (e) continuous co-operation with development partners.

## **Session Objectives**

The capacity of the “Towards a Safer World” (TASW) network depends on the strength of the ties between its members. The main objective of the 20th May 2013 TASW workshop is to provide network members and partners the opportunity to:

- (a) Take stock of achievements so far and their application to all emerging threats to health;
- (b) Consider how to strengthen and sustain commitment among members of the network.
- (c) Discuss ways to ensure the incorporation of pandemics and other health threats in the revised Hyogo Framework for Action.

Subjects to be covered include tools for planning and coordination, means to improve communication, partnerships and multisectoral working and sustainable financing.

Practitioners from Governments, UN agencies and OIE, the World Bank, Civil Society and private sector - who are able to illustrate how their work contributes to the capacities of the network – will serve as panelists and discussants.