

NGO Round Table at the Global Platform, 2009

Action for DRR : Creating synergies at the grassroots

Recent research (View from the Frontlines)¹ carried out by the Global Network of NGOs for Disaster Risk Reduction reveals that the progress reported at the national and sub-national levels in formulating Disaster Risk Reduction policies and plans to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 is not generating widespread “systemic” change in local-level practices. Moreover communities who live and work in disaster prone areas have no voice in the agenda setting process.

Yet many communities and grassroots women's groups have developed innovative strategies to build community resilience. These have been largely been overlooked at national levels. The View from the Frontlines too, reveals that good local level practices on Disaster Risk Reduction do exist where civil society organizations are actively working alongside vulnerable communities.

The proposed NGO Round Table would deliberate on ways and means of creating synergies to enable better coordinated, benchmarked and scaled up action at the grassroots. Based on the outcomes of High Level Panel 1: Progress and Challenges in Financing DRR and High Level Panel 2: Enabling Community Resilience through Preventive Actions, the NGO roundtable will focus on

1. How alliances/networks can contribute to invest, sustain and scale up community driven practices
2. Developing appropriate benchmarks to hold governments accountable to communities and grassroots women for disaster risk reduction programs and policies. (This would be relevant for the preparation of the mid-term review of the HFA)

Panelists will present their experience in developing concrete solutions to these questions as well as challenges they face. They would represent different stakeholder groups – i.e. local networks, community representatives, women's groups, NGOs, local authorities, national governments, donors.

¹ View From the Frontlines largest independent global review of HFA progress at the local level ever undertaken mobilizing 400 civil society organizations administering over 5000 survey questionnaires around the world

2. Expected results and links to the GP09 themes and climate change adaptation.

The discussion is expected to provide concrete initiatives to be undertaken by participating civil society network(s) and recommendations to enhance effective implementation of the HFA at the local level and provide inputs in preparation for the HFA mid-term review process.

The discusses will focus on critical enabling factors such as the: local level partnerships between government, civil society and communities, effective distribution and channeling of funds for disaster risk reduction; inclusive and participatory mechanisms to ensure the representation of different social groups; and the need to scale up bottom-up approaches

3. List of partners involved

Lead Organizers:

- a. Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction

Co-organizers:

- b. Gender and Disaster Network
- c. Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network
- d. SEEDS
- e. GROOTS

4. Organization of the discussion and list of speakers/panelists

The discussion would be in a dialogue format. Key network representatives would be invited as panelists, with a simultaneous open house to enable rich discussion.

The agenda would be as follows :

Opening Remarks by Chairperson & Moderator : 5 minutes

Dr. Jemilah Mahmood, Asian Disaster Reduction & Response Network

Background Presentation : 7 minutes

Manu Gupta, SEEDS

Moderated discussion

Invited Panelists: 5 minutes each

Maureen Fordham, Gender and Disaster Network (GDN)

Margaret Arnold, Provention Consortium

Carmen Griffiths, Construction Resource Development Center, Jamaica

Marcus Oxley, Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR)

Angel Marcos, Spanish Cooperation Representative, CEPREDENAC

Open House in Dialogue : 60 minutes

Summary by Rapporteur : 5 minutes
Suranjana Gupta, Huairou Commission/Groots

5. Role of Chair, Moderator and Rapporteur:

<refer 4>

6. Equipment required (to be covered by Organizers)

<none>

7. Expected number of participants (for room allocation)

Between 30-40 participants would be expected.

8. Supporting document and expected printed material to be brought by the organizer(s) to the event (optional)

1. View from the Frontlines
2. [Gender Perspectives: Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction into Climate Change Adaptation - 2008](#)
Good Practices and Lessons Learned
3. [Linking Disaster Risk Reduction and Poverty Reduction - 2008](#)
Good Practices and Lessons Learned
4. [Gender Perspective: Working Together for Disaster Risk Reduction](#)
[Good Practices and Lessons Learned](#)
5. [Indigenous Knowledge for Disaster Risk Reduction:](#)
Good Practices and lessons Learned from Experiences in the Asia-Pacific Region
2008
6. Gender and Disaster Network (GDN) flyers
7. Asian Disaster Reduction & Response Network flyers