

# ***The Rosersberg Initiative:***

**An overview of a new partnership mechanism developed at the**

**Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies**

**7th Meeting, Rosersberg College, Sweden, 13-15 June 2007.**

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## **Part 1: Introduction**

### **Overview**

At its 7th meeting, the Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies (AGEE) established a mechanism to enable its members to implement priority recommendations in a participatory manner. The group agreed to call this mechanism the *Rosersberg Initiative*, referring to the location where the meeting took place. This paper describes the Rosersberg Initiative and provides Terms of Reference for the group that will support its implementation.

### **Context**

Globally, the number and intensity of environmental emergencies continues to increase, including as a result of climate change. Comprehensive, inclusive strategies are required to strengthen many elements of the international regime for environmental emergencies preparedness and response. In particular, experience over the past 10-15 years points to clear challenges that may reduce the effectiveness and efficiency of response to various disasters. There are, for example, gaps in areas of environmental emergency response and response preparedness, including the lack of an international notification system.

In other areas such as response to nuclear emergencies, international search and rescue mechanism, civil-military coordination and others, there are practical models that could be used as a basis for considering improvements in the area of environmental emergencies.

A wide range of donor and affected countries, NGOs and UN agencies, as well as research institutes and private sector representatives attended the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the AGEE. The Group considered a range of documents including *Strengthening the International System for Environmental Emergency Response* (hereafter referred to as the 'Strategy Document'). This latter document was prepared by an independent consultant at the request of the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit (Joint Environment Unit) in its capacity as Secretariat to the AGEE. It identifies key challenges, opportunities and goals to improve international preparedness for and response to environmental emergencies. The Group agreed that many recommendations must be tackled on a priority basis. They also agreed that the challenge is broader than any single stakeholder can address, and that an arrangement is needed to empower AGEE members to carry out recommendations. Accordingly, an implementation mechanism was proposed and agreed upon at AGEE 7. Its details are below.

## **Part II: The Rosersberg mechanism**

### **Implementation Mechanism**

To execute key recommendations, the AGEE decided to have one single *Coordination and Implementation Working Group* with a focus on three thematic areas: *Advocacy and Strengthened International Response Capacity*, *Improving International Environmental Emergency Governance*, and, *Operational Aspects of Providing and Receiving International Environmental Emergency Assistance*.

## ***Coordination and Implementation Working Group: Terms of Reference***

### *Structure*

The Coordination and Implementation Group will be chaired by the Chair and Vice Chair of the Advisory Group, and supported by the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit Secretariat (Joint Environment Unit).

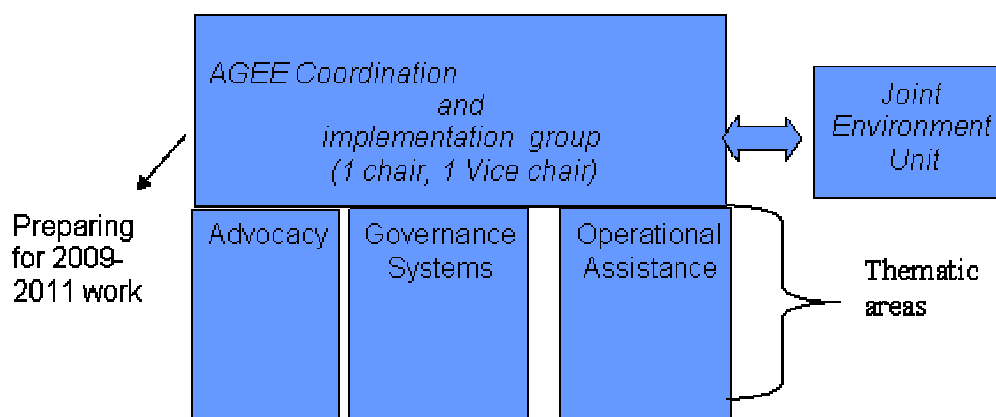
### *Objective*

The overall objective of this group will be to ensure that practical and operational results are achieved in each thematic area by facilitating practical initiatives by AGEE members.

### *Tasks*

The Chair and Vice Chair will be responsible for:

- Establishing membership and finalizing Terms of Reference for each thematic areas by 31 July 2007;
- Monitoring progress and activities, providing coordination support as needed;
- Coordinating initiatives with other relevant national and international processes to achieve maximum synergy, and ensure process remains simple and effective;
- Ensuring that work is inclusive, and that participants are representative of the Advisory Group as a whole;
- Preparing for consideration at AGEE 8 a list of issues that could be dealt with by the AGEE between 2009-2011 (including, for example, those issues in the Strategy Document that are not covered in the thematic areas below);
- Providing, as required, updates on progress of the *Coordination and Implementation Working Group* to the entire Advisory Group and interested parties
- Outputs: three active, representative and productive thematic group areas to deliver on Rosersberg Initiative concept. Overall summary report of activities of three thematic areas for AGEE 8.



***Figure 1. Diagram of Rosersberg implementation structure.***

## ***Thematic area 1: Advocacy and Strengthened International response capacity: Terms of Reference***

### *Structure*

This will be one of three thematic areas of focus under the overall leadership of the *Coordination and Implementation Working Group*.

### *Objective*

Increase preparedness of the international community to deal with an increased number and intensity of environmental emergencies.

Task 1: Raise awareness at national and international levels on the need to address environmental emergencies at the earliest stages of disaster response. This includes:

- Encouraging respective authorities to promote awareness of environmental concerns in disasters.
- An Awareness Raising Strategy, including an action plan for implementation, will be developed. This should include a description of priority countries to tackle, a description of target audiences within each, specific actions to reach these audiences, and a description of who will take what action over an 18-month period. Implementation of the action plan will be in the following 18-month period.
- The action plan should contain a communications strategy to raise public awareness through an awards-campaign (the project formerly known as the 'Green Helmets' movement).
- Outputs: Practical strategy document by 31 November 2007. By the time of AGEE 8, its contents will be fully implemented and a report will be presented at the AGEE on the results.

Task 2. Conduct outreach to engage more and emerging providers of environmental emergency assistance (personnel and equipment). This will ensure greater global coverage, geographic and language diversity. This includes:

- Development of rigorous outreach campaign strategy. This should include a description of priority countries to tackle, a description of target audiences within each, specific actions to reach these audiences, and a description of who will take what action over an 18-month period. Implementation foreseen between January 2008 and January 2009.
- Outputs: By 31 December 2007, an outreach campaign document will have been developed, circulated to AGEE members for comments and finalized. By January 2009, its contents will have been implemented.

Task 3. Propose strategies to take into account climate change in environmental emergency response preparedness activities.

- Elaborate initial proposal for the establishment of a 'training academy' or a network/center for excellence for environmental emergencies related training.
- Elaborate and share specific practical suggestions on how to include climate change issues into response preparedness.
- Outputs: A concept document on the 'training academy' is circulated to AGEE members by 31 November 2007 for consultation and input. A practical guidance document related to climate change and preparedness is distributed by 31 March 2008. .

*Membership – See Annex 1*

## ***Thematic area 2: Improving international environmental emergency governance systems: Terms of Reference***

### *Structure*

This will be one of three thematic areas of focus under the overall leadership of the *Coordination and Implementation Working Group*.

### *Objective*

Propose structural improvements to enhance the global regime for environmental emergency response and preparedness.

### *Tasks*

Task 1: Review international structures related to identification, notification and monitoring in case of environmental emergencies, and international good practice, and propose improvements. This includes:

- Providing practical suggestions on accessing and sharing national information to enhance the Environmental Risk Identification (ERI) tool (hereafter referred to as ERI; formerly known as the Profile of Potential Environmental Risks).
- Conducting thorough analysis of current identification, notification and monitoring activities for environmental emergencies, and propose recommendations for streamlining and consolidation.
- Outputs: Brief, practical document describing options related to the ERI tool is shared with Joint Environment Unit by 31 October 2007 for their action. Analysis document on identification/notification/monitoring is prepared by 31 June 2008 and circulated to AGEE members at that time for feedback.

Task 2: Review relevant international arrangements (e.g. INSARAG, Oslo Guidelines, IAEA notification and assistance conventions) and based on these, recommend changes and improvements for the international environmental emergencies response area. This includes:

- Conduct thorough baseline review of other relevant systems
- Develop recommendations and discuss specific proposals with wider group of interested AGEE members.
- Outputs: Baseline review document is prepared by 28 February 2008 and circulated to AGEE members. Based on this baseline and AGEE feedback, options/recommendation paper is developed and circulated by 31 August 2008.

*Membership – See Annex 2*

***Thematic area 3: Operational aspects of providing and receiving international environmental emergency assistance: Terms of Reference***

*Structure*

This will be one of three thematic areas of focus under the overall leadership of the *Coordination and Implementation Working Group*.

*Objective*

Facilitate uptake of good practice for provision and receipt of international environmental emergency assistance

Task 1: Document and disseminate good practice for the provision and receipt of environmental emergency assistance. This includes:

- Review of lessons learned from previous disasters where assistance was requested and received. (This does not need to be limited to environmental emergencies if other examples are relevant).
- Development and dissemination of good practice guidance material on **providing** multilateral assistance
- Development and dissemination of good practice guidance material on **receiving** multilateral assistance
- Follow-up on implementation by 31 August 2008 to determine effectiveness of documents and identify additional needs and gaps.
- Outputs: 2 brief 'good practice' documents are completed and circulated to AGEE members by 30 June 2008. Report to AGEE 8 on results of guidance effort and follow up, and propose next steps.

*Membership – See Annex 3*

**Part III: Next steps for the Rosersberg Initiative**

- A forum/platform will be created on the Virtual On-Site Operations and Coordination Centre (Virtual OSOCC), managed by OCHA's Emergency Services Branch, to facilitate the work and communications between participants in each thematic area (see Annex 4 for details).
- The Swedish authorities indicated that they would support a first meeting of the Coordination and Implementation Group, consisting of representatives from the three thematic areas. Proposed target date for meeting: October-November 2007. The Joint Environment Unit will provide details.

## Annex 1

### *Thematic area 1: Advocacy and Strengthened International response capacity*

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## Annex 2

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### Annex 3

*Thematic area 3- Operational aspects of providing and receiving international environmental emergency assistance*

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## Annex 4

A special discussion platform on the three thematic areas of the Implementation Group has been created on the Virtual OSOCC<sup>1</sup>. This is a protected web-based platform to facilitate decision-making for international response to major disasters through real-time information exchange by all actors of the international disaster response community. The Virtual OSOCC provides its users with a discussion forum for any area of interest, including information exchange on best practice and lessons-learned after disaster response operations.

The AGEE- follow up discussion platform can be accessed through following the next steps:

**Step 1:** In order to access the Virtual OSOCC, you need a user account and password. Online registration for a Virtual OSOCC user account can be requested at:

[http://ocha.unog.ch/virtualosocc/\(umyyg32l3bcpybmlkagx2oic\)/VOLogin.aspx#\\_top](http://ocha.unog.ch/virtualosocc/(umyyg32l3bcpybmlkagx2oic)/VOLogin.aspx#_top)

**Step 2:** Once you have received your username and password, confirm by sending an email to the Joint Environment Unit to [vanpottelbergh@un.org](mailto:vanpottelbergh@un.org) in order to receive access to the private discussion forum on the AGEE-Implementation Group

**Step 3:**

- Log in to Virtual OSOCC  
[http://ocha.unog.ch/virtualosocc/\(umyyg32l3bcpybmlkagx2oic\)/VOLogin.aspx](http://ocha.unog.ch/virtualosocc/(umyyg32l3bcpybmlkagx2oic)/VOLogin.aspx)
  - Go to the heading of 'Discussions'
  - Scroll down to subject 'Environmental Emergencies'
  - Access the discussion forum by clicking on [Environmental Emergencies \(AGEE\) Implementation Group \(private discussion\)](#)
  - You can now participate in the discussions, post comments and/or upload documents.
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- For further information, contact Ms. Gudrun Van Pottelbergh, [vanpottelbergh@un.org](mailto:vanpottelbergh@un.org)

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<sup>1</sup> [http://ocha.unog.ch/virtualosocc/\(a3gkum45f2guaz45jg0avgew\)/VOLogin.aspx#\\_top](http://ocha.unog.ch/virtualosocc/(a3gkum45f2guaz45jg0avgew)/VOLogin.aspx#_top)