

# General implementation strategy for the Rosersberg Initiative

## Workplan 2007 - 2009

November 2007

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This paper proposes a course of action for the Rosersberg Initiative. In particular, it is intended to provide an overall framework and guide to Rosersberg Initiative Working Group members at the 3-5 December meeting in Tunis, to ensure effective implementation of the activities agreed to in June 2007 at the AGEE meeting. It sets out a general strategy, including proposed paths forward for the three Thematic Areas

### 1. General chronology for Rosersberg Initiative implementation

It is proposed that there be three distinct implementation phases:

- Phase I: 2007 - focused on reaching agreement on detailed activities of the three Thematic Areas and ensuring continued stakeholder engagement,
- Phase II: 2008 - focus on implementation, monitoring and course correction,
- Phase III: 2009 - focus on concluding activities and reporting on progress (in particular at AGEE 8) and agreement on activities for the next 2009-2011 implementation period.

| Phase I 2007   | Phase II 2008  | Phase III 2009   |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• RIWG meeting</li><li>• Develop relevant strategies</li><li>• Engagement of stakeholders</li><li>• 2-day workshop</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implementation of agreed activities</li><li>• Monitoring</li><li>• Course correction</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conclusion of activities Reporting</li><li>• Outlook into 2009-2011 &amp; AGEE 8</li></ul> |

### 2. Key considerations to ensure successful implementation:

There is a need to:

- Establish clear objectives for each Thematic Area
- Define and prioritize activities within each Thematic Area to achieve stated objectives

- Maximize synergies between various activity areas (examples noted below)
- Ensure and support continued stakeholder engagement

### **3. Roles and responsibilities**

- The Chair and the Vice Chair, in collaboration with the Joint Environment Unit, will provide overall guidance;
- The Joint Environment Unit will act as Secretariat, including commissioning or developing substantive inputs;
- Countries/participants will guide decisions on activities, and implement projects in collaboration with the Joint Environment Unit, the Chair and the Vice Chair.

### **4. Proposed path forward in 2007, in particular the RIWG meeting in Tunisia, December 2007**

**Outcome:** The expected outcome of the RWIG meeting is to get agreement from the members of the Working Group on next steps to be taken in each Thematic Area, specify priority areas of work, define concrete activities to be tackled, and seek cooperation with specific countries.

#### **a) Thematic Area 1**

##### ***Task 1 and 2 related to raising awareness***

To ensure productive discussions at the RIWG meeting, the Joint Environment Unit will develop draft communications and advocacy strategies. The communications strategy will present options to increase communications activities with the intent of raising public awareness about environmental emergencies and the environmental impacts of disasters. The aim of the advocacy strategy will be to increase the core of donors currently supplying assistance, including from geographic areas and languages currently underrepresented.

The Thematic area is expected to consider the suggestions and questions contained in the papers for discussion at the RIWG meeting in Tunisia in December, and to help decide on concrete next steps.

***“Environmental Emergencies Partnership Recognition of Excellence” campaign***

Development and implementation of this campaign is proceeding. It is proposed that the Joint Environment Unit and partners will provide an update on the initiative at the RIWG meeting.

***Task 3 – Training (in connection with climate change preparedness)***

- The Joint Environment Unit will table a paper listing possible options to increase environmental emergencies training.

The Working Group is expected to consider the questions included in the paper and be prepared to provide input, answers and suggestions at the RIWG meeting.

**b) Thematic area 2**

***Task 1: Development of the Environmental Risk Identification***

The Joint Environment Unit is cooperating closely with the Swedish Rescue Services Agency (SRSA), the Swedish Defense Research Agency (FOI) and the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission on the development of the Environmental Risk Identification (ERI).

As a result of discussions of this group, a paper will be prepared outlining the next steps and will be shared with the working group before the meeting.

***Task 2: In depth analysis of the governance system on environmental emergency response***

The Joint Environment Unit, in collaboration with the RIWG, will prepare a paper with draft recommendations for the improvement of the international system that 'governs' the response to environmental emergencies. The paper will be based on an in-depth analysis of existing relevant conventions, guidelines and other cooperation mechanisms (including bilateral arrangements if applicable). It will present practical recommendations that can be adopted at the international level in order to close identified gaps and move towards a more coherent and effective emergency response system in the future.

A draft of the paper with initial findings and draft recommendations for future steps will be presented for discussion and recommendations by the Working Group at the RIWG meeting, ensuring full and active participation of members.

### **c) Thematic area 3**

#### ***Task 1: Operational aspects of providing and receiving international environmental emergency assistance***

A questionnaire probing practical issues of providing and receiving international assistance and problems experienced when doing either will be circulated to the Working Group in advance of the RIWG meeting. The Thematic Area members are expected to discuss the questions and agree to a path forward of a research project to be pursued in 2008.

The research will produce a document targeted at both potential providers and recipients of assistance and will identify good practices, including specific recommendations on possible improvements countries can implement that will make the requesting, providing and accepting international assistance more efficient. It will be based on lessons learned from both classic environmental emergencies and natural disasters with environmental impacts, and describe and analyze achievements and obstacles. The document would address, in particular, the following issues:

- Awareness of existing services, mechanisms and provide their contact details;
- Alert and notification;
- Submission of requests for assistance (for example efficiency, clear identification of needs, and detailed information on disaster situation);
- Processing of requests (including emergency contacts, duty system, rosters of experts, standard operational procedures, dedicated budget and financial arrangements, decision-making, deployment of experts and equipment);
- Existence of designated National Focal Points or Competent Authorities;
- Specific challenges in affected/recipient countries (such as internal coordination, granting visas, access to affected areas, transportation and logistics and translation).