

# SNDR INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP

Second Organizational Meeting  
October 17, 2002

Room 5336a US Department of State

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## Report of Meeting

**Chaired by** Larry Roeder, State/IO/SHA. Other co-chairs from State and FEMA could not be in attendance due to illness or travel.

### Participants:

1. Dori Akerman, NOAA/GRS
2. Robert Becker, USAID/OFDA
3. Rhonda Davis, USAID/OFDA
4. Jim Devine, USGS
5. John Kennedy, HUD
6. Rick Ohlemacher, NOAA
7. Larry Roeder, State
8. Nate Smith, USAID/OFDA
9. Bonnie Thompson, NSF
10. Dennis Wenger, NSF

### Results:

**Mission Statement:** A mission statement was agreed upon (Tab A), which will be distributed to the SNDR for discussion at the next monthly meeting.

**Reports Studied:** A number of United Nations and OECD papers were distributed for study and discussion at later meetings. Samples of UN resolutions were also provided as illustrations of material that might be distributed to the Working Group by email for speedy interagency comment (Tab B).

**Next Meeting:** The Working Group will meet again on November 13 at 1pm (location to be determined). Send an email to [roederla@state.gov](mailto:roederla@state.gov) if

you are interested in attending. An agenda for the November 13 meeting is under development by the Working Group and will be announced at the next full SNDR meeting. A key goal of the next meeting will be to refine methods of outreach to the international community and ISDR.

### **Day-to-Day Operations of the Group:**

**Relationship with Operations:** As reflected in the mission statement, the Working Group agreed that it would not interface with on-going disaster operations, though it would focus on lessons learned from operations, in line with the larger role of the SNDR.

**Communications within the group:** The Working Group will meet monthly, though most coordination and communication will be conducted by email. Email requesting group opinions will be funneled through the Working Group's Secretariat, where it will be packaged with other relevant material and then distributed to the members for comment.

### **The Working Group will also:**

1. Review the work of International Organizations such as the UN, OECD, UN COPUOS, etc. on natural disaster reduction, with a view towards facilitating the US government's position. This may include facilitating the development of positions on UN resolutions, reports, and USG interventions/input at international meetings.  
\*\*Where members of the IWG are not in a position to respond, they will pass to or designate Agency POC's.
2. Act as the National Platform for ISDR. In that capacity, the Working Group will interact with other national ISDR platforms, to include inviting them to meet in Washington with the Working Group and sending representatives to meet with the other national platforms.
3. Review how ISDR policies are being developed and facilitate the development of USG positions on those policies so that ISDR does not evolve in a direction of disadvantage to US national interests.

4. Promote the accurate expression of US policy in general, as well as appropriate use of technology and science that help to reduce the impacts of disasters around the globe.
5. Prepare for *Yokohama Plus Ten* by sending representatives to preparatory meetings in other nations, and developing recommendations to the Department of State on the structure and staffing of a US Delegation. This will include developing outreach approaches to US industry, academia, private voluntary organizations and sub-national authorities, as appropriate. This particular item will be the subject of discussion at the next Working Group meeting.
6. Work with *DisasterHelp.gov* and other USG programs as appropriate.
7. Develop appropriate material for the SNDR website.

Tab A: Mission Statement for the International Working Group

As part of its government-wide mission, SNDR's international Working Group will facilitate the U.S. Government's position regarding international activities related to all phases of natural and technological disasters and participation in international natural disaster reduction initiatives and the related sciences. This will include facilitating the development of the U.S. contribution to, and participation in the United Nations International Strategy on Disaster Reduction (ISDR) and ensuring awareness of other relevant disaster reduction activities sponsored by the UN and other international organizations.

Tab B: Agenda for the October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2002 Meeting of the International Working Group

**SNDR INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP**

**Meeting of October 17, 2002**

**Room 5336a US Department of State**

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**Introductions of Participants**

Introduction of Papers

1. Mission Statement for SNDR International Working Group
2. A/57/190 Report of the Secretary General, Implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)
3. Email from Salvano Briceno to Larry Roeder of 9/27/2002 on ISDR
4. Action Taken on October 17, 2002 on Peru Resolution on Climate Change
5. Guidance on Natural Disasters Taken in August for this UNGA
6. Strengthening International Urban Search and Rescue Assistance, with email from Turkish Delegation to Larry Roeder of October 16, 2002
7. OECD Systemic Risks Project (to be sent by email, due to size)

**Discussion of Proposed Purposes of SNDR International Working Group**

1. Mission Statement for SNDR International Working Group
2. Formation of ISDR Platform
3. Facilitation of Interagency Clearances on UN related Natural Disaster Reduction issues
4. Other

Scheduling the Next Meeting