



INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE LAWS, RULES, AND PRINCIPLES (IDRL)

IDRL PROGRAMME UPDATES

Three new regional multi-stakeholder consultations

In the past months, the IDRL Programme organised the last three IDRL Forums out of a series of five. The Americas Forum (April, Panama), the Pan-African Forum (May, Nairobi) and the Middle East Forum on IDRL (June, Abu Dhabi), respectively gathered over 100, 115 and 60 participants. As during the previously held IDRL forums (for the European region in May 2006 in Antalya and for the Asia-Pacific region in December in Kuala Lumpur), participants actively discussed common legal challenges and best practices encountered in international response to disasters in their region. They also analysed the currently existing regional IDRL framework and provided feedback on the Draft IDRL Guidelines reflecting the continent's needs and priorities. Turn to page three of this newsletter for an in depth-coverage.



New version of the Draft IDRL Guidelines

In follow up to its official mandate conferred by the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2003, the IDRL Programme has developed Draft Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance. The purpose of the Guidelines is to contribute to national legal preparedness by providing guidance to States interested in improving their domestic legal, policy and institutional frameworks concerning international disaster relief and initial recovery assistance. With a view to their submission to the 30th International Conference in November 2007, the IDRL sent the Guidelines to all National Societies and States, and engaged in bilateral consultations with Governments, through their Permanent Mission in Geneva or capital. It also undertook intensive discussions with the UN and NGOs individually, as well as with networks such as ICVA, Interaction and SCHR and Sphere. The feedback gathered has now been incorporated into a revised version of the Guidelines, which will be circulated again for comments to all stakeholders. Find the revised version at:

<http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/IDRL/advocacy/guidelines.asp>

Documents and publications: New!

§ Annual Report 2006 of the IDRL Programme at:
http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual06/MAA00004Rep0607.pdf

IDRL IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA



ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment

See how IDRL is reflected in this week's official statement and panel presentation by the International Federation's senior managers Encho Gospodinov, Acting Director Policy and Communication Division, and Ms. Susan Johnson, Incoming Head of the N.Y. Delegation to the UN at:

http://www.ifrc.org/news/speeches.asp?navid=06_03

UN Secretary General highlights IDRL

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-Moon paid an official visit to the International Federation on July 6. During his statement, he underlined the importance of the International Federation's ongoing work to promote adequate national legal preparedness through its IDRL Programme and the Draft IDRL Guidelines. When meeting previously with the International Federation President and Secretary General, the importance of IDRL was also underscored. See:

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/news/07/07060801/>

Organisation of American States General Assembly underlines the importance of IDRL

in its Resolution 2314, expressing its commitment to "eliminate obstacles to humanitarian assistance..., with particular emphasis on strengthening the necessary legal frameworks."

The OAS also invited its Member States to sign and ratify the Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance and for those already having done so to designate a national coordinating authority. See

<http://www.oas.org/37ag/english/default.asp>

UN Assistant Secretary-General expresses official support for IDRL

Ms. Margareta Wahlström, the UN Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, OCHA, delivered an official address of support to the participants of the Pan-African Forum on IDRL held in Nairobi on May 14th. Read the statement at

<http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/IDRL/index.asp>

Inter-Agency Standing Committee endorses the initiative of the Draft IDRL Guidelines

The IASC Working Group, a policy-making forum of UN humanitarian agencies with the participation of representatives of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and several NGO networks, expressed strong support in its recent Geneva meeting on March 20th.



New! (continued)

Article from the Webster University 11th humanitarian conference on , "Humanitarian Action - The Role of Governments, International and Non-Governmental Organizations".

<http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/IDRL/research/publications.asp>

New IDRL operational cases:

§ **Legal Issues from the International Response to Tropical Storm Stan in Guatemala** at:

<http://www.ifrc.org/Docs/pubs/idrl/guatemala-cs.pdf>

§ **Regional (Africa) Survey of Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles**, Background Study to the Pan-African Forum on IDRL at:

<http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/IDRL/advocacy/africa.asp>



IDRL DISCUSSIONS & GUIDELINES PRESENTATIONS IN RC/RC MEETINGS

35th Session of the General Assembly of the Arab Secretariat, Doha, February

Xth Mediterranean Conference of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies, Athens, March

South East Asia Heads of Delegation Meeting, Bangkok, March

7th European Regional Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference, Istanbul, May

IDRL and Climate Change Focal Group Meeting in preparation for the 30th International Conference, Jakarta, May

XVIIIth Inter-American Conference of the Red Cross, Guayaquil, Ecuador, June

IDRL IN TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS & ACADEMIC SYMPOSIA

Webster University 12th Annual Humanitarian Conference, Geneva, February

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/news/speech07/kb150207.asp>

Vanderbilt Law School, "From Hand to Mouth, via the Lab and the Legislator: International and Domestic Regulations to Secure the Food Supply", Nashville, February

ASEAN Committee for disaster management meeting, Vientiane, Laos, March

American Society of International Law Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., March

UN/NGO/Donor workshop on "International community's support to the formulation of ancillary regulations for disaster management", Jakarta, May

Avian Influenza Inter-Agency Working Group, Bangkok, June

Disaster Management Workshop "DMW", Jakarta, June

Société française de Droit International, Colloque de Nanterre, Paris, June

International Consultation on Framework for the Rules of Engagement for Disaster Management of Thailand, Bangkok, June

Emergency Personnel Network Bangkok – Managing People, Responding to Emergencies

IDRL LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS

France joins list of countries to ratify the Tampere Convention

France has recently decided to ratify the Tampere Convention on Emergency Telecommunications to which it was a signatory when the treaty was adopted in 1998. The convention came into force on January 8th, 2005.

<http://www.delegfrance-onu-geneve.org/blog/index.php?2007/06/08/211-la-france-va-ratifier-la-convention-de-tampere-sur-les-telecommunications-durgence-en-cas-de-catastrophe>

Indonesia adopts disaster management law

In recognition of its extremely disaster prone location and learning from recent catastrophes such as the tsunami, the Indonesian parliament has adopted a new disaster management law, which calls for a National Disaster Management Agency to be created. The Asia-Pacific IDRL Pilot Project, conducted from Bangkok, provided input in the provision together with the Indonesian Red Cross.

http://www.undp.or.id/news/20070430_DRR.asp

<http://www.iht.com/articles/2007/05/22/africa/indo.php>

Algerian disaster management legislation

Legislation relative to risk reduction and disaster response in the context of sustainable development was adopted in Algeria. The law, n° 04-20, is from 25 December, 2004. The relative pages are page 13-22 and can be viewed at:

<http://www.joradp.dz/HFR/Index.htm>



Mozambique floods, UNEP



SPECIAL THANKS

For their commitment and precious support in the organisation of:

§ The Americas Forum on IDRL: the Red Cross of Panama, the Organisation of American States and the Government of Panama

§ The Pan-African Forum on IDRL: the Kenya Red Cross Society and the Government of the Republic of Kenya

§ The Middle East Forum on IDRL: the United Arab Emirates Red Crescent Society and the Government of the United Arab Emirates

For their recent contributions:

§ Canadian Red Cross

§ German Red Cross

§ Japanese Red Cross

§ Swedish Red Cross

§ United Arab Emirates Red Crescent

§ UK Department for International Development

§ Luvata Ltd



REGIONAL FORUMS ON IDRL



Americas Forum on IDRL
Panama City, 23-24 April, 2007

The third Forum on IDRL was co-convened with the Panamanian Red Cross and the Organization of American States. It was hosted by the Government of Panama. Over 100 participants took part, representing 20 Governments, 28 National Red Cross Societies, 6 regional organizations, 11 inter-governmental organizations, 8 NGOs and civil society organizations, and 4 universities.

<http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/IDRL/advocacy/americas.asp>



Pan-African Forum on IDRL
Nairobi, 14-15 May, 2007

The fourth IDRL Forum gathered over 115 high-level representatives from 33 Governments, 38 National Societies, 14 UN Agencies plus several Sub-Regional organisations, NGOs and academics. This forum was co-convened by the International Federation and the Kenya Red Cross Society and hosted by the Government of the Republic of Kenya.

<http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/IDRL/advocacy/africa.asp>



Middle East Forum on IDRL
Abu Dhabi, 19-20 June, 2007

The last regional consultation on IDRL was co-convened with the United Arab Emirates Red Crescent and hosted by the Government of the United Arab Emirates. Approximately 50 high-level representatives participated.

<http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/idrl/advocacy/mena.asp>

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES



Dr. Sálvano Briceño, Director, International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) argued that a well prepared legal framework can have an important effect on reducing vulnerability to disasters. Recent disasters, however, he stressed, have demonstrated that many States still lack an adequate national legal framework, and affected Governments have acknowledged this gap. Dr. Briceño asserted the need for a new vision – one in which Governments and civil society work together to find durable solutions for vulnerability. Finally, he explained how the Hyogo Framework commits to this and how IDRL fits perfectly within the vision of Hyogo.



H.E. Hon. Dr. Libertine Amathila, Deputy Prime Minister, Republic of Namibia began her keynote address by commending the IDRL calling upon all Governments to consider HIV/AIDS as a natural disaster in itself, which furthermore significantly worsens the effects of other disasters by rendering populations less resilient. She noted how the regional frameworks on IDRL in Africa were merely policy based and lacked binding legal agreements which guarantee policy implementation. She also stressed the importance of community participation in disaster management, "as victims of disasters are not mere recipients of aid" and of shifting towards the more holistic concept of disaster risk management integrated into the development process.



Lt. Col. Belkacem Ketroussi Inspector, Director General of Civil Protection, Algeria and President of the Executive Council of the International Civil Defence Organisation provided the keynote address at the Middle East Forum on IDRL. He focused on the legal challenges encountered during the 2001 Bab el Oued floods and the 2003 Boumerdes earthquake in Algeria, such as the lack of prior information on the nature of incoming aid or the receipt of inappropriate aid. He emphasised how both disasters had created considerable momentum to improve the regulatory framework in Algeria.



IDRL contributors 2006-2007



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Government



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Government



Turkish International
Cooperation and
Development Agency



United Arab Emirates
Government



日本赤十字社
JAPANESE RED CROSS SOCIETY



American
Red Cross



Australian Red Cross



Austrian Red Cross



British Red Cross



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CROIX-ROUGE MALIENNE



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Norwegian Red Cross



الهلال الأحمر القطري
Qatar Red Crescent



Swedish Red Cross



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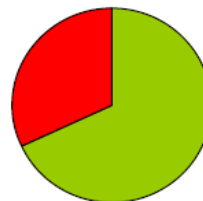
TURKISH RED CRESCENT SOCIETY



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
RED CRESCENT

WANT TO MAKE
A DIFFERENCE
?

Contribute to the
IDRL Programme
budget of 2007:
851,000 CHF



Thanks also to those working hard behind the scenes:



About the IFRC IDRL Programme

The IDRL Programme seeks to reduce the vulnerability and suffering of people affected by non-conflict disasters by raising awareness, promoting the implementation, and strengthening the laws, rules and principles that ensure a timely, adequate and efficient international response to disasters, where international involvement is needed.

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