

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

POSTAL ADDRESS—ADRESSE POSTALE: UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. 10017
CABLE ADDRESS—ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE: UNATIONS NEWYORK

REFERENCE:

29 January 2001

Dear Mr. Goldammer,

I am writing to inform you that I assumed my duties as Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs today. As you are aware, in the exercise of that authority, I am responsible for chairing the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction, which was established, together with the Inter-Agency Secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), by ECOSOC and the UN General Assembly, as an important instrument for advancing the objectives of the Strategy.

I am sure you will agree that the increased incidence of natural disasters and their negative impact in terms of human, economic and social losses pose a major threat to our planet. ISDR therefore provides an important framework for orienting the activities of the international community in support of disaster reduction initiatives. In this regard, I attach special importance to the work of the Inter-Agency Task Force, and wish to acknowledge the significant contribution you have made in this context.

Based on the mandate assigned to the ISDR Secretariat, and following discussions at the last Task Force meeting in October 2000, the Secretariat has reformulated the Framework for Action for the implementation of the ISDR. It has also prepared a comprehensive Workplan for 2001, which identifies a number of important priorities aimed at advancing the objectives of the Strategy. Particular emphasis is placed on the preparation of a Global Report on Disaster Reduction Initiatives in support of the Strategy, as well as the preparation of a number of thematic studies on various aspects of disaster reduction. A special effort will also be made to promote increased awareness of the importance of disaster reduction, the development of risk reduction methodologies, the sharing among countries of innovative experiences in disaster management, the strengthening of national ISDR platforms, and the promotion of closer links with the scientific and technical community in the implementation of the Strategy.

I wish to assure you of my strong commitment to the principles embodied in the Strategy, and look forward to working closely with you in advancing the cause of disaster reduction.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kenzo Oshima".

Kenzo Oshima
Under-Secretary-General
for Humanitarian Affairs

Mr. Johan Goldammer
The Global Fire Monitoring Centre
Max Planck Institute for Chemistry
Freiburg University
Freiburg

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REFERENCE:

16 April 2002

Dear Mr. Goldammer,

The Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction which I chair is in the process of reviewing its membership in the *civil society and NGO* category. In accordance with the stipulations of UN General Assembly resolution 56/195, four non-permanent members will be rotated at the end of the current year.

Upon consultation with the ISDR Secretariat, and in consideration of the important role it plays in the Task Force, I am pleased to invite the Global Fire Monitoring Centre to be a member of the Task Force for the biennium 2002-2003. The Task Force would greatly benefit from your continued participation in its activities, both in your capacity as Director of the Global Fire Monitoring Centre and as the convenor of the Working Group on Wildland Fire.

I look forward to working together with you in pursuit of the goals of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

Yours sincerely,



Kenzo Oshima
Under-Secretary-General
for Humanitarian Affairs

Mr. Johann G. Goldammer
Director, The Global Fire Monitoring Centre
Max Planck Institute for Chemistry
Freiburg University
Freiburg



Johann G. Goldammer
Coordinator

@ Fire Ecology Research Group
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Date: 22 April 2002

Mr. Ksoho Oshima
Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs
United Nations
New York

Dear Mr. Oshima,

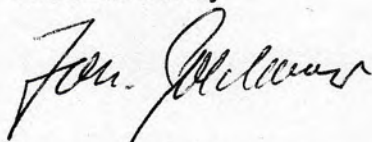
I am referring to your letter dated 16 April 2002 in which you invited the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) to be a member of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction for the biennium 2002-2003.

On behalf of the GFMC and the members of the Working Group of Wildland Fire I would like to express our appreciation to be included as a member in the civil society and NGO category.

I accept the invitation.

At the same time I would like to assure that both the GFMC and the Working Group will continue to provide all the inputs required to support the work of the Task Force.

Yours sincerely



Johann G. Goldammer
Global Fire Monitoring Center
ISDR-IATF Working Group on Wildland Fire

cc ISDR Secretariat, Geneva

REGIONAL ENTITIES

1. African Union (formerly OAU), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
2. Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC), Bangkok, Thailand
3. Asian Disaster Reduction Centre (ADRC), Kobe, Japan
4. Interstate Council of the Commonwealth of Independent States (Represented by EMERCOM, Moscow, Russia)
5. Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France
6. Ibero-American Association of Civil Defence and Civil Protection (chaired by Colombia)
7. Organization of American States (OAS), Washington, DC, USA
8. South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), Suva, Fiji

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

1. Drought Monitoring Centre (DMC), Nairobi, Kenya
2. Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), Freiburg, Germany
3. International Council for Science (ICSU), Paris, France
4. International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Geneva, Switzerland
5. Munich Reinsurance Company, Munich, Germany



United Nations International Strategy
on Disaster Reduction

ISDR

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June 2002



Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction



The UN General Assembly, through resolutions 54/219 and 56/195, established an Inter-Agency Secretariat and an Inter-Agency Task Force for the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR).

The mandated functions of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction (IATF/DR) are:

- (a) to serve as the main forum within the United Nations system for devising strategies and policies for the reduction of natural hazards;
- (b) to identify gaps in disaster reduction policies and programmes and recommend remedial action;
- (c) to provide policy guidance to the ISDR secretariat; and
- (d) to convene ad hoc meetings of experts on issues related to disaster reduction.

The Task Force is chaired by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and is composed of up to 14 representatives of agencies, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system; up to eight representatives from regional entities, and up to eight representatives of civil society and relevant professional sectors. The Director of the ISDR secretariat acts as the Secretary of the Task Force.

Task Force meetings are open to other interested organizations as well as representatives of member states who participate as observers. Additional technical and expert bodies are also associated to the work of the Task Force through participation in Working Groups of the

Task Force. Currently, the Task Force has four Working Groups (WG1 on Climate and Disasters, chaired by WMO; WG2 on Early Warning, chaired by UNEP; WG3 on Risk, Vulnerability and Impact Assessment, chaired by UNDP; and WG4 on Wild land Fires, chaired by the Global Fire Monitoring Centre).

The Inter-Agency Task Force is gradually becoming the hub of a large network of organizations and entities from within and outside the UN system having a stake in disaster reduction within their respective areas of work.

The main functions of the Inter-Agency Secretariat for the ISDR (UN/ISDR) are:

- (a) to serve as the focal point within the United Nations system for the coordination of strategies and programmes for natural disaster reduction, and to ensure synergy between disaster reduction strategies and those in the socio-economic and humanitarian fields;
- (b) to support the Inter-Agency Task Force in the development of policies on natural disaster reduction;
- (c) to promote a world-wide culture of prevention and reduction of the negative effects of natural hazards, through advocacy campaigns;
- (d) to serve as an international clearinghouse for the dissemination and exchange of information and knowledge on disaster reduction; and

- (e) to backstop the policy and advocacy activities of national committees for natural disaster reduction.

The ISDR secretariat is located at the Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. Information on its activities can be found in its websites: www.unisdr.org and www.eird.org (for its regional office in Latin America and the Caribbean)

IATF MEMBERSHIP 2002-2003*

Chair (ex officio) Mr. Kenzo Oshima
Under-Secretary-General
for Humanitarian Affairs

Secretary (ex officio) Mr. Salvano Briceño
Director, ISDR Secretariat

UN AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMMES

1. FAO
2. ITU
3. UNDP
4. UNEP
5. UNESCO
6. UN/HABITAT
7. WFP
8. WHO
9. WMO
10. World Bank

* Membership as of June 2002