

## WSSD PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES INFORMATION SHEET

### Partnership to strengthen the implementation of Agenda 21

**Name of the Partnership/Initiative**

*“Integrated Approach to Prevention, Preparedness for and Response to Environmental Emergencies in support of Sustainable Development”*

Expected date of initiation: **January 2003**

**Expected date of completion:** *December 2006 (initial phase); ongoing cooperation on programme elements.*

**Concept:** Integrated approaches to environmental emergencies to ensure that all aspects of emergency management, including risk reduction and emergency prevention, are properly addressed in a systematic way.

The interventions in recent years have shown that a more integrated approach is needed to:

- (i) improve prevention and preparedness aspects;
- (ii) have better co-ordination at UN and national levels;
- (iii) share more effectively information and resources.

**Partners Involved:**

- (i) **Project partners and donor governments** will help ensure that a coordinated and integrated approach is taken by lead agencies;
- (ii) **Industry and professional associations** will provide guidance and logistic support to the programme;
- (iii) **Recipient governments and local communities** will work to implement the integrated programme at national level to ensure cost-effective operation.

More specifically, partners are expected to be drawn from the following:

**United Nations entities:** Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UN-Habitat), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), UN Volunteers (UNV), International Labor Organization (ILO), International Maritime Organization (IMO), World Health Organization (WHO).

**Intergovernmental organizations:** European Commission, Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA), Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), International Civil Defense Organization (ICDO).

**Major groups:** Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC), CARE, Earth Council, International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), Green Cross International.

**Industry and Professional Groups:** European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC), International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), Global Fire Monitoring Centre (GFMC).

**Other:** Rescue service agencies, civil groups.

Subject to further developments, new partnerships are envisaged.

Programme Leaders (lead agencies): UNEP and OCHA

**Name of the contact person/focal point:** Mr. Vladimir SAKHAROV (OCHA/UNEP), Mr. Stefan Micallef (UNEP), Mr. Fritz Balkau (UNEP).

**Main objectives of the Partnership:**

The Partnership's overall objectives are:

*Firstly*, to promote integration of environmental emergency preparedness and response activities into strategies and assistance programs relevant to sustainable development.

*Secondly*, to assist countries develop their own capabilities to deal with environmental emergencies and to facilitate information exchange, training and technological co-operation.

*Thirdly*, to improve dialogue and mutual assistance among public authorities, the private sector and the public in general on issues of emergency prevention, preparedness and response.

The Partnership would stimulate and promote:

- broader involvement of industry, private sector, corporate associations and non-governmental organizations in international efforts to address the spectrum of disasters with environmental consequences;
- inter-disciplinary and inter-sectoral co-operation between major stakeholders inside and outside the UN system to create a comprehensive network for enhanced preparedness and response to environmental emergencies;
- better public awareness of threats of environmental emergencies at regional, sub-regional and national and community levels with a focus on developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
- integration of environmental dimensions within the context of humanitarian assistance;
- better co-operation between humanitarian and environmental partners involved in disaster preparedness and response activities.

**Relationship of the Partnership/Initiative with the objectives of Agenda 21 as well as relevant goals and objectives of the United Nation Millennium Declaration:**

Agenda 21, adopted by the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), defined one priority area as "further development of assessment and assistance in cases of environmental emergencies". Principle 18 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development proclaimed that "every effort should be made by the international community to help States afflicted by environmental emergencies". The Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations, adopted by the UN General Assembly, contains a statement of the Member States' determination to "intensify cooperation on the reduction of major technological and man-made disasters, and disaster relief". Also the Yokohama Declaration of the United Nations Conference on Natural Disasters Reduction in 1994 agreed on the need to "provide wider support for expansion of the existing disaster management system to include environmental and technological issues". The Draft Plan of implementation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development recognizes that an essential element of a safer world in the

21<sup>st</sup> Century is an integrated, multi-hazard, inclusive approach to address vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management, including prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

The role and competence of UNEP in environmental emergencies has been repeatedly emphasised by its Governing Council (GC decisions: 16/37, 18/19, 19/9, 20/8/ 21/17). In this regard, the Strategic Framework on Emergency Prevention, Preparedness, Assessment, Mitigation and Response has been adopted by governments at GC 21. Furthermore, UNEP's Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level (APELL) programme which was endorsed by UNEP's 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Governing Councils and 6 senior level meetings between 1988 and 1998 is an important preparedness tool for local level involvement in environmental emergencies. The UNEP APELL programme has been operated as a multistakeholder initiative with extensive support from the global chemical industry (ICA/CEFIC) and some national governments (especially USA and Sweden).

**Expected results:**

- to provide an effective framework for exchange of information on operational, technical and scientific matters concerning preparedness and response;
- enhanced capabilities of countries to prepare for and respond to environmental emergencies;
- international assistance in cases of environmental emergencies;
- improved cooperation and communication among various stakeholders to deal more effectively with preparedness for and response to environmental emergencies.

**Specific targets of the Partnership to be reached during the first 3 years are:**

1. **An integrated management model for environmental emergencies** applicable to national and local needs will be developed that will combine the following:
  - vulnerability assessment and early warning;
  - preparedness of local communities and disaster support services;
  - risk reduction through safer technologies, land planning, etc.;
  - co-ordinated disaster response;
  - remediation and follow-up
2. **Creation of a unified internet-based information system (portal)** that links various agencies and sectoral initiatives at the global level (road map of information sources), and focuses on:
  - networking and agency profiles;
  - database of advisory services and expected rosters;
  - key references and guide to information sources;
  - case studies and lessons learnt.
3. **Training and capacity building** in integrated approaches to environmental emergency prevention, preparedness and response at regional, sub-regional and national levels through workshops and train-the-trainers programme.
4. **Biennial multi-stake holder consultation forum** to review experiences, identify priorities for action and provide guidance on forward work programmes. Regional consultations in between years to create and consolidate regional networks and co-ordination.
5. **Publication of a biennial review** of environmental emergencies.

6. **Promotion of the APELL process** for community preparedness and co-ordination of disaster response agencies.
7. **Establishment of an interagency initiative on intrinsically safer technologies** to reduce vulnerability to industrial accidents.

**Coordination and Implementation Mechanism:**

The Partnership will be developed globally with national, regional and other relevant sectoral inputs through regular forum meetings. Policy guidance will be given through an expanded Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies.

The Joint UNEP/OCHA Environmental Emergencies Unit will provide the secretariat to this global Partnership in close cooperation and coordination with UNEP's Disaster Management Branch and its Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE). Specific initiatives under the global Partnership will be backstopped by other participating entities. For example, in the case of awareness at local level for hazardous facilities, UNEP APELL will concentrate on the overall programme development and co-ordination whilst ICCA will support the implementation through technical expertise.

**Arrangements for Funding:**

It is envisaged that the Partnership will require additional funding to that already earmarked by UNEP and OCHA for their work in environmental emergencies. An attempt will be made to establish a Trust Fund to support activities. Partners would be expected to provide in-kind support, in particular, in the form of expertise, logistic support, trainers and training facilities, travel support for developing countries, etc. For certain specific activities, UNEP and OCHA may approach those donors that have traditionally supported their work in the field of environmental emergencies. In addition, UNEP, OCHA and the partner agencies will jointly develop project proposals for funding by the international financial institutions. Industry associations will be invited to continue to provide financial and logistic support to APELL implementation.

**Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer:**

The Partnership will facilitate capacity building through: 1) training activities including train-the-trainers at regional, national and community levels carried out in co-operation with other UN agencies, the private sector, NGOs, etc; 2) information support through the development of tools and products and their dissemination to countries to assist their decision-making capacities and to raise public awareness on environmental emergencies; 3) institutional strengthening by providing technical assistance to countries upon request and undertaking pilot projects which will not only be of direct benefit to the country or region but will serve as a model for other countries and region facing similar environmental emergencies. The possibility to exploit the partnership website to deliver capacity building through "distance learning training" will be explored.

Although there will be a reliance on e-technology for the dissemination of information, the tools and products will still be disseminated in hard copy to meet the information needs of the relevant stakeholders in countries that do not have easy access to electronic media.

**Links of Partnership/Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level:**

The Partnership would link with on-going capacity building programme and other related activities of UNEP, OCHA and partner agencies in order to avoid duplication, enhance cohesion and effectiveness of the Partnership and activities that may emanate from the Partnership. When and if necessary, co-ordination meetings will be held between partners to discuss sharing of arrangements and mutual support.

**Monitoring Arrangements**

The Partnership will be subject to continuous monitoring and periodic review through the regional and global Forum meetings and the Advisory Group. Progress of the implementation of the Partnership will be included in the electronic website of UNEP, OCHA and other partner agencies. A biennial global review report will be distributed for general information and use.

**Other relevant information:**

The Partnership will take fully into account and use emergency preparedness and response tools and products developed, maintained and updated by the Partnership agencies, the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environmental Emergencies Unit, UNEP's APELL programme and UNEP's Disaster Management Branch.

The Partnership will not substitute existing intergovernmental arrangements or systems for environmental emergency response, but rather complement and reinforce them by bringing together and catalysing existing relevant networks.

Web-sites : [www.reliefweb.int/ocha\\_ol/programs/response/unep/index.html](http://www.reliefweb.int/ocha_ol/programs/response/unep/index.html)  
[www.unep.org/pc/apell](http://www.unep.org/pc/apell)  
[www.unep.org/DEPI/disastermanagement.asp](http://www.unep.org/DEPI/disastermanagement.asp)

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**PARTNERSHIP****An Integrated Approach to Prevention, Preparedness for and Response to Environmental Emergencies in support of Sustainable Development**

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**Project Summary**

There is a growing concern with regard to environmental emergencies, such as industrial/technological accidents, chemical and oil spills, retention dam failures, floods, and wildland and forest fires. Despite of many efforts to reduce such accidents, environmental emergencies are increasing in frequency and in magnitude, posing a permanent threat to both human beings and nature, and undermining the process of sustainable development.

It is believed that timely prevention, adequate preparedness for and enhanced response to environmental emergencies could be achieved through joint efforts of a broad range of national and international stakeholders. The World Summit on Sustainable Development is an opportunity to propose the establishment of a Partnership on Integrated Approach to Prevention, Preparedness for and Response to Environmental Emergencies seen as an additional support to sustainable development activities.

The proposed Partnership aims to strengthen international co-operation for a better management of environmental emergencies and to promote integration of relevant activities into international strategies and assistance programs related to sustainable development. The Partnership seeks to generate the broader involvement of concerned industries, private sector, corporate associations and non-governmental organisations in international efforts to address a wide range of environmental emergencies. The Partnership is also intended to ensure inter-disciplinary and inter-sectoral co-operation between major stakeholders inside and outside the UN system with a view to creating a synergy and to set up a comprehensive global network to improve prevention, preparedness for and response to environmental emergencies.

The Partnership will not substitute existing intergovernmental arrangements for environmental emergency prevention, preparedness and response, but rather will complement and reinforce these by bringing together existing relevant networks.

Taking into account rapid industrial development in different regions, the major beneficiaries of the implementation of this Partnership would be governments of developing countries and countries with economies in transition. This initiative aims to enhance and complement existing international capacities, which assist affected countries to cope with all types of environmental emergencies.

## **Foreword**

By adopting General Assembly resolutions 44/224 (12 December 1989) and 46/217 (20 December 1991), Governments underlined the need for strengthening international co-operation, increasing capacity for monitoring environmental threats and rendering assistance in cases of environmental emergencies. Agenda 21, adopted by the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), defined one of its priority areas as “further development of assessment and assistance in cases of environmental emergencies”. Principle 18 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development proclaimed that “every effort should be made by the international community to help States afflicted by environmental emergencies”. The Yokohama Declaration of the United Nations Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction in 1994 agreed on the need to provide “wider support for the expansion of the existing disaster management system to include environmental and technological issues”. The Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations, adopted by the UN General Assembly, contains a statement of the Member States' determination to “intensify cooperation on the reduction of major technological and man-made disasters, and disaster relief”. The Draft Plan of implementation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development recognizes that an essential element of a safer world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is an integrated, multi-hazard, inclusive approach to address vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management, including prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

Adequate prevention, preparedness and response capacity for environmental emergencies are among the tools required for facilitating the process of sustainable development. The World Summit on Sustainable Development provides a good opportunity to further develop and consolidate international cooperation in this area. An initiative to establish a Partnership for an "Integrated Approach for Prevention, Preparedness for and Response to Environmental Emergencies", as one of practical outcomes of the Summit, will contribute to translating relevant political commitments and good intentions into tangible and concrete actions to be carried out beyond the Summit's venue.

## **Background**

### ***1. Environmental Emergencies and Sustainable Development***

There is increasing evidence that industrialization in the developing world carries with it a significant risk of humanitarian and environmental disasters, whether caused by man or nature. The world community is more and more concerned about environmental emergencies, such as industrial and technological accidents, chemical and oil spills, retention dam failures, floods, wildland and forest fires, etc. Despite many efforts to prevent and reduce accidents, environmental emergencies are increasing in both frequency and magnitude, posing a permanent threat to both human beings and nature, and will continue to occur in the foreseeable future. Consequently, an ever-growing amount of attention to preventive mechanisms, timely prevention, adequate preparedness, and faster and better response capabilities is being paid to this matter. Natural disasters with

environmental implications, as well as combinations of natural and technological emergencies, known as "na-techs", are also increasing. In spite of this trend, many governments have not yet developed adequate national infrastructures to cope with such disasters.

It is generally recognized that the primary responsibility for prevention, preparedness and response to various types of emergencies belongs to national governments. Their ability to address disasters depends on many factors, including availability of appropriate institutions, resources and expertise. The role of the international community, in this regard, is to provide a safety net for an efficient management of emergencies, and to facilitate national efforts aimed at building efficient national capacities for environmental emergencies management.

High exposure to hazards places developing states and countries in transition at particular risk to environmental disasters. The most industrialised countries are also not spared from such risks. In addition to impacts such as pollution and material losses, environmental emergencies and environmental degradation often lead to mass internal and transboundary displacements of population (sometimes called "*environmental refugees*"), which in its turn place an additional burden on the environment.

The issue of population displacement and environmental refugees is also linked to climate change. With time, climate-induced environmental degradation may become the world's largest cause of displaced persons. A long-term strategy is needed to address humanitarian and environmental impacts linked to challenges posed by climate change.

Better prevention, preparedness and response to environmental emergencies can only be achieved through the joint efforts of a broad range of national and international stakeholders. It is believed that the comprehensive management of environmental emergencies is feasible through strengthened initiatives and partnerships based on a common approach and agreed goals.

Placed in the context of sustainable development, environmental emergencies management represents an important element of maintaining national economic and social stability, and, hence, facilitates a continuous development process. New initiatives and partnerships, and a broader international coalition, in particular with increased participation of the private sector, relevant industry branches, corporate associations, and non-governmental organisations, are considered as an *imperative* for translating relevant political commitments and good intentions into a proactive strategy for addressing environmental threats at national, sub-regional, regional and global level.

Prevention, preparedness and response to environmental emergencies must be integrated in the context of sustainable development. Adequate national and international emergency management mechanisms would greatly contribute to a *continuous sustainable development* process, in particular, in the least developed countries (LDC) and small island developing states (SIDS).



## ***2. UN Environmental Emergency Service***

In recognition of the threat posed by environmental emergencies, in 1994 the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) established a joint unit to address environmental emergencies of international scope. This joint mechanism has the mandate of mobilising the international response to ecological disasters by acting as a broker between affected and donor Governments, to serve as a clearinghouse for information and as a switchboard for disaster notification and alerting. It is available for urgent assistance 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The Unit provides services through a global network of governmental National Focal Points (NFPs). This integrated United Nations response capacity of UNEP and OCHA brings international assistance to countries facing various types of environmental emergencies.

The Joint Environmental Unit is responsible for the provision of practical assistance to countries, in particular developing countries, affected by environmental disasters and by other sudden-onset emergencies that cause, or threaten, environmental damage and can have a sizeable impact on human health and welfare. This mandate is implemented through the permanent monitoring of emergencies, notification of Governments, brokerage of bilateral assistance, mobilization of multilateral assistance and on-site emergency assessments. Also, UNEP and OCHA have set up an international Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies (AGEE) to bring together governmental focal points from countries around the world. The AGEE meets periodically to share experiences in the field of preparedness for and response to environmental disasters, to review the work of the Joint Unit, and to provide advice and guidance on future activities of the Joint Unit.

The role and competence of UNEP in environmental emergencies has been repeatedly emphasised by its Governing Council (Governing Council decisions: 16/37, 18/19, 19/9, 20/8/ 21/17). In this regard, the Strategic Framework on Emergency Prevention, Preparedness, Assessment, Mitigation and Response has been adopted by governments at GC 21. Furthermore, UNEP's Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level (APELL) programme, which was endorsed by UNEP's 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Governing Councils and by six senior level meetings between 1988 and 1998, is an important preparedness tool for local level involvement in environmental emergencies.

### **Gaps and Needs**

Due to the fact that the existing UN mechanism for environmental emergency prevention, preparedness and response is limited by governmental interaction, there are still some important gaps, which decrease the efficiency of the provision of urgent assistance.

Among these:

- many important stakeholders (such as the private sector, professional associations, foundations and NGOs) are not sufficiently involved in UN-led prevention, preparedness for and response to environmental emergencies, including industrial and technological accidents;

- disaster-related information flow between major actors at the national and international level is not swift enough to ensure rapid response and timely mitigation of impacts;
- there is little knowledge of existing local/national emergency mechanisms in affected countries, as well as of potentially available resources and expertise in donor countries and the private sector;
- there is currently no international environmental emergency management system, that would clearly define roles and responsibilities of major actors, and establish operational relationships between potential clients, providers of assistance and coordinating bodies;
- co-ordination and cooperation between major stakeholders at the national level is, in many countries (both developing and developed), rather poor;
- environmental emergency prevention, preparedness and response activities are not yet perceived as critical elements of sustainable development and are not sufficiently integrated into planning programmes, and strategies relevant to development assistance.

There are a number of identified needs concerning further improvement of the international preparedness for and response to environmental aspects of emergencies, in particular the need:

- for a more concerted and effective prevention, preparedness and response to emergencies, as well as for new and innovative thinking on ways in which emergencies may be avoided or overcome;
- to utilize, in the most efficient manner possible, existing facilities and resources, and to avoid duplication and to optimize the use of limited resources;
- to facilitate quick and direct links between affected countries and potential providers of assistance;
- for rapid access to existing national and international sources of information and advice with regard to environmental emergencies;
- for swift provision of information relevant to emergency response;
- for rapid initial assessment, either remote or on-site, in the case of accidents;
- for capacity building assistance to developing countries.

## **Objective and Scope**

The Partnership's overall objectives are:

- **Firstly**, to promote integration of environmental emergency prevention, preparedness and response activities into strategies and assistance programs relevant to sustainable development;
- **Secondly**, to assist countries in developing their own capabilities to deal with environmental emergencies, to facilitate information exchange, training and technological co-operation;
- **Thirdly**, to improve dialogue between public authorities, the private sector and public in general on issues of emergency prevention, preparedness and response.

The proposed Partnership is expected to stimulate and promote:

- broader involvement of industry, private sector, corporate associations and non-governmental organizations in international efforts to address the spectrum of disasters with environmental consequences;
- inter-disciplinary and inter-sectoral co-operation between major stakeholders inside and outside the UN system to create a comprehensive network for enhanced preparedness and response to environmental emergencies;
- better public awareness of threats of environmental emergencies at regional, sub-regional and national and community levels with a focus on developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
- integration of environmental dimensions within the context of humanitarian assistance;
- better co-operation between humanitarian and environmental partners involved in disaster preparedness and response activities.

The Partnership will not substitute existing intergovernmental arrangements for environmental emergency preparedness and response, but rather complement and reinforce these by bringing together existing relevant networks. A Partnership for an "Integrated Approach for Prevention, Preparedness for and Response to Environmental Emergencies" would also facilitate the exchange of information between principal stakeholders, and the prompt provision of assistance in the event of an incident with environmental consequences.

Taking into account rapid industrial development in different regions, major beneficiaries of the implementation of this Partnership would be Governments of developing countries and countries with economies in transition. This initiative aims to improve and complement existing international prevention, preparedness and response capacity to help countries in coping more effectively with different types of disasters.

### **Activities**

Activities in the Partnership's framework will be carried out mainly by means of networking, creating synergies, exchanging information and best practices, consultations, providing access to specialised expertise and knowledge, initiating institutional capacity building projects, convening conferences and workshops, and carrying out training courses and simulation exercises.

- The establishment and development of the proposed Partnership would require, in particular, the following activities:
- consultations among partners from governments, UN entities, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisation, relevant industry sectors, corporate and civil society associations on the scope, modalities and implementation mechanisms of the Partnership;
- establishment of an enhanced global network of partners on the basis of the existing OCHA/UNEP Roster of National Focal Points for Environmental Emergencies and relevant parts of OCHA Central Register of Disaster Management Capacities;

- convening an expanded meeting of the Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies (AGEE) to consider matters relevant to improving and promoting a comprehensive and reliable international preparedness and response network;
- practical co-ordination of projects and actions between the UNEP/OCHA and UNEP's APELL work.

Activities under the Partnership would also include the establishment and maintenance of access to relevant databanks and other sources of information, as well as elaboration of clear notification procedures with regard to environmental emergencies.

It is envisaged to carry out a study to determine the feasibility of establishing a joint Environmental Emergency Management System (or Plan). Such a system should include, in particular, the definition of objectives, roles, responsibilities, authorities and respective capabilities of interested partners, in order to streamline emergency procedures and avoid duplication of efforts. The System would not impose binding arrangements, but rather would describe relevant competencies and promote a common approach to environmental emergency preparedness and response. This would help to consolidate roles of all actors sharing similar responsibilities in environmental disaster management, and to ensure that, during an emergency, all parties are notified of the incident and preliminary details, of what assistance is requested, and of what has actually been provided.

In the framework of the proposed Partnership, the intention is to explore ways to improve collaboration with partners outside acute emergency situations. In this connection, a feasibility study on identification of potentially vulnerable areas for environmental emergencies could be carried out. Another intention is to initiate a feasibility study on helpful additional rosters (e.g. roster of expertise, private companies, laboratories, national/international emergency response units, etc.).

Particular attention, within the framework of the Partnership, would be paid to the environmental aspects of terrorism, taking into account existing arrangements and activities of relevant organizations.

### **Expected Results**

An overall result of the implementation of this Partnership would be an improved, better-structured and coordinated delivery of the international environmental emergency services to affected countries that would include:

- providing a framework for exchange of information on operational, technical and scientific matters concerning prevention, preparedness and response;
- enhancing capabilities of countries to prevent and manage environmental emergencies;
- mobilizing international assistance in cases of environmental emergencies;
- establishing and maintaining a comprehensive system of prevention, preparedness for and response to environmental emergencies .

Specific targets to be reached through the Partnership during the first three years are:

8. **An integrated management model for environmental emergencies** applicable to national and local needs will be developed that will combine the following:
  - vulnerability assessment and early warning;
  - preparedness of local communities and disaster support services;
  - risk reduction through safer technologies, land planning, etc.;
  - co-ordinated disaster response;
  - remediation and follow-up
9. **Creation of a unified internet-based information system (portal)** that links various agencies and sectoral initiatives at the global level (road map of information sources), and focuses on:
  - networking and agency profiles;
  - database of advisory services and expected rosters;
  - key references and guide to information sources;
  - case studies and lessons learnt.
10. **Training and capacity building** in integrated approaches to environmental emergency prevention, preparedness and response at regional, sub-regional and national levels through workshops and train-the-trainers programme.
11. **Biennial multi-stake holder consultation forum** to review experiences, identify priorities for action and provide guidance on forward work programmes. Regional consultations in between years to create and consolidate regional networks and co-ordination.
12. **Publication of a biennial review** of environmental emergencies.
13. **Promotion of the APELL process** for community preparedness and co-ordination of disaster response agencies.
7. **Establishment of an interagency initiative on intrinsically safer technologies** to reduce vulnerability to industrial accidents.

## Outputs

Other major outputs that are anticipated within the framework of this Partnership include:

- A global network and integrated approach to prevention, preparedness for and response to environmental emergencies;
- Improved co-ordination between UN entities involved in the emergency management activities;
- Synergy between various international and regional networks for addressing environmental emergencies;
- Strengthened cooperation between the UN and relevant industrial and corporate networks;
- Expanded network of National Focal Points (NFP) to deal with environmental emergencies;

- Development of an International Environmental Emergency Management System/Plan;
- Expanded co-ordinating and consultative role of AGEE and its improved correlation with APELL;
- Direct access by requesting countries to sources of information, including relevant reference sources and databanks, and to specialised advice on the preparedness for and response to industrial accidents;
- Advisory missions to assess the extent of environmental damage, at request;
- Clear and simple procedures for both notification of environmental emergencies and requests for international assistance.

### **Relationship with Agenda 21**

Agenda 21, adopted by the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), defined one priority area as “further development of assessment and assistance in cases of environmental emergencies”. Principle 18 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development proclaimed that “every effort should be made by the international community to help States afflicted by environmental emergencies”. The Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations, adopted by the UN General Assembly, contains a statement of the Member States' determination to “intensify cooperation on the reduction of major technological and man-made disasters, and disaster relief”. Also the Yokohama Declaration of the United Nations Conference on Natural Disasters Reduction in 1994 agreed on the need to provide” wider support for expansion of the existing disaster management system to include environmental and technological issues”.

Seen in the light of recommendations expressed at the IV Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Bali, the proposed Partnership has the following added value:

- Provides an integrative approach by combining humanitarian, environmental and developmental dimensions;
- Offers a solid framework (UN) and reliable institutional oversight (joint UNEP/OCHA unit);
- Aims for stronger interconnection and better coordination among various existing global and regional networks for emergency management;
- Will be implemented by uniting efforts, skills and resources of key stakeholders around a practical and feasible goal: improve global and regional mechanisms for environmental emergency preparedness and response by filling some implementation and coordination gaps.

The proposed Partnership is perfectly in tune with WSSD aims as it:

- is directly linked to the Millennium Declaration goals: to ensure environmental emergency response activities are coherent with sustainable development goals;
- is complementary to Type One outcomes;

- has a participatory approach and involves a combination of partners, including governments, regional groups, non-governmental actors, international institutions and private sector;
- is transparent, accountable and oriented at tangible and realistic results;
- presumes active local involvement, sound international reliance and complements national priorities;
- emphasizes regional and sub-regional dimensions of environmental emergency management.

The proposed Partnership was met with interest at the Preparatory Committee meeting in Bali. It is felt, that this initiative has following additional assets:

- has a multi-stakeholders approach, being focused, in particular, on the broader involvement of business and industry, as well as grass roots organizations, in the UN activities relevant to environmental emergency preparedness and response;
- is based on mutual trust and goodwill among all partners interested and focuses on practical results;
- is community and country driven;
- does not substitute government responsibility, nor does it replace existing intergovernmental or bilateral arrangements;
- has a transparent, flexible and reliable implementation and monitoring mechanism.

### **Monitoring Arrangements**

The Partnership will be subject to continuous monitoring and periodic review. For this purpose, the Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies (AGEE) will review the programme made in achieving the Partnership's objectives. The Joint UNEP/OCHA Environmental Emergencies Unit will prepare reports to partner agencies. Special meetings to address specific issues may be held, as necessary, the outcome of which will be brought to the attention of the AGEE for its consideration. Progress on the implementation of the Partnership will be included in the websites of UNEP, OCHA and other partner agencies.

### **Partners are expected to be drawn initially from the following:**

**Donor Governments:** to be specified

**Target Countries:** to be specified

**United Nations entities:** Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), United Nations Volunteers (UNV), International Maritime Organisation (IMO), International Labor Organisation (ILO), World Health Organisation (WHO).

**Intergovernmental organizations:** European Commission, Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response

Agency (CDERA), Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), International Civil Defense Organisation (ICDO).

**Major groups:** Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), CARE, Earth Council, International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), Green Cross International.

**Industrial and Professional Groups:** European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC), International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), Global Fire Monitoring Centre (GFMC).

Subject to further development, new partners may join the network.