

**Roundtable on the contribution of FBOs
to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**

1. Background

The role of Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) has become increasingly recognized in the recent years.

At the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) in 2015, the roles of faith communities and FBOs were discussed at a couple of side events, at one of which a joint statement was issued and called on governments to recognize the unique role of Local Faith Communities (LFC) and FBOs and to prioritize the engagement and collaboration of both in the implementation of the post 2015 framework on DRR.

<http://www.sgi.org/in-focus/2015/sgi-join-fbos-in-events-on-disaster-risk-reduction-at-wcdrr.html>

At the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016, one of the Special Sessions was devoted on religious engagement and more than 160 FBOs and religious leaders endorsed the Charter for Faith-Based Humanitarian Action.

<http://www.agendaforhumanity.org/initiatives/4012>

In addition, at one of the side events the 'Evidence Brief 4: Engaging local faith communities for sustainable capacity for prevention and response' was presented.

<http://iliflc.com/resources/evidence-brief-4-engaging-local-faith-communities-sustainable-capacity-prevention-response/>

Currently the governments as well as regional organizations are developing Action Plans for implementation of the Sendai Framework. FBOs and faith communities must take part in this process as they play a significant role in DRR.

This roundtable will bring together representatives of FBOs and faith communities, governments, UN offices and agencies, NGOs, and academia and facilitate discussions on the role of FBOs and faith communities in DRR.

2. Date & Venue

October 10, 2016 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Salle II, Ecumenical Centre, Route de Ferney, 1218 Geneva, Switzerland.

3. Organizers

Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities (JLI)

Soka Gakkai International (SGI)

World Council of Churches (WCC)

4. Topics

- Faith groups' roles in implementing SFDRR, in particular, reducing mortality.
- Good practices on DRR conducted by faith groups.
- How to strengthen partnership among governments, UN agencies, FBOs and religious communities.

5. Program

Moderator: TBC

(1) Self introduction (5 mins)

(2) Remarks from Denis McClean, Chief of Communication & Outreach, UNISDR
(5 mins)

(3) Keynote presentations

1) "An overview of the international legal framework of DRR and the expected role of FBOs in implementing it" by Dr. Flavia Zorzi Guistiniani, Assistant Professor of International Law, Law Faculty of the University Uninettuno, Rome Italy (8 mins)

2) "Collaboration between governments or international agencies and faith groups" by José Riera-Cézanne, Special adviser, UNHCR (8 mins)

3) "Good practices on DRR initiated by the FBOs" by Mr. Christophe Arnold, Humanitarian Programme Officer of ACT Alliance & Mr. Dinesh Suna, Coordinator of Ecumenical Water Network, World Council of Churches (12 mins)

4) "Evidence briefs" by Mr. Nobuyuki Asai, Program Coordinator of SGI (5 mins)

(4) Open discussion and Question and Answers

6. Participants

UNISDR, UNHCR, UN OCHA (invited); ICRC and IFRC, the UN permanent mission of Thailand, Italy (invited), Mexico (invited), Brazil (invited), Philippines (invited), India (invited), and Ecuador (invited); ACT Alliance, World Council of Churches (WCC), Soka

Gakkai International (SGI), the Baha'i International Community (invited), Islamic Relief, Caritas, World Vision (invited), Al Hakim Foundation, Save the Children (invited), CARE International, CADRI (invited), ICVA (invited), ACAPS (invited).