**Steering Committee Meeting, Global Humanitarian Platform (GHP)**  
13 March 2007  
ICRC, Geneva

**Minutes**

**Steering Committee Members**  
UN Co-Chair, John Holmes, OCHA  
Non-UN Co-Chair, Tom Getman, ICVA  
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Markku Niskala, IFRC  
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Regrets:  
Paul Grossrieder, VOICE  
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**WLG Members and Observers**  
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Eva von Oelreich, Non-UN Co-Chair, SCHR  
Marilena Viviani, IASC Secretariat  
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Robert Mister, IFRC  
Ed Schenkenberg, ICVA  
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Jim Bishop, InterAction *(phone)*  
Jamie McGoldrick, OCHA  
Mark Prasopa-Plaizier, SCHR

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1. **Principles of Partnership (PoP)**  
There was broad support for the latest version of the PoP (draft 5), with the understanding that the differences of opinion between needs-based and rights-based approaches would not be solved. A simple language change would address this concern. The PoP will be tried out in the three selected countries, but they should also be distributed more widely for feedback that can be taken to the July GHP meeting.

**Action Points:**  
- The Principles of Partnership were endorsed as a working document with a change to the first bullet to read: “Striving to enhance the effectiveness of humanitarian action.” (the rest of the bullet is removed).  
- The PoP are to be broadly disseminated and will be further discussed at the July meeting for validation.

2. **Selection of Countries**  
On possible countries, Kenya and Uganda had indicated that they were not keen to be part of the process. Ethiopia’s Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) felt that resources could not be allocated this year, but could be next year. Sri Lanka was seen as too complicated and/or sensitive at this point in time, although every conflict situation will present challenges in this respect. Zimbabwe and Indonesia indicated that they would be happy to be pilot countries. For the Central America hub (Panama), it was decided to go back to the hub and ask for one country to be chosen by the agencies based there. Another country may have to be chosen later to see how the PoP would work in a conflict situation.

SCHR indicated that it would be interested in convening non-UN organisations at the country level to start talking through the PoP and what they mean. It was felt that participants at the country-level need to discuss and agree who should be involved in looking at the PoP, in order to ensure long-term commitment.
A cover letter will be sent from the Steering Committee to the three countries requesting people to look at how they want to put the PoP into practice, including in terms of potential indicators of success. While three months will not be enough to test the PoP in practice, it was agreed to include some questions in the cover letter to encourage feedback by mid-June, which could go to the July GHP meeting. Questions for the cover letter include: who should be involved?; if a consultative mechanism were formed and the PoP were applied, how would they change everyday life?; how relevant are the PoP in the given context and, if they are not relevant, what should be changed to make their lives easier, as well as improve the lives of affected populations?; and what kind of operational changes need to be made to put the PoP into practice?

Action Points:

- A cover letter will be drafted by ICVA and SCHR (Working Level) to be sent by the Steering Committee within 10 days to the three countries: Zimbabwe, Indonesia, and Panama (the Central America hub, which should choose one country), which will include the issues and questions raised during the meeting.

3. Strategic issues

Instead of focusing on accountability and/or capacity-building as (a) separate topic(s) at the July meeting, it was decided that it would be better to bring up these issues in the context of the practicalities of working with each other. The day should focus on the core question of partnership and how to deliver better on the ground, in practical terms. Some principals will be asked to come to the meeting with statements/diagnoses of where they feel cooperation/coordination is not working as well as it should and to describe what they would like to see changed. Such an approach would draw out the concepts of capacity-building and accountability, in particular the former. The agenda will be structured around the five principles of the PoP.

Action Points:

- The agenda will be structured around the five principles of the PoP and some principals will be asked to come prepared with examples of what partnership means on the ground and how to practically improve things, which will illustrate the issues that arise, particularly that of capacity-building.


The meeting will begin on the evening of 11 July with a reception and will continue with a full day on 12 July. Ensuring a balance at the meeting between the “major players” globally in the humanitarian world (in terms of size and budgets) and more southern and eastern representation will be a challenge, as the meeting should remain at a manageable size. While it would be desirable for some agencies to decide to send regional representatives, the result could be less engagement by CEOs. Since regional forums are an option being considered between the 2007 GHP meeting and the 2008 meeting, the issue of regional representatives at the 2007 July meeting was put aside. Additions to the invitation list include a Japanese NGO, an NGO from each of the three countries, and two more Islamic NGOs. The preferred total number of participants was 45.

On the venue, IFRC offered to host the meeting again, with OCHA taking charge of the technical and catering costs. ICRC will discuss with OCHA the possibility of sharing the catering costs. ICVA will again cover the costs of southern NGOs participating in the meeting. On the issue of “1+1”, it was felt that having such a large number of people in the
room would change the dynamic. The solution was to offer a separate room (available at IFRC) where the “+1” could follow the discussions.

Action Points:

- Invitations will be sent out by the Co-Chairs by the end of this week (the draft letter was provided to them on 13 March 2007), with the additional invitees to be sent their invitations within 10 days.
- IFRC will host the meeting.
- For those principals wishing to bring a “+1”, an additional room will be made available from where those persons can follow the meeting.
- OCHA (and possibly ICRC) will cover the catering costs.
- The technical costs will be covered by OCHA.
- ICVA will cover the costs of southern NGO participation.

5. Next SC meeting
Given that most people will be in New York for the IASC Principals on Monday, 30 April, a short meeting has been scheduled for 30 April, 15:30-16:30 (GMT -4).

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