



18 June 2007

Dear Mr. Holmes,

Subject: Principles of Partnership: Working Better to Enhance Humanitarian Response

Further to your and Thomas Getman's joint letter on the above subject, I am pleased to send you the enclosed discussion paper, as requested. We have developed the paper together with non-governmental organizations, the Red Cross Movement, IOM, and United Nations agencies in Indonesia, with the aim of enriching the upcoming Global Humanitarian Platform (GHP) discussions in Geneva.

The paper is the outcome of dialogue between these humanitarian actors. It outlines practical suggestions and priority actions for our collective work to improve humanitarian response in Indonesia. It is also a reflection of our efforts to strengthen communications and relationships among a varied group of actors here.

As you will see, there is broad agreement that the principles of partnership constitute the foundation of working together, and that the IASC-recommended cluster approach be strengthened and used as a best model for coordination. The group welcomed that there is flexibility in the establishment of clusters and cluster leadership at the country level. An important outcome of the exercise is the effort the NGOs are now making to strengthen coordination between them so as to be consistently represented in policy, planning, and strategy development processes with the UN and the Red Cross Movement.

We intend to use this paper in our work to develop strategies for better collaboration among humanitarian actors here, including civil society, government, and the private sector.

We hope to send a national NGO representative to the GHP meeting in Geneva in July to ensure that the discussions there benefit from the views of field-based organizations with strong roots in communities.

I look forward to hearing of the outcome of the GHP discussions. This will help us gain a better understanding of how the work of the GHP at the global level may assist us in improving our joint work in Indonesia.

Yours sincerely,

Bo Asplund  
Humanitarian Coordinator

Mr. John Holmes  
Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs/  
Emergency Relief Coordinator  
New York

cc: Mr. Thomas Getman  
Chair of the Executive Committee  
International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)  
Geneva