



***Consultative Group on the Use of MCDA
Annual Meeting – 21 to 22 November 2011, Geneva, Switzerland***

**Civil-Military Coordination Section (CMCS)
Emergency Services Branch – OCHA Geneva**

24/7 MCDA Requesting Mechanism

Background

Established in 1992, the OCHA Central Register of Disaster Management Capacities (CR) was created to support the rapid identification and deployment of emergency assistance. Comprising a total of eight directories, one specific directory was dedicated to Military and Civil Defence Assets (MCDA). The objective of this directory was to identify: *“Military, civil defence/protection expertise, capacities and services that may be offered in case of emergency by Member States”*.

As noted in United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/62/92 (1 February 2008), an external review of the CR was commenced in 2009 to assess the value added and overall user satisfaction across all eight directories. The review found that the CR had limited added value for the UN and the broader humanitarian emergency assistance community.

In respect of the MCDA Directory, the review found it had not been an effective and efficient tool in finding, requesting and dispatching military and civil defence assets. Currency of information was cited as a contributing factor and the review concluded that since the directory’s creation, some 15 years previous, sourcing and deployment of MCDA had changed significantly. With a focus moving towards regional and bilateral exchanges, the central repository of assets was found to be no longer compatible with the way MCDA was originally envisaged to be requested and deployed.

Current Status

UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/65/264 (21 June 2011): *“Takes note of the recommendations of the Secretary-General, and decides that the Central Register of Disaster Management Capacities should be discontinued”*.

In accordance with the aforementioned GA Resolution, the Central Register of Disaster Management Capacities and the MCDA Directory have both been discontinued. However, the requirement to have a mechanism to request MCDA remains, even if demand is limited. In addition, and to facilitate individual requests from humanitarian organisations for MCDA assistance, OCHA-CMCS is proposing the establishment and maintenance of a 24/7 Focal Point System with Member States, through which requests for assistance can be channelled (as previously agreed by the Consultative Group on the Use of MCDA in 2010 and reaffirmed in 2011). In addition, this Focal Point System will serve as a channel to enhance engagement between OCHA and Member States on operational matters regarding the wider use of MCDA in support of humanitarian response.

Way Ahead

February 2012 - Publish 24/7 MCDA Requesting Mechanism ‘Concept Note’ for Member State consultation.