



# GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR DISASTER REDUCTION

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## ELEMENTS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE GADR

### A. VISION

The vision of the Global Alliance for Disaster Reduction (GADR) is one in which disasters are eliminated through activities that enable people in all communities and all nations live with natural and anthropogenic events in disaster resistant communities. In this vision, GADR recognizes the futility of any effort to stop the occurrence of natural events but promotes the build-up of resistance to such disasters through improvements of social and physical systems in disaster-prone communities. The GADR envisions a world in which there is unconstrained exchange of knowledge on technical, policy and cultural approaches to disaster prevention and mitigation across cultural, national and socio-economic boundaries. Furthermore, the organization cherishes improvement in collaboration among agencies, institutions, corporations, citizen groups and experts, to deal with natural and technological hazards.

### B. MISSION

The goal of the Global Alliance for Disaster Reduction (GADR) is capacity building for disaster management at all scales, especially in the developing countries, where the need is urgent. Communities in less developed regions such as Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, parts of Asia, some Eastern European countries, and some island nations in the Caribbean and Pacific should be assigned highest priority for outside resources to increase enlightenment and empowerment in their efforts to build a culture of disaster resilience. Nevertheless, technologically advanced countries also need disaster prevention programs and are covered by GADR's interest and programs as well.

The scope of GADR's activities encompasses all natural and related hazards and embraces the range of threats (e.g., drought, floods, poor water resources management, cyclone and sea surge, environmental degradation through poor agricultural practices, land zoning and management, etc.) that are the scourge of sustainable development to various degrees in all parts of the world.

### C. ORGANIZATIONAL OBJECTIVES

1. Creation of Regional Alliances for Sustainable Development and Disaster Reduction in each of the seven geographic regions of the world: Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and Caribbean, Pacific, Mediterranean, Europe, Asia, and North America.
2. Training in the analysis of disaster threats and vulnerabilities in national administrative and other staff colleges to create the analytical, planning and management capabilities in relation to disaster threats and environmental management, upon which effective standards of disaster reduction and environmental management depend.
3. Technical assistance in planning and management for disaster reduction and environmental management.
4. Creation of knowledge bases from post-disaster audits and existing knowledge bases for future technical developments on community, national, and regional scales.

## **Organization and Designation of GADR Conferences**

The GADR will support the organization of biennial conferences to be held during odd-numbered years. Under no circumstance should support of GADR be conferred on a conference without the vote of consent of the majority, the President, the Executive Director and the Board of Vice Presidents. Such requests for organizational collaboration must be directed to the Executive Director, or the President, who will then make it known to the entire Board to pre-empt a vote. The Executive Director will then communicate the consent of the GADR leadership to the requestor.

A conference will be designated as a GADR Conference only if it meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. Direct involvement of GADR during the odd-numbered years, except with contingencies;
2. Collaboration of GADR with other organizations such that GADR is given prominence in coverage and in proceedings of the conference;
3. A request is made to GADR by a regional or global organization, and GADR through its Board or the GADR President determines that conferment of GADR's symbol and moral support to such a conference advances the overall mission of GADR in promoting disaster prevention and management;
4. Face to face meetings of the Board will be held during the biennial conferences and at a minimum, the following shall be part of the agenda items:
  - An address by the President outlining progress toward achievements of GADR goals, as well as initiatives;
  - A report by the Executive Director on the specific tasks that were authorized by the Board, as well as any other related Charter activities of the membership of the Organization, and the achievements of the Organization in that respect;
  - The Chair of the Board will make a presentation, and may call upon the Regional Vice Presidents to also make presentations, or report on developments in their respective Regions.

## **D. OPERATIONAL MECHANISMS**

1. The primary method of communication within the leadership of the GADR will be by periodic communiqués on important issues requiring actions, or by e-mail for exchanges of opinion.
2. The communiqué implies a request for taking action, or a report on actions taken. Such communiqués may originate from the President, or the Executive Director, or the Chair of the Board of Vice Presidents, or the chairs of task forces or special councils.
3. The primary mechanism of conveying news to the general public will a GADR Newsletter to be published quarterly in both paper and electronic editions, as well as special products in the forms of computer disks and technical guidance manuals.

## **E. RESPONSIBILITIES AND TERMS OF OFFICE**

Elections to serve as President, Vice President, Executive Director, Chairs of the Executive Board and Regional Councils, as well as to serve in the Executive Board and the Regional Councils, will be for 4 years, renewable by re-election.

## **1. The President of GADR**

- Will be elected by the entire membership of GADR Board to serve for a renewable 4-year term
- Will serve for a maximum of two consecutive terms
- Will provide overall leadership to the organization to achieve its strategic goals
- Will confer with the Board and lead initiatives of GADR with other organizations

## **2. Vice Presidents**

- Will be elected in Regions where the GADR has strong representation.
- They will be appointed by the President on an interim manner where the GADR has not developed a reasonably large base. In this case, the Vice President will have the responsibility of developing a regional membership base of at least 50 members in order to convert to the regular Vice President status.
- Each regular Vice President is empowered to grow the GADR Organization in his or her Region of responsibility, and to develop an appropriate leadership structure comprising the Regional Vice Presidents, the Regional Secretary, Regional Project Coordinator and a Regional Council.
- Each Regional VP shall serve as the Chair of the Regional Council.

## **3. The Board of Vice Presidents (Directors)**

- The Board of GADR will serve as the international executive board of the organization, and shall consist of the Vice Presidents, and be known also as the GADR Executive Board of Directors
- The Board shall be chaired by a Chairperson, elected by the Board to a 2-year term
- The Executive Board Members shall be elected to serve for a 4-year term, renewable only by re-election
- The Secretariat of the Board shall be resident where the GADR President resides
- The Board will be responsible for ratifying initiatives developed by the Regional Vice-Presidents and the President, by a simple majority vote. It will also deliberate on matters that impact upon the success of the organization.

## **4. Chair of the Board of Vice Presidents**

- The Chair of the Board of Vice Presidents will serve as the Senior Vice President for a 2-year term. He/she will be nominated by the President for confirmation by the Board.
- Functions of the Chair: The Chair of the Executive Board of VPs will be responsible for maintaining liaison with the Regional VPs, and can, in some cases, initiate special courses of action and institute task forces and select their leaders, to address given issues. The Board's Chair will also chair the UNESCO - GADR Awards Selection Committee.

## **5. Executive Director of GADR**

- The appointment of the Executive Director of the GADR Board shall be through application to the Board following widely distributed solicitation.
- The Executive Director shall be the head of the GADR Board's Secretariat, and shall reside where the President of the GADR resides. An interim arrangement can be made in cases in which it is difficult for the President and the Executive Director to be headquartered in the same location.
- The appointment of the Executive Director on 4-year renewable terms.
- The principal functions of the Executive Director will be (a) fundraising to support the activities of the GADR, (b) facilitation of communications between GADR headquarters and regional vice-presidencies and collaborating organizations, (c) editing and distribution of GADR newsletters and communiqués, and (d) logistical support for GADR events and awards.

## **6. Regional Councils**

- At regional levels, the Councils will elect their own bureau, and will report to the Executive Board through the regional VPs in the Board of Directors. They will also function in a coordinated an agreed manner.
- The councils will be formed as task groups to address specific regional or global issues. Council reports will be presented by the appropriate Regional VP or other designated leaders during Board meetings.

## **7. General Membership**

- GADR will offer membership in the following categories: corporate membership, regular membership and student membership.
- In addition to the categories stated above, there are collaborating organizations such as UNESCO, UN-ISDR and the Red Cross.
- All officers of the GADR are considered regular members.
- Corporations and individuals who wish to become GADR members will be required to complete simple application forms. Annual membership fees are \$2000 for corporations, \$100 for regular members and \$10 for students.
- Each regular newsletter of GADR will contain the list of corporate and individual members, news items, feature articles, conference listings, recent disasters, training opportunities, etc. It will be widely distributed.

