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The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) presents its compliments to all Permanent Missions in Geneva, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and other organizations.

The Office wishes to provide a brief summary of the *Consultative Group for Emergency Preparedness and Response Networks and Partnerships Week*, which was held in Geneva from 9 to 12 February 2015. The aim of the event was to improve cooperation and collaboration, and to explore means to strengthen interoperability among OCHA's disaster response networks and partnerships as well as to introduce the recently created *Consultative Group for Emergency Preparedness and Response* (henceforth referred to as the "Consultative Group").

The week-long event – which saw more than 400 representatives in attendance from Member States, regional organizations, humanitarian organizations, the military, NGOs, UN agencies, the Red Cross/Crescent Movement, the Private Sector and OCHA – was opened on Monday, 9 February by OCHA's Assistant Secretary-General Ms. Kyung-wha Kang. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Jack Jones, Humanitarian Response Manager, Conflict Humanitarian and Security Department of the United Kingdom's Department of International Development, and the Director of OCHA Geneva, Mr. Rashid Khalikov.

The *Networks and Partnerships Week* provided a platform for networking, exchanging ideas and exploring opportunities for closer cooperation among OCHA's key networks: United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) system; International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG); Consultative Group on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination (UN-CMCoord); Strategic Advisory Group for Environmental Emergencies (SAGEE); Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS); Private Sector Consultative Group; Stand-by Partnership Programme.

Furthermore, a "Marketplace of Ideas" was held where all participants were invited to exchange views and discuss innovations within the structure of thematically-framed presentations. The areas presented were:

1. Improving and streamlining on-site coordination
2. World Humanitarian Summit and its relevance to OCHA Networks and Partnerships
3. Improving the efficiency of dispatch of humanitarian assistance and customs processing
4. Improving preparedness and response through involvement of the private sector
5. Foreign MCDA Logistics Operations Guide
6. Information for decision makers: Sharing the load in the first 72 hours
7. Use of international disaster response exercises to improve coordination and interoperability among humanitarian actors
8. Possible involvement and support of the networks in disaster cash programming.

It was recommended that several issues discussed in this forum be further elaborated in dedicated *Focus Task Forces* which will be composed of, and led by, representatives from the networks, partnerships and other actors. It is envisaged that the results of the *Focus Task Forces*

will be presented at the next *Consultative Group Networks and Partnerships Week* in 2016, where new focus areas will also be identified and introduced.

Background and presentation material of the *Networks and Partnerships Week* is available on-line at <http://vosocc.unocha.org/PartnershiWeek/Overview.htm>.

Participants of the *Networks and Partnerships Week* are invited to complete the brief on-line survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7V27KPQ> to assist with the evaluation of the event and to provide proposals for the planning of next year's *Consultative Group Networks and Partnerships Week* in 2016. The date and venue for the 2016 event will be communicated within the coming months.

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs wishes to express its appreciation to all Member States and organizations for their participation and engagement during the week.

