The Regional Advisory Group of GNDR in West Africa met in Grand Bassam, Côte d’Ivoire the 23 and 24 OF August 2017. Constituted as and administration group that will/can support the functioning and the work of the Regional Development Coordinator and the board Representative, this group has to meet and better understand and plan it’s work to improve the assistance they can provide to the organization through its members and the staff.

During two days, participants have explored different aspects of their duty. It was also an opportunity to better explain their role and establish a clear format where each actor will better understand how he is linked to others actors.

It has been an opportunity to explain better the on-going actions in GNDR and the way this can affect the members, think about how better organize the region

The meeting has gathered 9 regular participants. AJELEC hosted the organization. The President of AJELEC, member of the RAG participated to the work.

Through the coming lines we will present the summary of the work of two days.

The report will be splited at three points: GNDR and Governance (I), Regional Advisory group and its missions (II), GNDR in West and Central Africa (III), Planning for Coming activities (IV)
I- GNDR and Governance

This part introduces the “how” and the “why” of the GNDR and the RAG members. To make sure that GNDR and the way its structures are established are well understood by all the participants, a communications is presented on this topic. The first shows how GNDR is created, its legal statute and its objectives. During this presentation, it is shown that GNDR has the Board as the administrative body. It is constituted of regional representatives elected by the members at regional level. They are actually 11 members. A part from this body, we have the Secretariat based in London (the HQ) and the regions as Regional Development Coordinators. The last structure is the Regional Administrative Group (RAG) they are regional body constituted of volunteers who have for duty to advise and support the regional initiative at all level. This presentation has helped the participants to understand better the GNDR as it is today and as it is functioning. Also it is the first step to better understand how structured are linked. It is clearly shown that at regional level there is a strong link between the board Representative, the secretariat and the RAG. Therefore, it is up to all these actors to find a common point where their interventions and action will join. It is also clear that the RAG members are not representatives nor leaders of their countries. They are called to represent the region of West and Central Africa. It is possible to ask any members of the RAG to visit a country for a specific duty or to represent the region wherever and when possible.

From this global perspective, the RDC, presented the current situation of GNDR as it is in both West and Central Africa. Adessou tries to explain to the participants the number of members we have in both West and Central Africa. How many countries GNDR covers and what is the project for the coming time. Note that GNDR is present in 13 countries in West Africa, 6 countries in Central Africa. In these regions, officially we have 315 members all “category” included.

The last point of this sub-title concerns the re-categorization process. On that topic, Adessou explains the reason why GNDR is going through this process. This includes the effectiveness of the database on the membership, the avoiding of duplication, the easy follow up of the members at all level etc...
Adessou explains the process and the steps this has included up to now: Consultation with secretariat and the board, consultation of the members, presentation to the board etc.

The presenters shows that this process suggests three categories (Full members, Affiliate and associated members). The main issue. These positions are not fix and can change as the member desires or works to do so. However, for the category of affiliate this will mainly depend from the organization itself.

II-Regional Advisory Group and its Missions

This topic was about to understand its own mission and duty. To do so Peter Akanimoh raised some key elements the RAG should work on: He mentioned that: The board plays a role of monitoring and evaluation. It is important to understand that the Board is an administrative body.

For the RAG he mentioned their guidance and advice role within the region. For the same presenter,

The RAG should:

- insure the safeguard and promotion of GNDR interest.
- not represent the country they are coming from.
- make sure their ideas are coming from the field.
- work like one voice as a group

Peter points out some key activities that the RAG member can/will do on the field.

- Advising
- Contribution
- Information
- Visit
- Support to the regional structures (Governance, fundraising, etc...)

Peter emphasizes on the need to make of consensus, the main strategy of decision taking among the RAG members.
Peter shows that when the RAG members will succeed playing this role, they will really help the board also support the RDC in his daily work. This role will energize the members who will show more commitment and dedication.

Seck Emmanuel developed the second part of this RAG & Missions topic. His presentation focus the contribution of the RAG for good governance and Conflict management. For Emmanuel before the RAG plays successfully his role, he questioned the way the RAG itself is organized. He suggested for the good functioning of the RAG to nominate his own chair. This chair will be established for a period of one year nonrenewable.

To be able to contribute to the good governance, the RAG members should avoid conflicts of interest between their organization and GNDR and between their organization and other organizations members of GNDR. It is important to establish strong and clear rules on governance and if this is already available then, share them with the members.

The RAG members should be able to communicate with all the members and consult them when needed for decision.

To avoid conflicts Emmanuel suggests these following ideas: RAG should be able to manage conflicts (Internally and externally) therefore; a roadmap on how to interact with the board, the secretariat and the members must be drafted.

However, it is clear that conflicts between members should be solved by RAG. He emphasized to inform members about this.

However, to avoid, mitigate or reduce conflicts he raised the question concerning the organization of the members at national level. How are the members organized at national level?

A lot of debate and exchange follow these presentations.

As a first decision, the participants nominate by consensus Seck Emmanuel Sobel as the RAG’s Chair.
III- GNDR in West and Central Africa

For this part of the reflection, Dr Tola Winjobi presents a topic titled “Strengthening membership in the region: how can RAG contribute”

For the presenter, the situation is different from each country. Therefore, while in some countries recruitment should continue, in others countries the work might consist to strengthen the members. But, before this becomes possible, a structure at national level should exist.

Based on the presentation on the structure of GNDR, Dr Tola has presented seven others types of structures that can be adapted to the need at national level. It is important to remind that there is no perfect structure. In each of them, there are weaknesses.

To make the process flexible and as it is complicate to choose any specific structure that each country will follow, the participants encourage the members at national level to establish their platform and inform the RAG and the secretariat. We can build on Nigeria, Mali and Burkina Faso cases as pilot cases.

Among the different strategies that can enhance the membership, Dr Tola proposes these:

1. Membership recruitment and mapping: why and how? planning, gender disaggregation, documentation for information sharing
2. Categorization vs Re-categorization: networks/coalitions/platforms/ the same as any individual organization; legality vs non-registered of incorporation in some countries; members and individuals are not excluded because of their size, capabilities or context
3. Making GNDR’s vision and mission known to the members
4. Regular (monthly, quarterly, periodical including regional and national) meetings and annual international conferences; sustained activities (e.g. Al monthly letter writing).
5. Convivial environs (friendliness, rapport, relationship building)
6. Program content promoting GNDR’s vision and mission
7. Communication plan (global-regional-sub-regional-national; group e-mail, whatsapp etc.. content (funding, conference, fellowship, job, opportunities)
8. Resource mobilization (human and material support to members);
9. Proposal writing/fundraising;

10. Capacity building: board/staff relation; conflict management; early warning mechanisms; organization and administration of GNDR at national and state level; GNDR disaster reduction strategy, SPHERE strategy; internal democracy; advocacy skills and stakeholders’ engagement


As a conclusion, the presenter raised the necessity to conduct a SWOT evaluation. This will define clearly our strength and weaknesses. We can then build on the strength to leverage our commitment and impacts.

Concerning Evaluation, and in order to be able to appreciate the contribution of each RAG members, a reflection around the assessment process arises.

Mme Fatouma Goundo SISSOKO and Joel Bobia conducted this reflection. According to this group, the assessment process should consider six following criteria.

At the end it is agreed that RAG members will be evaluated. On yearly basis and according to the team of the reflection, the evaluation process should consider seven following criteria.

- Pertinence
- Efficiency
- Effectiveness
- Impacts
- Sustainability
- Viability

At the end of the presentation, the participants agreed that RAG members will also be evaluated individually on yearly basis. To do so, some new criteria were suggested including: The will to participate/contribute, the availability, the capacity, the performance, the regularity, the level of satisfaction concerning the achievement of the objectives, the number (quantity) of suggestions
IV- Planning for Coming activities

This subtitle concerns the coming actions at different level. This is about the Work plan of GNDR in West Africa, the RAG Work plan and the Regional workshop. In the tableaux below, we have the draft of planning.

**REGIONAL WORKSHOP AGENDA**

**Date /12/2017**

**Country: Mali and Sierra Leone**

**2 days**

**Number of participants: 25 at least**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presentation of GNDR and Its structures</td>
<td>Accountability</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation of RAG duties and Action Plan</td>
<td>Update</td>
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<tr>
<td>How do members interact with RAG</td>
<td>Communication/Accountability</td>
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<td>Capacity on advocacy / lobbying</td>
<td>Capacity Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debrief of Activities in West Africa, Next work plan</td>
<td>Accountability</td>
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<tr>
<td>GNDR members at National Level: What does the structure look like: Case studies</td>
<td>Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ownership of the Criteria of re-categorization</td>
<td>Organization</td>
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**RAG Work plan**
• Supporting the elaboration of the TOR on the baseline studies.
• Organizing RAG meeting prior the board meeting
• Building Capacity on how RAG, Members and Board work together
• Support on effective communication within the network
• Organizing (3) country visits
• Support finalizing the Regional Action plan
• Work to increase and reinforce the women’s involvement in the west and Central. Africa
### GNDR WORK PLAN in Line with the Strategy 2016-2020

<table>
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<th>Activities</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Objective</strong> O1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increase the impact of civil society in influencing policies and practices at local, national and international level</td>
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<td>Conduct baseline study on the level of implementation on SFDRR and related policies at the national and regional</td>
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<td>Creating awareness on DRM especially SFDRR towards the Local Communities</td>
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<td>Launch a Disaster Preparedness Capacity Building for Members and communities</td>
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<td>Capacity Building of GNDR members for intervention on Emergency issues</td>
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<td>Interpeller les leaders africains dans la prise de décision concernant les problèmes d’inondation</td>
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<td><strong>Objective</strong> O2</td>
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<td>Enhance collaboration capabilities of civil society and cooperation with other stakeholders</td>
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<td>Convene national training workshop on Advocacy on DRM</td>
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<td>Building the capacity of GNDR members at national level in the area of SFDRR</td>
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<td>Membership Enhancing/ Recruitment/ Retention</td>
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<td>Organize communication events to promote and increase the visibility of GNDR</td>
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<td>Organizing joint regional actions on SFDRR amongst the stakeholders (CSO, Academia, FBOS, Government, private sector, Donors) Action Aid</td>
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<td>Establish and/or strengthen national platform of CSO on DRR</td>
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<td>Identifying main events related to DRR at all level for GNDR. Members contribution / participation</td>
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<td>Regional Conference on DRM (Drought, Flood etc) with ECOWAS &amp; ECCAS or other relevant intergovernmental institutions</td>
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**Objective**

O3

**Strengthen the creation, analysis and sharing of knowledge**

<p>| Review of research methodology in DRR (National, sub regional). |
| National engagement with Academia, research institution and UN agencies in enhancing the existing scientific knowledge, info and best practices |
| Scaling up the experience of GNDR |
| Literature review of research studies made |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Cross Cutting Action</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation of the implementation of the action plan</td>
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**Thanks Giving**

We want to thank on behalf of all the participants, NGO AJELEC and its president for the great organization and their efforts to set a good ambiance during our time in Grand Bassam.

Grand Bassam, the 24th August 2017

Adessou Kossivi Nevaeme, RDC W&C Africa