

United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response

## **UN-SPIDER**

#### What does UN-SPIDER do?

UN-SPIDER ensures that all countries and international and regional organizations have access to and develop the capacity to use all types of space-based information to support the full disaster management cycle. UN-SPIDER is achieving this by being a gateway to space information for disaster management support; serving as a bridge to interlink the disaster management and space communities; and being a facilitator of capacity-building and institutional strengthening.



## What is a UN-SPIDER National Focal Point?

As defined by the United Nations General Assembly, a National Focal Point is a national institution, nominated by the government of the respective country, representing the disaster management and space applications communities. Among them are for example members of the space- or national civil protection agencies. UN-SPIDER networks with all countries through the National Focal Points.

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## What is the role of National Focal Points?

A National Focal Point works with UN-SPIDER staff to achieve the following goals:

- Promoting access to and the use of space-based solutions for disaster management in the respective country
- Strengthening national disaster management planning and policies
- Implementing specific national activities that incorporate spacebased technology solutions in support of disaster management.

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# Network

## What is a Regional Support Office?

A Regional Support Office (RSO) is a regional or national centre of expertise that is set up within an existing entity by a Member State or group of Member States that has put forward an offer to set up and fund the proposed Regional Support Office.

## How did the Regional Support Offices come into existence?

The establishment of a Network of RSOs was agreed upon by the United Nations General Assembly in its Resolution 61/110. During the 52nd Session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) signed cooperation agreements to establish UN-SPIDER RSOs with the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nigeria, Romania, and the Asian Disaster Reduction Centre. Additional RSOs have been established since then and negotiations on setting up further RSOs are under way.

## How do Regional Support Offices contribute?

Regional Support Offices communicate and coordinate with UN-SPIDER staff on a regular basis, covering the three following realms:

- Outreach and Capacity-building activities
- Horizontal Cooperation (Communities of Practice, Knowledge Management, contributions to the Knowledge Portal etc.)
- Technical Advisory Support



The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) implements the decisions of the General Assembly and of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its two Subcommittees, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee. The Office is responsible for promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, and assisting developing countries in using space science and technology. In resolution 61/110 of 14

December 2006 the United Nations General Assembly agreed to establish the "United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response -UN-SPIDER" as a new United Nations programme to be implemented by UNOOSA. UN-SPIDER is the first programme of its kind to focus on the need to ensure access to and use of space-based solutions during all phases of the disaster management cycle, including the risk reduction phase which will significantly contribute to the reduction in the loss of lives and property. UN-SPIDER Information Material 2011. © United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs.