Background

In the past decade the humanitarian system responded to natural disasters and complex emergencies of increasing severity. To improve efficiency in humanitarian response it is important to strengthen meaningful and inclusive coordination system. The Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) play a major role in responding to humanitarian crises. For decades NGOs have been providing humanitarian relief and development assistance in countries around the world and support the humanitarian response.

The effort of the South based international NGOs is increasingly becoming known due to their field level engagement. These South based NGOs field contributions have been essential. These South based international NGOs play critical roles at their national level. Their work in disseminating humanitarian information to their constituencies, influencing policy and attitude at their own national levels, and contributing to resource mobilization from their own communities and governments, are few other critical functions these NGOs are engaged with.

The importance of bringing together South and North based international NGOs to a structured dialog was discussed during the OIC-OCHA-Donor roundtable meeting in Jeddah. All the stakeholders were of the view that it would be beneficial if a platform for cross-fertilization between these NGOs could be facilitated to discuss ways of improved humanitarian response and access, better coordination at all levels and on multiple issues, and ensure better resource mobilization.

Rational

North based international NGOs are playing a vital role in working with the Donor community and the United Nations. They have been functioning as a dialog partner on issues of humanitarian architecture at the policy level. These NGOs engage with the global humanitarian system with the aim to improve humanitarian response and coordination. They are also working with the multilateral Humanitarian system for better resource mobilization, service delivery, and advocacy.

South based NGOs are increasingly becoming engaged with the multilateral relief system. They are also becoming attentive to the need to coordinate not only at the service delivery level, but also at the regional and global policy, resource mobilization, and advocacy levels. They wish to be more engaged with policy formulation and implementation.

Regionally, this desire to engage is evident in the establishment of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) affiliated NGO forum. Based on an OIC ministerial decision, these 17 South based international NGOs have obtained a consultative status with the OIC. At the global, several of of these South based NGOs have been engaged with OCHA and other humanitarian partners, however, this has not been systematic and interactions between South and North based international NGOs were random.

The need to expand the dialog between the South and North based international NGOs has been flagged by OIC and other humanitarian actors and donors. In addition and in view of the current complex emergencies,
this dialog has been deemed instrumental in strengthening access, improved coordination at all levels, and effective use of resources.

**Aim and objectives of the Cross-fertilization dialog**
This dialog platform is important in view of the current complex emergencies and will support a better and effective humanitarian response. By participating in the event:

- The NGO personnel, Donors and regional organization will be able to better understand the views and organizational culture of each other.
- The participants come together and brainstorm on the ways to enhance meaningful coordination and strengthen humanitarian support to the beneficiaries.

**Expected outcome of the Cross-fertilization Event**

The event should be able to identify a road map to strengthen the relationship between the NGOs from the North and South and enhance communication at field, policy and resource mobilization level.

**Participants**

The maximum of 20-25 participants are to be invited to the event. The prospective organizations are:

- OIC NGOs (OIC consultative status NGOs)
- ICVA
- InterAction
- Care International
- Save the Children UK
- NRC
- MSF
- Oxfam
- Other ECHO affiliated NGOs
- The Association of German NGOs in the field of Development Policy (VENRO)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale – GIZ
- Donors (ECHO, German, UASID)
- OCHA
- ICHAD

**Event Co-leads**

OIC: Ambassador Hesham Youssef, Assistant Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, OIC
OCHA: Mr. Rashid Khalikov, Director, OCHA-Geneva