

Declaration
on
Humanitarian Cooperation in Pandemic Preparedness and Response

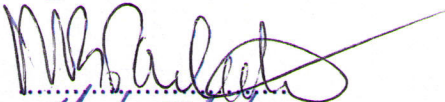

1. A major public health crisis – such as a global influenza pandemic – would have devastating consequences on human health and the world economy. It could well result in high death rates. Economic activity may be severely curtailed, making developing countries especially vulnerable. Millions of people in multiple locations may become vulnerable and require support to protect their food security, health and livelihoods. Since there would be limited scope to mobilize external assets, local capacity would be critical. Governments, local communities, civil society and international organisations need to prepare to address the humanitarian needs that a pandemic will generate. Greater preparedness will lead to reductions in mortality.

2. Acknowledging the threat of avian influenza and influenza pandemic, as well as the important role community-based and civil society organizations play in mitigating its risks and challenges, a group of humanitarian, community-based and civil society organisations agreed to cooperate and coordinate their actions in fighting avian and human influenza in a signed letter of intent that was presented at the International Conference on Avian and Pandemic Influenza in Bamako, Mali, December 2006.

3. Building on this initiative, the under-signed gathered in Geneva on 29 October 2007 to further reinforce their commitment to pandemic preparedness and they:

- Urge the next International Ministerial Conference on Avian and Human Influenza in New Delhi on 4-6 December 2007 to emphasize the importance of preparing for the humanitarian consequences of an influenza pandemic as well as the need to control the virus at its animal source worldwide
- Are committed, within the scope of their mandate, capacity, expertise and resources, to:
 - get ready to respond to the consequences on vulnerable populations of an influenza pandemic and, by extension, other global health threats, including by strengthening existing emergency systems
 - work together with national and local partners, and with governments to meet humanitarian needs during a pandemic
 - conduct a joint inter-agency simulation exercise aimed at testing preparedness
 - identify priority countries for support
 - finalise complementary pandemic preparedness and response plans
 - set up a technical group to (a) prepare a joint simulation exercise (b) monitor progress on this declaration; and (c) organize a follow-up meeting to report to the signatories.

Signed in Geneva, 29 October 2007

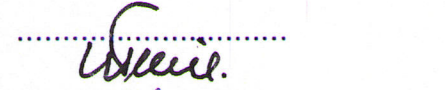

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Academy for Educational Development

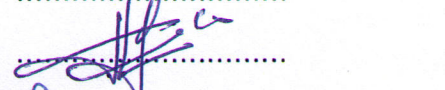
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CARE International

CORE Group (*in absentia*)

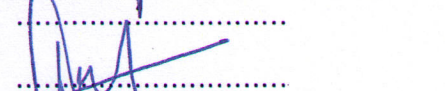
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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

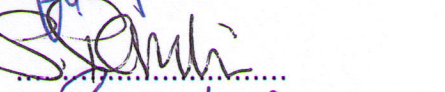
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InterAction (*in absentia*)

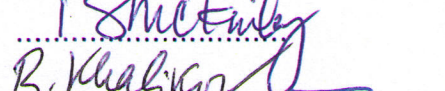
International Civil Aviation Organization

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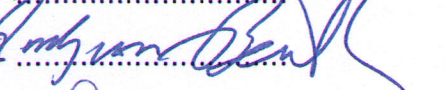
International Committee of the Red Cross

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International Council of Voluntary Agencies

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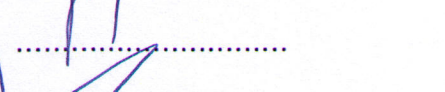
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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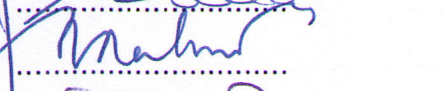
International Medical Corps

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International Organization for Migration

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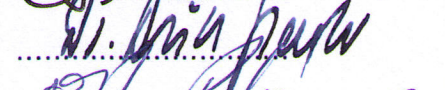
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

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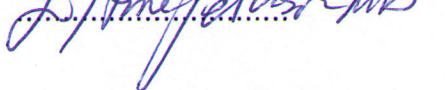
Save the Children

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Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response

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UNICEF

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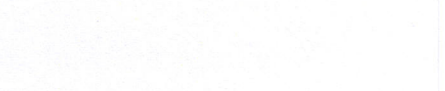
United Nations Development Programme

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United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

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United Nations System Influenza Coordination

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World Food Programme

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World Organization for Animal Health

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World Tourism Organization

World Vision International