ITU FRAMEWORK FOR COOPERATION IN EMERGENCIES

1.   Situation Analysis

In 2002 ITU launched a project that focuses on providing satellite based assistance to countries in the aftermath of disasters. The project has been very successful in helping countries in the aftermath of disasters. The first deployment was in January 2005 in

response to the 2004 December South-East Asian earthquake and tsunami. Since then, deployments have been carried out in almost all the regions of the world. This includes major disasters such as the one in Pakistan in 2005 following the Kashmir earthquake (also known as the South Asia earthquake or Pakistan earthquake). Assistance to Myanmar following a devastating Cyclone Nargis in 2008, China in the aftermath of Sichuan Earthquake in 2008, Indonesia after a strong earthquake and tsunami in 2009, Haiti in 2010 after devastating earthquake, Chile in 2010 in the aftermath of a 8.8 earthquake, Pakistan in 2010 after severe floods, and Japan following a major earthquake of magnitude 9.0 and tsunami.

There is a lot that ITU can do in helping countries to more effectively respond to disasters as it fulfills its mandate:

- Outlined in Article 40 of the ITU Constitution that addresses, "Priority of Telecommunications Concerning Safety of Life".

As a specialized agency of the United Nations and as an executing agency for implementing projects under the United Nations development system or other funding arrangements.

2.   Definition of the ITU Framework for Cooperation in Emergencies (IFCE)

The IFCE is a framework designed by ITU to primarily deliver and deploy telecommunications/information and communications resources to countries, humanitarian actors, and victims of disasters in a timely manner whenever and wherever disasters may occur through the use of transportable, easy to deploy, and reliable systems that are non-exclusive. Principally, the IFCE extends its services to

all phases of disaster management thus covering the periods before, during, and after disasters.

3. Goals of the ITU Framework for Cooperation in Emergencies

- To position the organization by 2010 as the leader in providing telecommunications/ICT services and applications for disaster mitigation during all phases of disaster management i.e. disaster prevention, disaster preparedness, disaster response/relief, and telecommunications network rehabilitation/reconstruction.
- To provide telecommunications/ICT to Member States and other entities and stakeholders involved or affected by disasters in a fair and neutral manner.
- To tap resources from its Sector Members and non-sector members to serve as inputs to the IFCE.
- To be at the site of a natural disaster within the first 48 hours.

4. Target Beneficiaries

The IFCE seeks to provide assistance to affected Member States (rescue workers, agencies involved in disaster management), local communities who may wish to contact or may have to be contacted by their authorities or loved ones), UN Agencies, and NGOs.
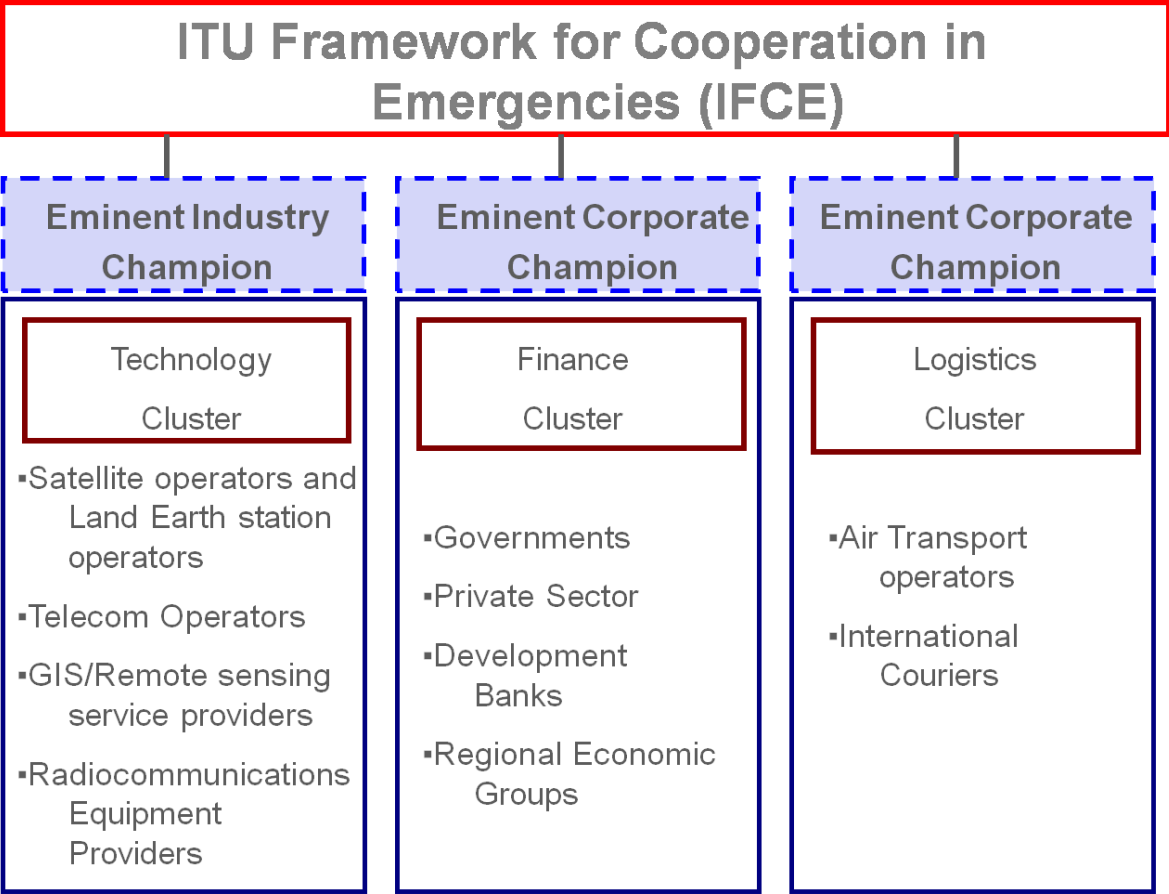
5. Nature of the International Framework for Cooperation in Emergencies

The IFCE as an ITU strategic initiative has three basic clusters/pillars:

- **Technology Cluster**: This consists of Satellite Operators and Land Earth Station Operators, Telecommunications Operators especially Mobile Service Providers, Geographical Information System (GIS), Remote Sensing Organizations. Providers for the assimilation and dissemination of pre-planned, historical and real-time information before, during and after disasters. This is a critical element especially for providers of telecommunications/ICT services and applications who may want to determine the vulnerability of telecoms networks (before disasters

and create basic 'what-if' scenario analyses), and damage to the network (in the aftermath of disasters). This will include the Internet based GIS that, thanks to the integration of the GIS and the Internet technology can be used to significantly increase the usage and accessibility of the spatial data, which is a key requirement before, during and after any disaster. The approach allows several agencies operating on different technology platforms and using different communication channels to use the Internet to collaborate while managing the natural disasters like cyclones, earthquakes, volcanoes, etc.

- **Finance Cluster**: This focuses on potential sources of finance who may contribute towards the creation of a stand-by fund that will be used when disasters strike. These include Governments, Development banks, Private Sector, United Nations Organizations, Regional Economic Groups etc.

- **Logistics Cluster**: This constitutes providers of other support services such as transportation of telecommunications/ICT equipment to and from sites of disasters. This includes Air Transport Operators, International Couriers

ITU Framework for Cooperation in Emergencies (IFCE)

Eminent Industry Champion	Eminent Corporate Champion	Eminent Corporate Champion
Technology Cluster	**Finance Cluster**	**Logistics Cluster**
▪Satellite operators and Land Earth station operators ▪Telecom Operators ▪GIS/Remote sensing service providers ▪Radiocommunications Equipment Providers	▪Governments ▪Private Sector ▪Development Banks ▪Regional Economic Groups	▪Air Transport operators ▪International Couriers

6.   Budget Priorities

Contributions will be cluster based. The technology cluster will in most cases provide in-kind contribution consisting of equipment, and space segments/ air-time. The finance cluster will seek to attract funding from other institutions to boost the current funds under Project 7GLO03043 set up for emergency telecommunications (mainly disaster response and relief). The logistics cluster will most likely provide in-kind contribution to the IFCE by providing either free transportation of equipment or subsidized air freighting.