



**Resolution on
Linking Relief Rehabilitation & Development (LRRD)
First annual General Assembly of VOICE asbl
Brussels May 15 – 16, 2002**

NOTING that humanitarian aid represents in many areas of the world one of the few available sources of survival for entire sectors of societies and EMPHASISING that NGOs continue to offer the most cost effective way of providing it

UNDERLINING that NGOs bring an essential added value in emergency contexts by their commitment to LRRD, and by their unique ability to do so on the basis of their deep knowledge of local contexts and local interlocutors, associations and institutions

UNDERLINING also that a significant number of “best practices” exist as indicated in the publication “Linking Relief to Rehabilitation and Development – Ideas and Suggestions from European NGOs” edited by VOICE and CISP in November 2001

BELIEVING that an LRRD approach should represent one of the more significant ingredients of the EU Aid policy in third countries and REAFFIRMING the commitment of the NGO community to contribute substantively, in close liaison with the European Institutions both in Brussels and in third countries, to the incorporation of an LRRD approach in the framework of comprehensive medium and long term country strategies

WELCOMING AND AGREEING with the Resolution unanimously adopted by the European Parliament Committee on Development and Co-operation in its session of December 12, 2001, particularly when it stresses that “... EU relief efforts should reinforce development, or at least not undermine it, and, vice-versa, development efforts should prepare people and countries to better withstand disasters and emergencies; considers it necessary, as regards the above, also to guarantee that aid actually reaches the target group for which it is intended...”

DEEPLY CONCERNED by the failure of the April 2001 European Commission “Communication on Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD)” to focus on effective operational and financial instruments for its implementation, the absence of which were expressed in

the already mentioned European Parliament Resolution, when it affirms – inter alia – that “... the transition between the different phases has often not functioned satisfactorily, particularly in the phase between relief and rehabilitation...”

1. CALLS UPON all VOICE members to make every possible effort to consolidate a LRRD approach in their own aid programs and, at the same time, to exchange between themselves and with the European Commission services the experiences, the results and the evaluations related to the “linking issue/Grey Zone”.

2. URGES THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
 - a) To reaffirm their commitment to a LRRD approach as an integral element and fundamental asset of the EU’s overall Aid policies

 - a) To maintain and strengthen a coherent approach between humanitarian, development, and other policies, particularly involving those new developing instruments available to the European Union

 - c) To ensure a timely and effective implementation of the recommendations and suggestions contained in the Resolution unanimously adopted by the Committee on Development and Co-operation of the European parliament in its session of December 12, 2001

 - d) To increase funding levels for humanitarian aid within the Budget and to include specific Budget Lines for Rehabilitation in order to make it possible a timely and effective transition from relief to rehabilitation and to development programmes on the basis of the actual situations existing in crisis and post-crisis areas

 - e) To recognise the need for, and engage in, a continuous and effective dialogue between the EU Institutions and NGOs with regard to the definition and implementation of country strategy papers

3. URGES THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
 - c) To maintain constant and substantive dialogue with NGOs with regard to its humanitarian and rehabilitation policy, and to conclude a new Framework Partnership Agreement as soon as possible, reflecting the added value NGOs can bring to a LRRD approach

- d) To strengthen the liaison between ECHO and other Commission services by developing financial instruments supported by appropriate procedures to allow a sustained momentum from crisis to post-crisis
 - e) To avail fully of the LRRD approach to consolidate a strategic coherency between ECHO and other Commission services
 - f) To avail fully of the LRRD approach to strengthen the coherency between itself and newly developing foreign policy mechanisms available to the European Union and its Member States
 - g) To incorporate explicitly the LRRD concept in the annual reporting by the Commission services, in particular DG External Relations, EuropeAid, DG Development and ECHO, to the Member States in the Council
4. INVITES THE DIRECTOR, under the general supervision of the SCHA, to take all necessary action to ensure the full implementation of this resolution and to submit a report to the next Session of the Forum.