



UN-SPIDER

Network

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 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.

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.

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 space-based technology solutions in support of disaster management.

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

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