



Green Cross marks International Day for Disaster Reduction with call for countries to step up capacities to prevent emergencies

12 October 2011/Geneva: Many countries can't adequately cope with natural disasters and, with the threat of such crises increasing, societies must improve their capacities to respond to such emergencies, according to Green Cross International as it marks tomorrow's United Nations International Day for Disaster Reduction.

"Population growth, increased urbanization, a widening divide between countries with youthful and aging populations and a rapidly growing middle class are reshaping not only our society, but nature as well," says Alexander Likhotal, President of Green Cross International.

"If you map this against the backdrop of the rising incidence of natural disasters it becomes clear that without resolute counteraction, environmental disasters will overstretch many societies' adaptive capacities in the coming decades."

The International Day for Disaster Reduction falls on 13 October and is organized by the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. This year's day is focusing on the role youth can play in reducing the threat of emergencies with the theme: "[Step Up For Disaster Risk Reduction](#)."

Green Cross International was founded by Mikhail Gorbachev in 1993 and is an independent non-profit and nongovernmental organization working to address the inter-connected global challenges of security, poverty eradication and environmental degradation through a combination of high-level advocacy and local projects. GCI is headquartered in Geneva and has a growing network of national organisations in over 30 countries.

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