

# **SWVR 2018** *Policy Challenges*

## Overview

The State of the World's Volunteerism Report (SWVR) 2018 Policy Challenges are an opportunity for diverse groups of people to come together to create policy recommendations - some of which will be showcased in the final report.

Hosting a SWVR 2018 Policy Challenges is an opportunity to review findings from the SWVR field research and present solutions that could be taken up by UN Member States (national and/or local government level), civil society, and UN agencies and programmes as part of resilience-building efforts.

## Concept

The State of the World's Volunteerism Report (SWVR) looks at the distinctive role of volunteerism in strengthening community resilience, and the enabling environment that can help maximise the contribution of volunteers around the world to risk reduction efforts.

As part of the report development process, qualitative field research was carried out in 15 communities globally to understand what communities saw as the distinctive contribution of volunteerism to resilience, and the environmental factors that influenced the impact of volunteer work.

Based on the meta-analysis - emerging findings from that field research across the 15 communities - the SWVR project is looking to bring in different groups of people to make policy suggestions, some of which may be incorporated into the final report.

You might be a group of volunteers, tech developers, school students, local government officials or female parliamentarians, able to give new perspectives on the actions that should be taken across the report's target groups: UN Member States, UN Agencies and Civil Society organizations.

We would like to encourage inputs from all groups that are under-represented in decision-making processes relating to risk reduction and resilience.

## Format of the Policy Challenge

The format of the Challenge is up to you, since you should adapt to what would be most interesting and accessible for your participants. We highly recommend doing something other than a formal meeting - this could be a visit to a local place that inspires your group, a walk and talk in the neighbourhood, a group skype conversation, a brown bag discussion at work or any other forum that will get people in a brainstorming mood. What we need at the end is a short input - a written or video report, a diagram or something, which could be uploaded onto this website to give others a chance to also interact and share suggestions. You can be as creative as you like. However please make sure that your solutions and actions are specific enough for us to understand and consider them.

## Checklist for Organizing a Policy Challenge

### Tell us about your idea:

1. Coordinate with the State of the World's Volunteerism Team via email [unv.swvr@unv.org](mailto:unv.swvr@unv.org) to express interest in organizing a Policy Challenge. The email must include the following information:

- Name of the organization/group
- Prospective date and location
- Format of the event/discussion
- Overview of suggested participants
- Prospective moderator/facilitator/focal point contact details

2. If possible provide a list of invitees, professional designation and contact information. Ideally each Challenge should have no more than 10 participants to allow depth of conversation.

3. Once your event is accepted by the SWVR team you will receive (i) a presentation of emerging findings (handout format – will be available in English, French or Spanish) (ii) a reporting format and (iii) tips and suggestions for your event.

4. Consider and arrange any logistical needs at the venue or location such as refreshments, handouts, umbrellas, name badges etc depending on the format of your event.

### At least one week before the event:

1. Make sure that you have sent an invite to participants that includes the draft SWVR findings for them to consider in advance.

2. Send the SWVR team a high-resolution version of your organization's logo and social media accounts/handles, as well as social media handles of any partner/participating organizations.

3. Send the SWVR team the final materials for your event to be uploaded to the website (confirm final details and list of participants).

4. If you want to, promote your event using social media. Use the hashtags #SWVR2018 and #resilientcommunities

5. Assign roles for i) taking photos ii) making the report or video iii) greeting participants iv) tweeting suggestions on social media v) taking photos of the event.

### **One day before the event:**

1. Publish a reminder post if you are promoting on social media.
2. Send a reminder email about the event to registrants.
3. Prepare/print out a sign-in sheet with the names of the registrants (we will ask you to scan and send this to us for our documentation. This data will be confidential and we will not share names of participants publicly).

### **On the day of the event:**

1. Registration/sign-up sheet
2. Don't forget the materials for distribution e.g. colour handouts.
3. Publish an "about to start" post on your social media channels.

### **During the event:**

1. Live report on your social media channels (quotes, talking points etc.)
2. Share/repost content from others about the event if appropriate
3. Livestream during the event. If connection is disrupted or livestreaming is not possible, continue recording the event offline.
4. Fill out the press release template.
5. Photo documentation of the event.

### **After the event:**

Send the following to the SWVR team:

- Completed event report, diagram, video or audio material
- Scan or digital copy of sign-in sheet
- Video file of event if video documentation was done offline
- Photos from event (captioned with names of key figures where applicable and name of photographer)
- A video summary or podcast possibly integrating discussion points and participants' questions and feedback and the results of the policy challenge. This may be used to prepare a Policy Challenge toolkit.