



**JUSTICE
RAPID
RESPONSE**

2013

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**ANNUAL REPORT
2013**

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD



Dear Colleagues,

The impressive growth witnessed this year by JRR both in the number of deployments and in the volume of inquiries for expertise, as well as the closer collaboration with the International Criminal Court, clearly demonstrates the facility's relevance and value-added to the international community's efforts to end impunity for serious crimes of international concern.

I am excited by the pilot launched in November aimed at developing the systems and tools that will enable JRR to deploy experts directly to States willing to conduct investigations of acts that constitute crimes under international law but requiring some expert assistance to do so. This will position JRR to contribute in a very real way to the implementation of the Rome Statute's complementarity principle.

It is important to underscore that the engagement and support of States are instrumental to JRR's success. I am particularly thankful for the commitment demonstrated by the Executive Board to advancing JRR's objectives, and welcome The Netherlands who joined the Board this year. Thirteen States have nominated experts to JRR's training courses for the first time this year. This, along with the expansion of areas of expertise on the roster, further enhances the geographic diversity of JRR's roster - one of its core features - and strengthens JRR's ability to respond effectively to requests for investigative assistance. The cooperation which JRR has continued to develop with the United Nations, in particular with UN Women on investigation of sexual and gender-based violence, as well as multilateral and civil society stakeholders is also critical to its continued effectiveness in assisting States and the international community in making investigative expertise available when and where it is needed.

States' participation in JRR is made easy thanks to its flexible structure which allows them to benefit from its different activities without having to take on obligations or commitments. Our communication in future will more clearly emphasize that being part of the intergovernmental forum of States and stakeholder organizations that participate in JRR's activities is distinct from the JRR facility, the mechanism which trains, rosters and deploys experts. To this end, the JRR Executive Board decided, at its November 2013 meeting, to henceforth refer to JRR's participating States and organizations, previously known as JRR's Group of Participants, as the *Intergovernmental Forum for Justice Rapid Response*. Thank you for your continuing support and commitment.

Yours Sincerely,

H.E. MS MIRJAM BLAAK SOW

CHAIR OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Colleagues,

I am proud of the results JRR was able to accomplish in 2013, thanks to its agility, flexibility, sustained outreach and cost-effective operations, achieved through the hard work, dedication and innovation of the JRR Secretariat team and with the support of Executive Board members. Notably, the number of deployments facilitated more than doubled, which translated into more experts deployed in 2013 than in all previous years combined. We now count the International Criminal Court among the entities regularly requesting expertise from JRR, and have demonstrated with a deployment to the State of Mali that JRR can be used as a multilateral and quickly available resource by States wishing to assist another State in their effort to investigate international crimes.

The sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) investigations special roster developed in partnership with UN Women and our training partner, the Institute for International Criminal Investigations (IICI) has continued to grow with trainings in Pretoria and Doha. The special roster now boasts Arabic speaking experts and interpreters. Including interpreters is an innovation that will help ensure this important component becomes fully integrated into international investigations, thus improving the coherence of investigation teams. The high demand for the few training positions available are the best indication of the interest in and need for this service.

Thanks to the success of our efforts in the first four years of operation to build the JRR roster, which has now reached an optimal level, JRR is now able to shift its focus to maintaining the roster to ensure it contains the breadth and depth of expertise needed by the international community, and up-to-date profiles of experts. By reducing the number of training courses, JRR will be able to invest more resources in responding to the increasing demand for investigative expertise and explore new ways to meet the needs of the international community for investigative expertise. The pilot now underway to develop the methods and tools needed to effectively assist States in meeting their primary obligations under international law to investigate international crimes under their jurisdiction is one such example.

Operationally, I am pleased to report that JRR's first annual audit has returned a clean bill of health. Our efforts to strengthen our financial management systems will help ensure this continues. Switzerland and Canada continue to second two staff members and thanks to the secondment of an officer by the Netherlands, JRR now has a presence in The Hague, in addition to the Geneva Secretariat and the liaison office in New York. Another short-term secondment by the United States and funding from Denmark and Finland have enabled us to make technical improvements, gaining efficiency in both roster management and deployment facilitation. The Secretariat is working toward leveraging these positive results to maintain

and further strengthen JRR's ability to respond effectively to requests for rapid investigative expertise and looks forward to your support in this regard.

ANDRAS VAMOS-GOLDMAN

JRR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ABOUT JRR

JRR is an innovative initiative created by States to improve the ability of the international community to end impunity for genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and serious human rights violations, by providing a flexible means to access relevant, highly specialized investigative expertise to rapidly assist with international or nationally-led fact-finding, inquiries and investigations into mass atrocity crimes.

JRR achieves this by managing a geographically diverse and gender balanced roster of experts who have completed specialized training in the conduct of international investigations. With over 80 nationalities represented on its roster, with 40% of experts from the global South and half of them women, JRR is uniquely positioned to assist States and institutions with appropriate jurisdiction to provide experts who possess the experience, cross-cultural effectiveness, and language skills required to meet the needs of the international community.

JRR is an example of many States, from every region of the world having a common goal of supporting the international justice system.

H.E. MR FREDERIC RUHINDI
UGANDAN STATE MINISTER
FOR JUSTICE AND
CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

JRR is proud of the results it has achieved over the past year. This section highlights some of the key developments in 2013.

DEPLOYMENTS

The number of inquiries to JRR for investigative assistance has grown further this year, demonstrating the need for the type of expertise provided by JRR. Nearly half of the 25 inquiries received met JRR's deployment criteria, which require that the mission be conducted in accordance with international law, free

of political motivation, be carried out in safe and secure conditions for the experts and those victims and witnesses they are expected to encounter, and necessitate a rapid response. This led to the deployment of a total of 21 experts in 12 separate missions in 2013.

This represents a **140% increase** in the number of deployments over 2012, and more experts were deployed in 2013 than in the previous three years combined. JRR experts contributed to the following investigations, fact-finding missions or commissions of inquiry:

Investigation / fact-finding / inquiry	Entity that requested JRR expertise	Number and type of expertise deployed
Commission of Inquiry on Syria	UN Women Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	Three separate deployments of SGBV investigators / experts One Arabic speaking forensic pathologist
Support to the UN Security Council Resolution 1888 Team of Experts in addressing sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)	Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) on Sexual Violence in Conflict	One SGBV investigator/ expert
ICC Prosecutor v. Bosco Ntaganda (Democratic Republic of Congo)	International Criminal Court	Two investigators and one SGBV investigator / expert
Commission of Inquiry on North Korea	UN Women	One SGBV investigator/ expert
International Criminal Court – Office of the Prosecutor	International Criminal Court – Office of the Prosecutor	Two legal officers to provide surge capacity
UN Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA)	UN Women	One SGBV investigator / expert
National investigation into extra-judicial killings	Government of Mali	Five forensic experts and one security expert
Two confidential deployments	International institutions	Two SGBV investigators/experts and one investigator

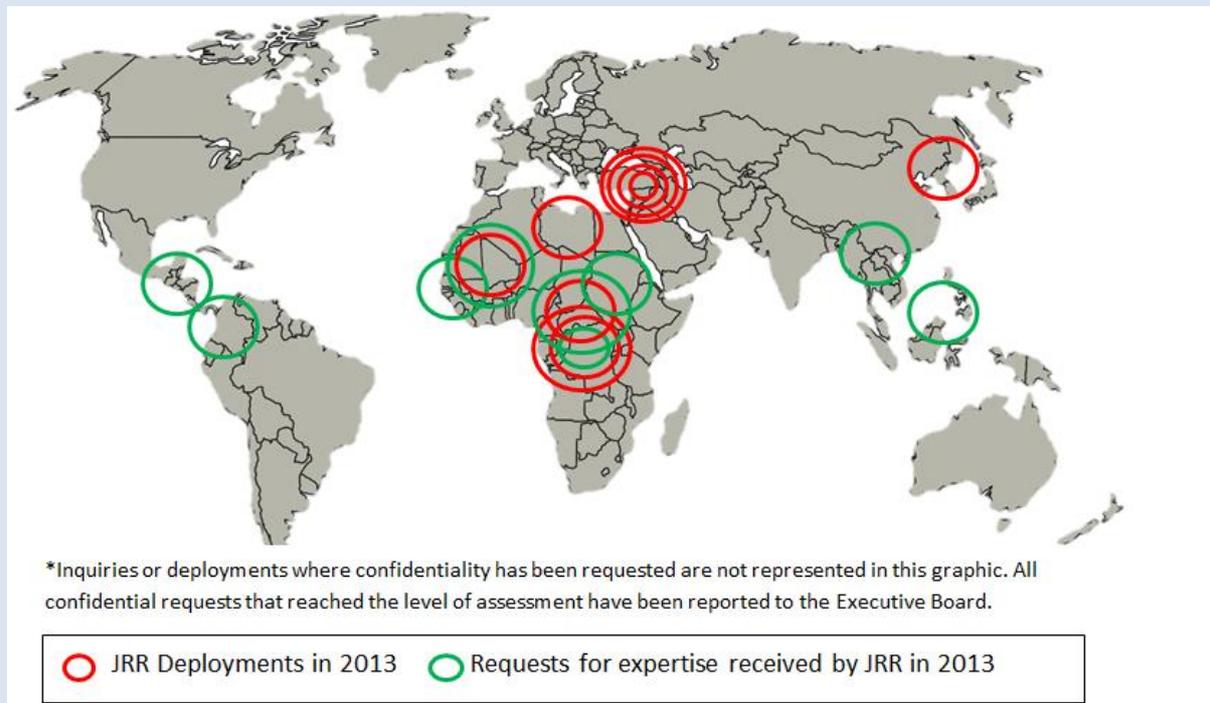
Beyond the high caliber of the experts and the rapid effectiveness of the facilitation carried out by JRR, it must be underscored that the successful completion of deployments requires that the designated experts be able to

secure a temporary release from their employers. To this end, JRR wishes to thank the various organizations that employ the experts who were deployed this year, including the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, national government institutions, and universities, for their highly valued collaboration.

In order to address situations where expertise is needed to assist with investigations but funds are not readily available to cover the applicable costs (e.g. expert’s salary, daily allowances, insurance), JRR has been exploring the option of pass-through funding for deployments. We are pleased to report a first such contribution from Canada to fund the deployment of SGBV investigators under our partnership with UN Women, which will enable up to eight deployments to take place.

The map below shows the distribution of the various deployments facilitated and inquiries received for 2013.

MAP OF 2013 JRR DEPLOYMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR EXPERTISE



ROSTER MANAGEMENT

I never realised how rapid it really was, as the name Justice Rapid Response suggests, it was indeed that. Within a week of my deployment I was in the field working.

HOLO MAKWAIA
JRR ROSTER EXPERT

Over 350 specially trained, active duty, deployable experts from all regions of the world, half of them female, and 40% from developing countries, were on the roster at the end of 2013, making JRR uniquely equipped to rapidly identify and make available for deployment experts with the specific expertise, language profile and regional experience sought by institutions or States requesting investigative assistance.

With the aim of further enhancing the depth, breadth and quality of the JRR roster, while keeping it at a manageable size, JRR reviewed and strengthened its selection process for training courses, its roster maintenance and annual review policy, as well as its roster certification process in 2013.

Several technical improvements were also implemented to improve the functionality and efficiency of roster management and deployment facilitation.

ADDRESSING SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE



Participants at SGBV Training Course in Pretoria, South Africa

JRR's partnership with UN Women and the Institute for International Criminal Investigations (IICI) to build a pool of rapidly deployable professionals with specific expertise in investigating sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), established in 2012, gained significant momentum in 2013 and achieved concrete results. In this regard, training **courses on sexual and gender based violence (SGBV)** were offered in

Pretoria, South Africa (27 Jan. – 1 Feb. 2013) and Doha, Qatar (21-29 Sept. 2013). These courses have enabled the certification of 47 experts, bringing the pool of SGBV expertise available on the special SGBV roster to 74. **Nine out of the twenty-one experts deployed in 2013 were SGBV experts.**

The SGBV training in Qatar was a pilot for incorporating interpreters in the training alongside professionals such as investigators, legal experts, witness protection specialists, and forensic doctors. It has validated the concept that for investigators and interpreters to form a cohesive, effective working unit in an international investigation, they each need to better understand each other's work and challenges. This not only increases effectiveness but also decreases the risk of causing further harm to victims and witnesses.



Doha SGBV Course opening, with the Canadian Ambassador to Qatar, the Swiss Deputy Head of Mission, the Head of International Relations of the Public Prosecution, the Director of the Doha Rule of Law and Anticorruption Centre and representatives of UN Women and JRR.

The Qatar training also provided a unique opportunity to enhance the availability of Arabic language skills on the roster. As a result of this training, an additional 14 Arabic speakers were certified to the roster, for a total of 25 with this language profile.

TRAINING

It is imperative that fact finding missions have a consistency of approach in their workings and the training conducted by JRR, together with the rostering of the appropriate experts, will bring this consistency which is so badly needed.

BOB REID
CHIEF OF OPERATIONS,
OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR,
ICTY

JRR delivers all training courses in collaboration with its exclusive training partner, the Institute for International Criminal Investigations (IICI). In addition to the SGBV trainings described above, the following six courses were held in 2013:

- A **two-week international investigations course was offered in Botswana** to 28 law enforcement officers from Botswana, Kenya, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Rwanda and Uganda (June 2013).
- In response to a need identified by the International Criminal Court (ICC) Office of the

Registrar, **three courses on communications and interviewing skills were offered in The Hague to ICC Registry Staff**, and to staff of the Office of Public Counsel for Victims, the Office of Public Counsel for Defense, the

Victims and Witnesses Unit, the Victims Participation and Reparations Section, as well as the Office of the Prosecutor. These courses addressed areas such as development of structured interview protocols for victims of gender crimes, modalities for working with vulnerable populations, and interview skills aimed at minimizing trauma of victims and witnesses. A total of 41 staff will have benefitted from this training (August and November 2013).

- Two certification courses to 40 **staff of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY)**. With the ICTY winding down its work, these courses represent yet another excellent opportunity to add to the roster a number of professionals with extensive international criminal justice expertise and experience, and thus make them available to assist with future investigations (November 2013).

SUPPORTING STATE-LED INVESTIGATIONS

In the past, requests for technical investigative expertise have originated mainly from international institutions with mandates to conduct commissions of inquiry, fact-finding missions or investigations. However, an increasing number of States where genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity or serious human rights violations may have occurred are seeking to exercise their responsibility under international law to investigate and prosecute such crimes. In order to help make the Rome Statute's complementarity principle work more effectively, JRR has developed a pilot initiative to explore how to leverage its existing mechanism and capacity in deploying expertise to assist States in such situations. Launched in November 2013, with the support of The Netherlands, the pilot will involve designing the methodology and tools to manage expert deployments directly to States requesting assistance, identifying a pilot country, and planning and conducting an investigative assistance mission to that country.

OUTREACH

Strategic and sustained outreach efforts have been instrumental to JRR's ability to identify and pursue opportunities to assist with international investigations which have resulted in requests for investigative assistance. Specifically, efforts undertaken in this area have served to increase awareness among government organizations and other stakeholders who could benefit from using JRR's services, pursue collaboration with key partners, and advance resource

mobilization objectives. A series of briefings were organized in The Hague (October 3rd), New York (October 24th) and Geneva (November 5th) to showcase the added value of the JRR facility in ending impunity for international crimes and serious human rights violations, thus helping to ensure that justice contributes to lasting peace. Participation of requesting entities as well as experts previously deployed through JRR who shared their own perspectives on the JRR facility served to enhance the effectiveness of the briefings.

Outreach to potential users and partners of JRR also included the European Union, the Commonwealth, the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie and various parts of the UN system. A number of States, in interventions delivered in intergovernmental debates such as this past year's UN Security

In our view, JRR, with its minimal infrastructure, is a cost-efficient way of strengthening international criminal justice.

H.E. MR JANNE TAALAS
AMBASSADOR, DEPUTY
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE,
PERMANENT MISSION OF
FINLAND TO THE UNITED
NATIONS IN NEW YORK

Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security (October 2013) and the ICC's Assembly of States Parties (November 2013), included references to JRR as a tool for strengthening accountability for serious violations of human rights and international crimes, demonstrating the impact of JRR's outreach efforts. Likewise, the large number of nominations for JRR's various training courses this year can be attributed to these extensive outreach efforts.

The year has also seen growing participation in JRR activities, with seventy-three States and thirty organizations currently among those participating¹. Participation requires the designation of an official focal point and can include, inter alia, nominating professionals to a training course, requesting the deployment of an expert, and providing in-kind financial contributions. In 2013, 13 States nominated experts to our trainings for the first time.

A new website was also launched this year as part of efforts to enhance external communications.

¹ Organizations can participate in most of JRR's activities, but only States are eligible to sit on the Executive Board.

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

Indicator	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
Number of deployments	1	2	6	5	12	26
Number of experts deployed	1	7	6	5	21	40
Number of SGBV experts deployed	N/A	1	2	3	9	15
Number of inquiries received	1	8	14	18	25	66
Number of experts on roster	34	81	143	332	355	355
Number of experts on the SGBV special roster ²	N/A	N/A	N/A	20	74	74
Portion of roster from global South	41%	42%	36%	38%	40%	40%
Gender balance (% of women on roster)	41%	42%	36%	42%	49%	49%
Number of languages spoken ³	19	32	44	74	69	69
Number of nationalities on roster	18	33	56	87	83	83
Number of training courses delivered	2	3	2	8	8	23
Number of experts trained	34	47	54	190	156	481

SECRETARIAT

The JRR Secretariat carries out the work of the JRR facility. With respect to the Secretariat's operations, several noteworthy developments deserve mention:

- A liaison office was opened in The Hague.
- A new accounting system (Cresus) was implemented as JRR completed its first external audit and received a clean bill of health.

² The SGBV special roster became operational with the first SGBV training course, held in The Hague in September 2012.

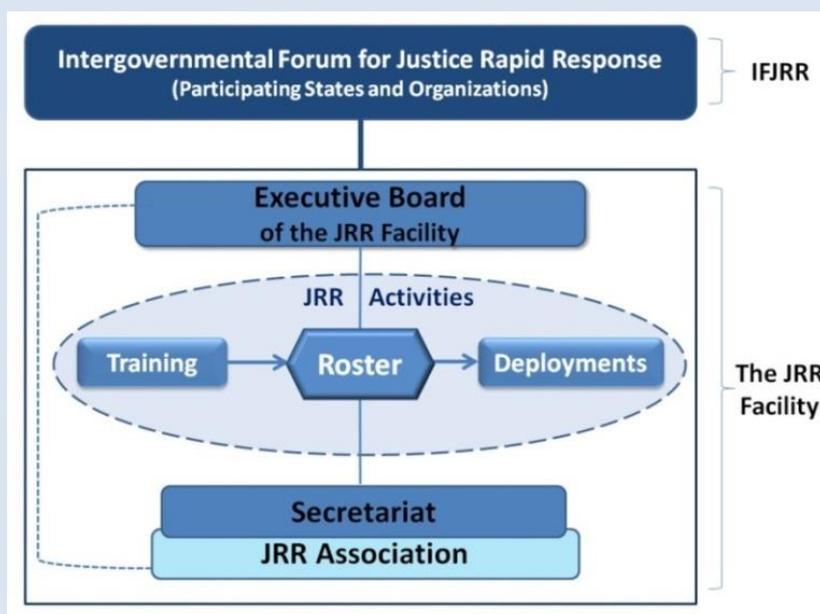
³ Includes only fluent speakers.

- A part-time financial controller was hired, thereby enhancing the Secretariat’s capacity to maintain accurate and timely tracking and reporting of expenditures.
- Standard Operating Procedures were developed for all aspects of JRR’s operational, financial and administrative procedures.

Measures were put in place to enhance roster management efficiency and accuracy, including regular review and updating of details to ensure that the roster lists as active only experts who are currently considered rapidly deployable.

GOVERNANCE

Thanks to JRR’s flexible structure, States and interested organizations can easily participate in and benefit from its different activities without having to take on obligations or commitments.



Because its structure is innovative, it is not always clearly understood that the States and organizations that participate in JRR’s activities are distinct from the JRR facility itself. It is the latter that is the mechanism which trains, rosters and deploys experts

and this work is carried out by the JRR Secretariat.

In order to more clearly communicate this distinction to stakeholders, the Executive Board decided at its November 2013 meeting to introduce the name *Intergovernmental Forum for Justice Rapid Response* to describe the group of States and organizations participating in JRR’s activities (previous referred to as “Group of Participants”). The JRR facility is established as an international association under Swiss law and is governed by an Executive Board comprised of nine States which provides strategic guidance and oversight for its activities.

LOOKING FORWARD

In 2014, JRR's priorities will focus on:

- Making further improvements to the roster with a view to enhancing the depth and breadth of the expertise JRR has available for rapid deployment, while keeping it at a practical, manageable size.
- Remain innovative including through increased direct-to-State deployments and by incorporating new areas of investigation in its training.
- Increasing awareness of JRR among potential users of the roster and supporters of the organization through strategic outreach efforts.
- Strengthening long-term financial sustainability for the organization.
- Establishing a group of Eminent Advisors.

Within the framework of the three-year plan, the specific objectives for 2014 include:

- Further expand the SGBV special roster in partnership with UN Women and the IICI. This will be done through the deployment of experts from the special SGBV roster as well as an SGBV training course in Bogota, Colombia, 19 – 25 January 2014, followed by a course in Francophone West Africa in summer-fall of 2014.
- Implement the pilot aimed at developing the tools and methodology to provide technical investigative assistance and mentoring directly to States wishing to undertake their own investigations into international crimes that may have been committed under their jurisdiction (complementarity).
- Maintain efforts to identify resources to support unfunded deployments, working in partnership with entities requesting expertise.
- Further develop results measurement tools to more effectively assess the impact of JRR's deployments.
- Offer a continuation of our courses on integrating forensic expertise in international investigations at the 20th Triennial Congress of the International Association of Forensic Sciences in Seoul, Republic of Korea in October, 2014.
- Offer another full, two-week international investigations course.
- Initiate efforts to develop a course module on financial asset recovery, with a view to this module becoming an integral part of the international investigations training.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

EXECUTIVE BOARD CHAIR:

Uganda

H.E. Ms Mirjam Blaak Sow

Ambassador, Head of Mission, Embassy of the Republic of Uganda to the Kingdoms of Belgium & The Netherlands and The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

EXECUTIVE BOARD VICE-CHAIR:

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Daniel Fasnacht

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EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS:

Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Finland, Netherlands, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Switzerland (Vice-Chair), Uganda (Chair)

CONTRIBUTORS

Special thanks to supporters who have provided financial or in-kind contributions to JRR in 2013:

Canada	The Netherlands
Colombia	Qatar
Denmark	Sweden
Finland	Switzerland
Liechtenstein	United States
Luxembourg	UN Women

IFJRR PARTICIPATING STATES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Afghanistan	Ghana	Peru
Argentina	Greece	Portugal
Australia	Hungary	Qatar
Austria	India	Republic of Korea
Belgium	Indonesia	Romania
Brazil	Italy	Samoa
Canada	Japan	Sierra Leone
China	Jordan	Singapore
Colombia	Kenya	Slovakia
Costa Rica	Latvia	Slovenia
Côte d'Ivoire	Liberia	South Africa
Croatia	Liechtenstein	Spain
Czech Republic	Luxemburg	Sri Lanka
Democratic Republic of Congo	Malaysia	Sweden
Denmark	Mexico	Switzerland
Ecuador	Monaco	Timor-Leste
Egypt	Morocco	Trinidad and Tobago
El Salvador	Mozambique	Turkey
Estonia	Namibia	Uganda
Fiji	Netherlands	United Arab Emirates
Finland	New Zealand	United Kingdom
France	Nigeria	United States of America
Germany	Norway	
	Oman	

States that participate in JRR's activities and appoint an official focal point are considered Participating States. Thirteen States have participated in JRR's activities for the first time in 2013. The Secretariat is currently requesting these States to identify official focal points.

ORGANIZATIONS

Organizations that have expertise relevant for the JRR roster, and are willing to have experts trained and available for deployment, can also participate in JRR's activities and nominate a focal point, though they cannot be members of the Executive Board. Thirty organizations currently have experts on JRR's roster.

SECRETARIAT STAFF

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