

## Board sets new focus for the Microinsurance Network

For more than 10 years, the Microinsurance Network and its members have worked on highlighting the importance of insurance for sustainable development. The microinsurance sector has been evolving rapidly and so too has the Network. Now, the newly appointed Board of Directors has taken stock of the current landscape of the sector and decided on a clear focus for the coming years.

Michael J. McCord, previously Vice-Chair and now Chair of the Microinsurance Network, summarises this focus as follows: “We will work to improve implementation and focus on how to enhance the value proposition of microinsurance for insurers and policyholders, and others. We will do this by expanding networking opportunities to members and dramatically expanding the membership of the Network so we can leverage experience and insights”.

**Michael J. McCord** (MicroInsurance Centre) will be joined by **Andrea Keenan** (AM Best) as Vice-Chair, **Denis Garand** (Denis Garand and Associates) as Treasurer, **Mandla Shezi** (Hollard) as Secretary, **Doubell Chamberlain** (Cenfri), **Alejandra Diaz** (Fasecolda), **Richard Leftley** (MicroEnsure), **Francesco Rispoli** (IFAD), and **Thierry van Bastelaer** (Abt Associates).

**Véronique Faber**, the Executive Director of the Network said, “I am honoured and thrilled to be working with this Board. The world of microinsurance is moving quickly and we need to lead the way.”

Three priorities have been identified to improve Network member value. The first is to refocus on mission delivery, with **insurance companies identified as the key stakeholder**. Insurers need support around market knowledge, permissive regulation and access to traditional and innovative distribution channels. This requires the input and cooperation of other stakeholders that the Network has come to represent over the years. The Network will continue to work closely with regulators, donors, NGOs, MNOs and other actors to create a healthy environment for sustainable and profitable microinsurance growth. The Network will also work on **improving member and product outreach**, pursuing a focus on agricultural and health microinsurance. Importantly, the Network will review delivery mechanisms in an effort to **increase its representation and engagement in the regions, especially Latin America, Asia and Africa**.

These efforts will build on existing initiatives from previous years, such as the International Microinsurance Conference – organised in collaboration with Munich Re Foundation – and the Consultative Forums, which bring together insurers and regulators in an effort to create an environment which promotes sustainable microinsurance, and will next be held in Tunisia as part of the African Insurance Organisation conference. The Network will also continue its work on data transparency, building on the regional landscape studies to launch the much-anticipated World Map of Microinsurance website, an interactive data and trends platform, in the first quarter.

## **About the Microinsurance Network**

[www.microinsurancenetwork.org](http://www.microinsurancenetwork.org)

The Microinsurance Network is the international multi-stakeholder platform for microinsurance experts to work together and focus on key areas of development in the sector. Its mission is to promote the development and delivery of effective insurance services for low-income people by encouraging shared learning and facilitating knowledge generation and dissemination.

## **About the World Map of Microinsurance**

[www.microinsurancenetwork.org/world-map-microinsurance](http://www.microinsurancenetwork.org/world-map-microinsurance)

The World Map of Microinsurance is a programme that will create a platform for knowledge generation and sharing on the topic of microinsurance. It will host data and analysis from previous, current and forthcoming landscape studies through an interactive map and resources.

The full report of the 2014 Landscape of Microinsurance in Latin America and the Caribbean will be published in the first quarter of 2015.