

Call of Porto Novo

Following the regional seminar on “recovery planning after a disaster or a crisis” held in Porto - Novo (Benin) from 21 to 23 June 2011, we, the Initiative Group:

Given the recurrence of disasters and crisis in many African countries,

Given the consequences of those crisis,

Given the impotence of records and archives institutions to deal alone with those events,

Given the need to join our energies for a better recovery process,

Given the lack of an African federation to keep up active solidarity among information management professionals in order to deal with issues relating to modern management of documentary heritage,

Given the strategic role of information in good governance and sustainable development of Africa,

Taking into account the challenges for preserving the collective memory Africa-wide,

Decide

To establish an Africa-wide structure which aims to create solidarity among information management professionals (archivists, librarians, information managers) with a view to pooling our expertise, sharing our experiences and providing mutual assistance in case of a disaster or a crisis;

Launch

A call to all information management professionals to participate in this initiative to ensure integration at the African level in the field of information management sciences;

A call to all political and governmental authorities of African countries to support and back this initiative.

Porto - Novo, June 23, 2011

The Initiative Group