

**Recommendations of National Platforms  
to the Chair and participants of the second session  
of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction  
(Geneva, 16-19 June 2009)**

National Governments, county, municipal and local self governments all play a leading role in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), including through National Platforms as nationally owned and led forum or committee of multi-stakeholders which contribute to the implementation of the HFA.

In its "Guidelines for National Platforms for DRR"<sup>1</sup> the ISDR system closely interlinked National Platforms with the Global Platform for DRR: *"In the Global Platform for DRR, the National Platform for DRR is foreseen as the principle national institutional arrangement to*

- *Improve the coherence of international action on DRR at all levels;*
- *Advocate and share knowledge among practitioners and experts; and*
- *Provide reviews and evaluations of national progress in DRR."*

National Platforms for Disaster risk reduction and their establishment have been recommended in a number of United Nations General Assembly Resolutions (e.g. A/RES/62/192 on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction<sup>2</sup>). In his report "Implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction" (A/63/351)<sup>3</sup> the UN Secretary General stated: *"Building on the good experiences of existing national platforms, Member States are strongly urged to develop and strengthen such national coordination mechanisms for disaster risk reduction."* The final declarations of Regional Platform meetings have likewise highlighted the need to develop National Platforms for disaster risk reduction.

Multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder National Platforms are understood as providing coordination, analysis and advice to help governments mainstream Disaster risk reduction into development and sectoral programmes, plans and policies, thus, having the potential to be a key instrument for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action at the national level. They bring together all the actors of risk management: experts, civil society, scientists and practitioners, from NGO, governmental authorities and private sector. This is even more important as the Hyogo Framework for Action clearly states that implementation of disaster risk reduction takes place primarily at the national and sub-national level.

National Platforms, through their members and jointly, are therefore in a position to advocate and assist in integrating disaster risk reduction into all relevant policy agendas and development plans. At the same time, through their proximity to vulnerable communities, they possess the legitimacy and potential to support mainstreaming activities at the regional level as well as – through their governments – at international fora.

National Platform representatives gathered in Geneva during our global meeting on 15 June 2009, wish to convey the following recommendations to participants and the Chair of the second session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction:

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.unisdr.org/eng/about\\_isdr/isdr-publications/03-guidelines-np-drr/eng-guidelines-np-drr.pdf](http://www.unisdr.org/eng/about_isdr/isdr-publications/03-guidelines-np-drr/eng-guidelines-np-drr.pdf), Annex I, p.12-13

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.unisdr.org/eng/about\\_isdr/basic\\_docs/GA-resolution/a-res-62-192-eng.pdf](http://www.unisdr.org/eng/about_isdr/basic_docs/GA-resolution/a-res-62-192-eng.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.unisdr.org/eng/about\\_isdr/basic\\_docs/SG-report/SG-report-63-351-eng.pdf](http://www.unisdr.org/eng/about_isdr/basic_docs/SG-report/SG-report-63-351-eng.pdf) (IV,(a),39)

Nations should:

- Continue to expand their human and financial support to develop fully functional National Platforms as a means to support accelerated implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action at local, regional and national levels;
- Support the development of National Platforms as multi-stakeholder structures including private sector, NGO and civil society to
  - a. Facilitate the integration of disaster risk reduction in various sectors, as a contribution to achieve sustainable development in the framework of the Millennium Development Goals (e.g. poverty reduction strategies);
  - b. Take into account specific vulnerabilities of social groups (e.g. gender, age, ethnicity, etc.) in disaster risk reduction strategies;
  - c. Enhance the participation of gender-balanced and community-based organisations in disaster risk reduction.
- Use the capacities and lessons learned from National Platforms to develop coordination mechanisms and strategies for DRR at the local level;
- Facilitate and co-ordinate links between climate change adaptation focal points, and National Platforms for DRR, to avoid parallel mechanisms and to link existing expertise in order to reduce the human impact of climate change;
- Officially declare existing multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms as National platforms if approved by the country's government or self government and as requested by the Hyogo Framework for Action;
- Identify and appoint disaster risk reduction focal points in various key Government ministries, as the ministerial focal point persons are key in the coordination and implementation of disaster risk reduction activities at the ministerial portfolio level;
- Enhance information-sharing and exchange with other existing National Platforms through UN/ISDR facilitated networks and other National Platform channels;
- Promote capacity-development in DRR within National Platforms and develop common strategies through exchange of experiences with other countries on regional and international levels through information sharing and communication.

The UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, through the UNISDR Secretariat, should:

- Organize and maintain a standing international forum of National Platforms for disaster risk reduction, in order to mobilise their potential for the implementation of the HFA in a participatory manner, and in order to support information exchange and coordination;
- Facilitate the development of a system of cooperation between National platforms and the UN/ISDR secretariat by defining the roles and responsibilities of the secretariat. As an example, the UN/ISDR Secretariat should channel all information and communications with countries through National Platforms, where existing. The Charter of the National Commissions to the UNESCO<sup>4</sup> may serve as a blueprint;
- Provide greater support and higher visibility for the National Platforms by integrating a presentation of the activities undertaken by National Platforms into the agenda of each Global Platform;
- Facilitate and co-ordinate links between climate change adaptation and DRR, to avoid parallel mechanisms and to link existing expertise in order to reduce the human impact of climate change;

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<sup>4</sup> <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001337/133729e.pdf>, p.141ff

- Enhance advice and technical support by UN/ISDR to the development of National Platforms and national strategies for DRR based on the five priorities of the HFA.

Other ISDR system partners, including regional organisations, bilateral development agencies, non-governmental organisations and the private sector should:

- Continue to expand their technical and financial support to National Platforms for DRR, through a more systematic information-sharing and cooperation on DRR related activities;
- Promote the development of HFA focal point institutions and National Platforms as critical operational organisation tool for more efficient and effective local and national implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action;
- Strengthen mechanisms, at the national, regional and international levels, to support preparedness, emergency response and recovery at the local level;
- Establish, in those countries where it is needed, sub-regional funds for disaster risk reduction to enhance awareness raising, training, risk assessment, and ICT in order to improve availability and rapid exchange of information for enhanced disaster risk management.