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Thematic partnerships for disaster risk reduction and the development of ISDR Thematic Platforms

Partnerships that address particular issues or themes in disaster risk reduction are important contributors to the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR). The existing multi-stakeholder partnerships associated with the ISDR system, which include for example those for early warning, wildland fire, education, and recovery, have diverse origins and modes of operation. This Policy Note sets out proposals for stimulating the development of thematic partnerships into more formally recognized ISDR Thematic Platforms, as a means to enhance the work of the ISDR system and the implementation of the Hyogo Framework.

1. Introduction

Following the adoption of the Hyogo Framework¹, a number of steps were taken to strengthen the ISDR system to support the implementation of the Framework, as provisionally described in the paper *Background and Discussion Paper on the Strengthening of the ISDR System*². One of the proposed elements of the strengthened ISDR system is the concept of “thematic platforms”.

This term is used to describe a partnership mechanism through which ISDR partner organisations can collaborate and provide guidance on particular themes that are relevant to the reduction of disaster risk and the implementation of the Hyogo Framework. It derives partly from the earlier idea of forming “clusters” of organizations to provide coordinated support for the implementation of each of the Hyogo Framework’s five Priorities for Action³.

The thematic platform concept also draws on the experience of a range of existing multi-stakeholder partnerships linked to the ISDR system that focus on specific themes related to disaster risk. Annex 1 lists these partnerships, which address such things as risk identification, early warning, El Niño, drought, floods, water risks, wildland fires, environment, climate change, education, disaster recovery and capacity development.

In English dictionaries, the word “partnership” describes very well the idea of cooperative endeavour, with shared benefits and costs, whereas the word “platform” is not accorded such a meaning. For this reason, the Policy Note uses the term “thematic partnership” as the general expression for cooperative entities but restricts the term “ISDR Thematic Platform” to those entities that are formally recognized as having a guiding role within the ISDR system for a particular thematic area. This is consistent with the usage of the term “Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction” for the main forum of the ISDR system and the term “National Platform” for the corresponding national forums.

¹ <http://www.unisdr.org/eng/hfa/hfa.htm>

² See http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/first-session/docs/info_docs/GP_2007_inf2.pdf

³ See Annex 3 in IATF/DR-12/workdoc4: Decisions and recommendations.

<http://www.unisdr.org/eng/task%20force/tf-meeting-12th-eng.htm>

2. Objectives of the Policy Note

At present there is no systematic process to identify and designate a thematic partnership as a formally recognized ISDR Thematic Platform. The purpose of the Policy Note is to set out a basis for doing so. Issues addressed include the nature and role of thematic partnerships and platforms in the ISDR system, and the definition of criteria and processes for the initiation and maintenance of ISDR Thematic Platforms⁴.

3. Nature of existing ISDR-related thematic partnerships

As a group, the thematic partnerships currently associated with the ISDR system are very heterogeneous, with widely varying origins, governance, modes of operation, outputs, and strength of linkages to the ISDR system. Their organisational forms are quite varied, being labelled variously as a working group, task group, programme, platform, cluster, centre or network. At one extreme, a few are formally linked to the ISDR secretariat, with staff and work programmes, while at the other extreme, some are simply informal associations of experts and practitioners. They range from groups of organisations concerned with coordinated implementation of project initiatives, to networks of individuals concerned with generating and sharing knowledge in a particular thematic area.

Nevertheless, the thematic partnerships generally have a common aim in seeking to develop and link technical expertise in the thematic area of focus with the concerns of policy makers and practitioners. Their activities include issue formulation, advocacy, networking, coordination, information exchange, good practice guidance, capacity development, and joint programme work. They have been an important source of expert guidance and a conduit for providing information on initiatives and roles in disaster risk reduction.

As part of the overall context for considering policy on ISDR Thematic Platforms, it is also necessary to keep in mind a number of other partnerships and processes concerning or related to disaster risk reduction. It will be important to build on and seek synergies with these various other types of partnerships and mechanisms.

The World Bank-sponsored Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR)⁵ is closely associated with the ISDR and among other things provides seed funding to partnerships and pursues the development of thematic tools and efforts to help develop global and regional capacities to support risk reduction. The multi-stakeholder ProVention Consortium pursues selected themes of endeavour such as mainstreaming risk reduction, risk transfer and expanding risk research and learning. The UNDP programmes that support legislation and mainstreaming for disaster risk reduction show promise for wider multi-stakeholder development. Private sector groups, in association with the ISDR secretariat, are developing a platform concept to support private-public partnerships for disaster risk reduction (PPP/DRR).

Many ISDR system partners are active members of major UN inter-agency thematic mechanisms, such as the UN Development Group (UNDG), the Environmental Management Group (EMG), the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) on humanitarian action, and UN Water, that have interests in certain aspects of disaster risk reduction. Stakeholder networks and partnerships being fostered or promoted by the ISDR secretariat include the Media Network, NGO Network, Local Government Network, Gender Network, parliamentary linkages and an academic network.

⁴ The Policy Note has benefited from the feedback on an earlier version (dated 18 January 2008) that was circulated for comment to the leaders of the main existing thematic partnerships.

⁵ The GFDRR is a long term partnership of the World Bank, ISDR and donors which provides technical and financial assistance for disaster reduction and recovery. It supports global and regional processes that seek to leverage country resources aimed at activities in prevention, mitigation and preparedness. See www.gfdr.org.

Specialized regional collaborative centres, whose establishment and strengthening is called for in the Hyogo Framework (paragraph 31(d)), are being developed by some Governments and in due course may develop into ISDR Thematic Platforms, with particular regional focuses.

4. Rationale, roles and rules for formalised thematic support mechanisms

The overall aim of a more formalised mechanism of ISDR thematic partnerships is to provide a systematic stream of thematic advice and guidance via the ISDR system to support the implementation of the Hyogo Framework. The existing thematic partnerships already make valuable contributions toward this end. By focusing on particular themes, they complement the other main mechanisms of the ISDR system, which are organised around matters of global, regional or national level concerns. New thematic partnerships desirably should be developed to cover other important areas of thematic concern – this issue is considered in a following section.

It is expected that once an ISDR Thematic Platform is formally recognized as such, it would contribute in specific substantive ways to ISDR system processes, for example through the provision of advice and information to the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, through participation in the ISDR system Joint Work Programme, and as sources of guidance and expertise to regional platforms for disaster risk reduction and to UN country teams and National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Ultimately the value of a Thematic Platform would be measured by how well it responded to the needs of disaster risk reduction actors in countries and contributed to the accelerated reduction of disaster risks.

Since thematic partnerships usually are self-organising and voluntary in nature, an essential requirement is that each partner must feel the partnership brings added value to its work. Factors that lead to added value and hence to incentives to participate include the following.

- The partnership achieves results that are recognised as contributions to the partner's mandate.
- The results are of a type that can only be achieved through the participation of several partners.
- The work does not duplicate other organizations' responsibilities under existing mandates.
- The partners feel fully engaged in decisions on the goals and work programme of the partnership.
- There are benefits of dialogue, shared information and opportunities for exerting influence over key policy processes.
- Membership offers better access to resources, such as through resource mobilization for the ISDR Joint Work Programme.
- Initiatives undertaken in the partnership gain advantages of more widespread endorsement and commitment.

An initial set of expectations for ISDR Thematic Platforms is provided in Annex 2. These identify the need for leadership and provision of guidance, including to the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and to regional platforms for disaster risk reduction, participation in the ISDR system joint work programme and associated resource mobilization efforts, and the preparation of a work plan and an annual report.

It is likely that Governmental organisations will increasingly participate in ISDR Thematic Platforms, not in a political role, but as technical partners or sponsors. This is in line with the

growing involvement of Governments in the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and in other aspects of the ISDR system. Some existing thematic partnerships already have strong support of particular governments as financial supporters. Government sponsorship is an important element for regional thematic centres.

To be effective, the ISDR Thematic Platforms will need to develop appropriate linkages with other parts of the ISDR system. Given their predominantly technical focus, a key linkage should be with the ISDR Scientific and Technical Committee, which has the role of overseeing and coordinating advice on all scientific and technical aspects of the ISDR system⁶. ^

The ISDR Thematic Platforms should also link with other relevant thematic partnerships and networks, such as the International Disaster Reduction Conference (IDRC) process, which is supported by the Global Risk Forum, and ISDR-linked academic and technical networks. Specific modes of interaction will need to be developed to ensure effective linkages to the ISDR system Joint Work Programme, the periodic Global Assessment Reports on disaster risk reduction and the PreventionWeb. Thematic Platforms should also link to and foster regionally-focused thematic partnerships which address issues of regional concern and can capitalize on and stimulate areas of thematic expertise in different languages.

As part of its efforts to enhance risk reduction, the ISDR system should seek to foster many partnerships, thematic or otherwise, to cover the various needed areas. Clearly not all of these need to become formal ISDR Thematic Platforms. All such partnerships should be documented and publicised in the PreventionWeb.

5. Assessment of current capacities in thematic partnerships

To help identify needs and opportunities for ISDR Thematic Platforms, the ISDR secretariat has mapped the existing main thematic partnerships against the Hyogo Framework priorities, as summarised in the table below.

This table should be treated with caution as it is only a broad indication of coverage. A thematic partnership may be active in all priorities, but only the main areas of work are listed here. In some topics a formal thematic partnership may exist but not be very active. Conversely, a topic may be under action by several organizations even though there is not a formal partnership dedicated to the topic, for example on the topic *mainstreaming into development*, where UNDP, GFDRR and ProVention are very active.

| Hyogo Framework Priority | Existing partnerships of a thematic nature that provide leadership on the priority⁷ (see Annex 1) | HFA sub-areas lacking thematic partnerships⁸ |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation. | - Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) - Global Alliance for Community-Based Disaster Reduction - ProVention Consortium | Legislation, institution building. Mainstreaming into development. Local government. |
| 2. Identify, assess and | - Expert Group on Vulnerability Assessment | |

⁶ http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/first-session/docs/session_docs/ISDR_GP_2007_5.pdf

⁷ Note that the GF/DRR is active in most priority areas but has a larger role than that of a thematic partnership. Also, some thematic partnerships are active in more priority areas than just their main areas of work listed here.

⁸ The sub-areas are drawn from topics specifically identified in the Hyogo Framework. In some cases discussions are already in progress on platform possibilities, such as in health, where WHO is taking a lead, and in preparedness for response, where OCHA is playing a coordinating role with other humanitarian actors.

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group on Drought Risk Reduction Network - Group on Earth Observations (GEO) - Global Risk Identification Programme (GRIP) - Global Wildland Fire Network - International Centre for the Study of the El Niño Phenomenon (CIIFEN) - International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Assessment (ICHARM) - International Consortium of Landslides (ICL) - International Floods Initiative (IFI) - Platform for Promotion of Early Warning (PPEW) - ProVention Consortium - UN/SPIDER - Working Group on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction - Asian Seismic Risk Reduction Centre - Regional Tropical Cyclone/Typhoon/Hurricane Committees | |
| <p>3. Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) - Global Alliance for Community-Based Disaster Reduction - ISDR stakeholder networks/platforms (currently under action for the following - academic, gender, NGOs, media, private sector, local authorities, parliamentarians.) - ProVention Consortium - Thematic Platform on Knowledge and Education | |
| <p>4. Reduce the underlying risk factors.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expert Group on Vulnerability Assessment - Global Wildland Fire Network - Group on Drought Risk Reduction Network - International Recovery Platform (IRP) - ProVention Consortium - Working Group on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction - Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction | <p>Human settlements and infrastructure.</p> <p>Health.</p> <p>Social protection.</p> <p>Economics, finance, insurance, public-private partnerships.</p> |
| <p>5. Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Global Alliance for Community-Based Disaster Reduction - Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI). - Global Wildland Fire Network - Rosersberg Initiative partnership - IASC initiative on 'Risk informed humanitarian action' | <p>Preparedness and response.</p> <p>Linking humanitarian and development arenas.</p> |

The table indicates several key topics where new thematic partnerships or platforms might usefully be developed. In some cases discussions are already underway to establish a partnership. In addition, other specialised areas could merit thematic partnerships, for example, on linkages to poverty reduction and livelihoods development, for sectors such as agriculture, transportation or tourism, and for specific hazards, such as volcanic risks or ocean hazards.

Further dialogue is needed among ISDR system partners on the priority topics for which stronger guidance and therefore partnerships or platforms are required. The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction provides the appropriate venue for stakeholders, especially from country settings, to consider and provide guidance on areas of need and priorities, as well as to develop partnerships and to initiate action to establish and operate new Thematic Platforms.

6. Process for recognition of ISDR Thematic Platforms

The process for recognizing a particular thematic partnership as an ISDR Thematic Platform is managed by the ISDR secretariat on behalf of the Chair of the ISDR system⁹. The process can be initiated either by the secretariat or by an interested partnership. Following the provision of the necessary information and commitments to take on the role and responsibilities identified in Annex 2, the partnership would be confirmed as an ISDR Thematic Platform by the secretariat through normal channels of communication.

Where there are gaps in thematic coverage, the ISDR secretariat should initiate informal discussions with relevant partners to identify possible partnerships to fill those gaps. These discussions should be as inclusive as possible.

The secretariat should maintain working relationships with each ISDR Thematic Platform through a focal point in the ISDR secretariat. The secretariat should assist with advice and guidance on thematic gaps and opportunities and organisational options, especially in the formative and developmental stages of the platform and in its development as a thematic node for networking with other organizations including at regional and national levels.

The secretariat should encourage the platform to take an active role in the work of the ISDR system and should promote this important role and the contributions of the platform, such as in annual reports and through the ISDR web site and PreventionWeb. The secretariat could work with relevant partners to develop generic guidance on the functioning of ISDR Thematic Platforms.

Given the largely autonomous nature of the thematic partnerships and Thematic Platforms, it is assumed that the partners of each platform would take primary responsibility for securing the necessary financial support for the platform's administrative support and baseline activities. However, the ISDR secretariat should cooperate in joint resource mobilization, particularly in support of ISDR system Joint Work Programme¹⁰ activities, and should seek to increase the visibility of the work of the platforms with donors.

The secretariat should also take a proactive approach to stimulating the development of thematic partnerships generally, including through engaging with groups and networks that appear to have relevant capacities and by actively contributing to dialogue to help develop their institutional foundations and capacities.

⁹ The United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs acts as Chair of the ISDR system and its Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

¹⁰ The Joint Work Programme is under development. See <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/networks/private/work-programming/> and http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/first-session/docs/session_docs/ISDR_GP_2007_4.pdf

Annex 1: List of principal thematic partnerships associated with the ISDR

Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative. A partnership initiated and staffed by UNDP/BCPR, OCHA and ISDR secretariat in 2007, as a follow up to the multi-stakeholder UN Disaster Management Training Programme, to focus on capacity development and with an emphasis on supporting UN country teams through capacity assessment, training, information and advisory services. See <http://www.unisdr.org/cadri/>

Global Risk Identification Programme. A coalition of ISDR-related partners, led by UNDP/BCPR, GRIP focuses on implementing a comprehensive programme to build national capacities in risk assessment and to provide global risk updates. See www.gri-p.net.

Global Forum for Urban Risk Reduction. An emerging coalition seeking better coordination, collaboration and exchange on urban risk reduction, comprising UCLG, UN-HABITAT, Metropolis, EMI, UNDP, Provention Consortium, CityNet, ICLEI and UN/ISDR. The initiative was launched at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, Geneva, 5-7 June 2007. Its focus is on cities and the most vulnerable populations. It also aims to model good governance such as local empowerment, decentralization and the integration of community knowledge. In addition Urban Risk Platforms have developed in Asia and in Latin America and Caribbean with additional regional partners. See http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/first-session/docs/side_events/June_6_Wed/05_Reducing_Disaster_Risks_in_Cities/Urban_Risk_Reduction_report.pdf

Global Wildland Fire Network. Extensive worldwide network of academics and practitioners (government, non-government) with regional sub-networks and supported and guided by the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), Max Planck Society, associated with Freiburg University, Germany. The Wildland Fire Advisory Group governs the network. Main links are to ISDR, UNU, UNEP-OCHA Joint Environment Unit, WMO, WHO, Rio Conventions, GEO and FAO processes. It undertakes advocacy, information exchange and training. See www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/globalNet.html and <http://www.unisdr.org/eng/task%20force/tf-working-groups4-eng.htm>.

Group on Drought Risk Reduction Network. An informal group of ISDR partners (UNCCD, WMO, FAO, WFP, OCHA, UNDP/DDC, IFRC, UN/ESCAP, National Drought Monitoring Center (NDMC, University of Nebraska, USA and the International Centre for Drought Risk Reduction (ICDRR) based in Beijing) and experts devoted to advancing coordinated action on drought. Meets occasionally and has undertaken activities to link the climate and disaster arenas, including preparation of substantive publication in 2007 with strong support and contribution of the ISDR secretariat. The group is currently evolving toward platform status. See <http://www.unisdr.org/eng/task%20force/tf-disc-group1-eng.htm>.

International Recovery Platform. A formal partnership among ADRC, Hyogo Prefectural Government, IFRC, ILO, MOFA Italy, Cabinet Office of Japan, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), UNDP, UN-HABITAT, UN/ISDR, OCHA and World Bank, with a multi-stakeholder advisory committee, and a secretariat in Kobe consisting of a local Kobe team and international staffing supervised by ISDR secretariat and also guided by UNDP/BCPR. Has a defined work programme, which includes best practice development and a project to develop a common post-disaster needs assessment methodology. See www.recoveryplatform.org.

Platform for Promotion of Early Warning. A unit based in Bonn and staffed by the ISDR secretariat, established in response to guidance of the Second International Conference on Early Warning. A current focus is the development of the International Early Warning Programme (IEWP). It has supported an ISDR partner Advisory Group (ADRC, DKKV, FAO, GFMC, IFRC, UNCCD, UNEP, UNESCO/IOC, ISDR, UN/OOSA, OCHA, UNU-EHS, WFP, WMO) and has coordinated multi-stakeholder Indian Ocean tsunami-related early warning projects. See www.unisdr.org/ppew

ProVention Consortium. Established in 2000 by the World Bank and in partnership with donors, organizations and academic institutions, the Consortium offers an informal forum where different actors can collaborate on disaster risk reduction. It has five core themes: mainstreaming risk reduction, risk analysis and application, reducing risks in recovery, risk transfer and private sector investment, and expanding risk research and learning. It is currently hosted by the IFRC in Geneva. See www.proventionconsortium.org.

Thematic Platform on Knowledge and Education. A coalition of ISDR system partners (ActionAid International, ADRC, AU Commission, Council of Europe, CRED/Catholic University of Louvain, FAO, IFRC, ITU, ProVention Consortium, UNCRD, UN DMTP, UN/ECE, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNU/EHS, UNV, WMO) with strong involvement of ISDR secretariat, the platform works to bring risk reduction to curricula

and to secure safer schools. A substantive report on risk reduction in schools has been produced and an international workshop is planned for late 2008. The platform is now evolving into a more formal status. See www.unisdr.org/eng/partner-netw/knowledge-education/knowledge-education.htm

Working Group on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction. A working group of ISDR system partners (IDS/University of Sussex, WHO, WMO, IFRC, UNEP, OCHA, UNFCCC, UNDP, ProVention Consortium, together with interested organizations/possible new members: OXFAM Hong Kong, CARE International, Christian Aid, Tearfund, IIED, IRI/Columbia University, Fiji School of Medicine, MSF, EU-CORD) set up with specific terms of reference at IATF/DR-9. Meets periodically, has undertaken activities to link the climate and disaster arenas, with strong support and contribution of the ISDR secretariat. See www.unisdr.org/eng/task%20force/tf-working-group-cc-drr-eng.htm

Working Group on Environmental Management and Disaster Reduction (currently under transformation to the ISDR “Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction”. Established by IATF/DR-11 and led by UNEP with strong ISDR secretariat involvement. Thirteen organizations in the working group (UNEP, IFRC, WFP, ADRC, Council of Europe, GFMC, WMO, ADPC, UNDP, AU Commission, IUCN, UNU and UNCRD). Prepared report for IATF/DR-12, and developed guidance booklet at time of the first session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, Geneva, 5-7 June 2007 (http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/first-session/docs/Workshops/4_2_3_Ecosystems_Environment/Environment_and_Vulnerability.pdf)

In addition, there are a number of other entities concerned with disaster risk reduction that have relevant thematic partnership characteristics, including the following:

- Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC). See www.adpc.net
- Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC). See www.adrc.or.jp
- Asian Seismic Risk Reduction Centre (ASRC). See www.asrrc.org.
- Business Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction (Under development as a global network of private sector partners, particularly from the major insurance and re-insurance sector, in association with ISDR secretariat, aiming to facilitate joint public-private actions on disaster risk reduction).
- Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative (EMI). See www.emi-megacities.org
- Expert Group on Vulnerability Assessment. See www.ehs.unu.edu/category:5?menu=18.
- Global Alliance for Community-Based Disaster Reduction. See www.ifrc.org/docs/pubs/disasters/reduction/global-alliance-reduction.pdf
- Group on Earth Observations (GEO). See www.earthobservations.org/index.html
- International Centre for the Study of the El Niño Phenomenon (Centro Internacional para la Investigacion del Fenomeno de el Niño, CIIFEN). See www.ciifen-int.org.
- International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Assessment (ICHARM). See www.icharm.pwri.go.jp
- International Consortium of Landslides (ICL). See <http://icl.dpri.kyoto-u.ac.jp>
- International Centre for Drought Risk Reduction (ICDRR). See <http://www.icdr.com/en/>
- International Floods Initiative (IFI). See www.wmo.ch/pages/prog/hwrrp/IFI.html
- Roserberg Initiative. An initiative launched in 2007 by the Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies (AGEE) to enable its members to implement priority recommendations in a participatory manner. Search in ochaonline.un.org
- United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER). See www.unoosa.org/oosa/unspider/index.html

Lastly, the ISDR secretariat is fostering a number of networks of key stakeholder groups to sensitize and mobilize stakeholders on disaster risk issues, in particular the Media Network, NGO Network, Local Government Network, Gender Network, and Parliamentarian Network. Some of these involve active partnerships of a thematic nature.

Annex 2: Expectations of ISDR Thematic Platforms

An initial set of criteria for a thematic partnership to be given a formal relationship with the ISDR system as an ISDR Thematic Platform are as follows.

1. The thematic area of endeavour of the partnership is relevant to the needs of the Hyogo Framework and a primary stated purpose of the partnership is to contribute to the implementation of the Hyogo Framework.
2. The partnership agrees to provide leadership and guidance for the thematic area, as its resources allow, including for advocacy, coordination, networking and partnership development, information provision, and inputs to Prevention Web and global and regional reporting processes.
3. The partnership publishes a work plan on an annual basis and participates in the ISDR system joint work programme, including contributing to the systematic monitoring of progress and development of appropriate indicators in its field.
4. The partnership provides a written annual report to the ISDR secretariat on its activities and contributions to the ISDR Joint Work Programme.
5. The partnership is led by a steering group of three or more stakeholder institutions, at least one of which is an active participant in the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the membership of the partnership is open to both governmental and non-governmental organisations.
6. The partnership maintains a written and publicly available description of its membership, leadership and working arrangements and designates a focal point for external contacts.

Thematic partnerships that are designated as an ISDR Thematic Platform by the Chair of the ISDR system may be known as a “Thematic Platform of the ISDR system”. Thematic Platforms can actively engage in ISDR system processes, such as workshops or side events at sessions of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and in the Joint Work Programme and associated resources mobilization efforts.

Thematic Platforms will be used as preferred channels for the provision of advice and information on matters within their special competence, such as to assist in developing good practice data bases and web pages, preparing reports on risk reduction progress, providing technical guidance to national platforms, and representing the ISDR system as appropriate.

Thematic Platforms need not be maintained as permanent entities. On a periodic basis, the needs for and outputs of the Thematic Platforms should be reviewed by the ISDR system.

Annex 3: Acronyms

| | | | |
|---------|---|------------|--|
| ADPC | Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre | ILO | International Labour Organization |
| ADRC | Asian Disaster Reduction Centre | IRI | International Research Institute for Climate and Society |
| ASRC | Asian Seismic Risk Reduction Centre | ISDR | International Strategy for Disaster Reduction |
| AU | African Union | ITU | International Telecommunication Union |
| CADRI | Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative | IUCN | World Conservation Union |
| CIIFEN | Centro Internacional para la Investigacion del Fenomeno de el Niño | MOFA | Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| CRED | Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters | MSF | Médecins Sans Frontières |
| DKKV | German Disaster Reduction Committee | OCHA | (UN) Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs |
| EMG | (UN) Environmental Management Group | PPP | Private Public Partnership |
| EMI | Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative | SDC | Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation |
| ECE | (UN) Economic and Social Commission for Europe | UCLG | United Cities and Local Governments (organization) |
| ESCAP | (UN) Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific | UNCCD | United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification |
| EU-CORD | European network of Christian Organisations in Relief and Development | UNCRD | United Nations Centre for Regional Development |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization | UNDG | United Nations Development Group |
| GEO | Group on Earth Observations | UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| GFDRR | Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery | UNDP/BCPR | UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery |
| GFMC | Global Fire Monitoring Center | UNDP/DDC | UNDP Drylands Development Centre |
| GRIP | Global Risk Identification Programme | UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme |
| IASC | Inter-Agency Standing Committee (on humanitarian issues) | UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| IATF/DR | Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction | UNESCO/IOC | UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission |
| ICDRR | International Center for Drought Risk Reduction | UNFCCC | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| ICHARM | International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Assessment | UN-HABITAT | United Nations Human Settlements Programme |
| ICLEI | Local Governments for Sustainability (organization) | UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund |
| ICL | International Consortium of Landslides | UNOOSA | United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs |
| IDRC | International Disaster Reduction Conference | UN/SPIDER | United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response |
| IDS | Institute of Development Studies | UNU-EHS | United Nations University - Institute for Environment and Human Security |
| IEWP | International Early Warning Programme | WFP | World Food Programme |
| IFI | International Floods Initiative | WHO | World Health Organization |
| IFRC | International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent | WMO | World Meteorological Organization |
| IIED | International Institute for Environment and Development | | |