“National Platforms”: National Coordination Mechanisms for Disaster Risk Reduction

آليات التنسيق الوطنية / منتديات وطنية للحد من مخاطر الكوارث
Why National Coordination / National Platforms for disaster risk reduction?

• Disaster risk reduction is a complex issue that calls for close cooperation among different stakeholders and sectors

• It requires comprehensive and technical skills and knowledge (generation and exchange)

• Need to mainstream DRR into development planning and practice
# UN Resolutions on National Platforms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Resolution</th>
<th>Text</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>UN Economic and Social Council, Resolution 1999/63</td>
<td>All Governments to maintain and strengthen established national and multi-sectoral platforms for natural disaster reduction in order to achieve sustainable development goals and objectives, with the full utilization of scientific and technical means.</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/59/231</td>
<td>Governments to establish national platforms or focal points for disaster reduction, strengthen platforms where they already exist, United Nations system to provide appropriate support to those mechanisms...</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>Hyogo Framework for Action (2005 - 2015)</td>
<td>All nations to support the creation and strengthening of national integrated mechanisms, such as multi-sector national platforms to ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority. All States to designate a national coordination mechanism for the implementation and follow-up to the Hyogo Framework</td>
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WHAT: National Platform is the nationally owned and led forum that:

- operates at multiple levels
- attracts multiple sectors
- engages multiple stakeholders

• Serves as a coordination mechanism for mainstreaming DRR in the country

• Analyse trends, exchange ideas and facilitate decision making on areas of priority requiring concerted action

• Focus on prevention, preparedness and mitigation instead of merely focussing on disaster management and recovery

• Contribute to the establishment and development of comprehensive and appropriate national DRR systems and be its custodian
National Platforms are NOT

• necessarily new institutions, but *ideally build on existing national coordinating mechanisms* that may keep its name and just officially declared as National Platform, provided it is truly multi-stakeholder, multi-sector and respect country’s diversity

• the HFA focal point institutions / the national disaster management institutions, the civil protection service, a national steering committee, composed of government ministries **ONLY**
Guiding Principles for Effective National Platform

• DRR should be regarded as a national responsibility and a cross cutting issue within sustainable development framework

• NP should functioning should be a participatory process facilitating various sectors’ engagement to benefit from their diverse perspectives and actions

• Build upon existing systems and mechanisms

• Influence positive changes through concerted and coordinated efforts particularly in policies, planning, administration and decision-making processes

• Encourage national implementation, adaptation and ownership of HFA
WHO: Composition of National Platforms

No hard and fast rule for National platform structure and composition, though it should involve:

- Line ministries (Health, Finance, Planning, Education etc.)
- Disaster/Crisis Management and Response Authorities (Civil Protection, Civil Defence Council, etc.)
- Other actors of relevance
  - Scientific community, Academic institutions
  - Private sector (infrastructure, services, insurance, etc.
  - National Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies
  - NGOs, UN
  - Media

❖ The structure should nurture strong sense of COORDINATION
EXAMPLE: NP Structure: PLANAT, Switzerland

Core Functions of National Platforms

• A catalyst for national consultations and consensus building

• Support the identification of urgent needs in the area of reducing disaster risk

• Increase national leadership and commitment to the sustainability of DRR and implementation of Hyogo Framework

• Enhance collaboration and coordination amongst national stakeholders

• Manage the progress towards achievement of DRR objectives rather than producing a “plan”, monitor & evaluate and report
Core function of national platforms...

- Increase level of knowledge and skills on risk reduction
- Increase national commitment to help the most vulnerable and at risk population
- To work towards better resourced, effective and integrated DRR efforts amongst national, regional and international stakeholders
- To facilitate the allocation of resources from donors, development banks and UN agencies
- Through the HFA focal point, serve as national focal point within the ISDR system and strengthen links with the UNISDR secretariat
Primary activities undertaken by a NP

• Establish baseline information for DRR
• Identifying trends, gaps, concerns and challenges
• Advocate for developing and adopting policies and legislations for DRR
• Benchmark progress made in promoting DRR
• Develop result oriented work plans to coordinate DRR in line with HFA
Primary activities of national platforms...

- Coordinate joint efforts among members of national platforms
- Monitor, record and report on DRR
- Document lessons learned and good practices, and share the findings
- Work towards better integration of DRR into national planning and programmes in development and humanitarian assistance
- Fostering linkages with regional / International DRR institutions for resource mobilisation and cross learning
Summary

As a disaster risk reduction mechanism ‘National Platforms’ focus on:

• **Efficiency and effectiveness** - coordination, all under one umbrella, ‘entry point’, minimise parallel structures and duplication

• **Resource mobilisation** - coordinated way of accessing existing resources available for risk reduction, avoid competition / duplication

• **Sustainability of DRR interventions** - put action on a more long term footing, legal basis, structures, entry point, ensure continued funding
All spheres of government, all sectors of society and every professional discipline has a responsibility to consider how it can contribute to reducing risk within its own sphere or responsibility...

“Every citizen can contribute to disaster risk reduction by thinking safety and acting safely”

- South African Disaster Management Act (2000) -