

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

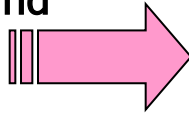
آليات التنسيق الوطنية / منطيات وطنية
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Why National Coordination / National Platforms for disaster risk reduction?

- 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

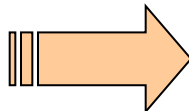
UN Resolutions on National Platforms

1999 - UN Economic and Social Council,
Resolution 1999/63



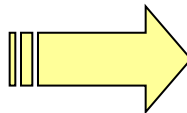
All Governments to maintain and strengthen established national and multi-sectoral platforms for natural disaster reduction in order to achieve sustainable development goals and objectives, with the full utilization of scientific and technical means.

2005 - UN General Assembly resolution
A/RES/59/231



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..."

2005 - Hyogo Framework for Action
(2005 - 2015)



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

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

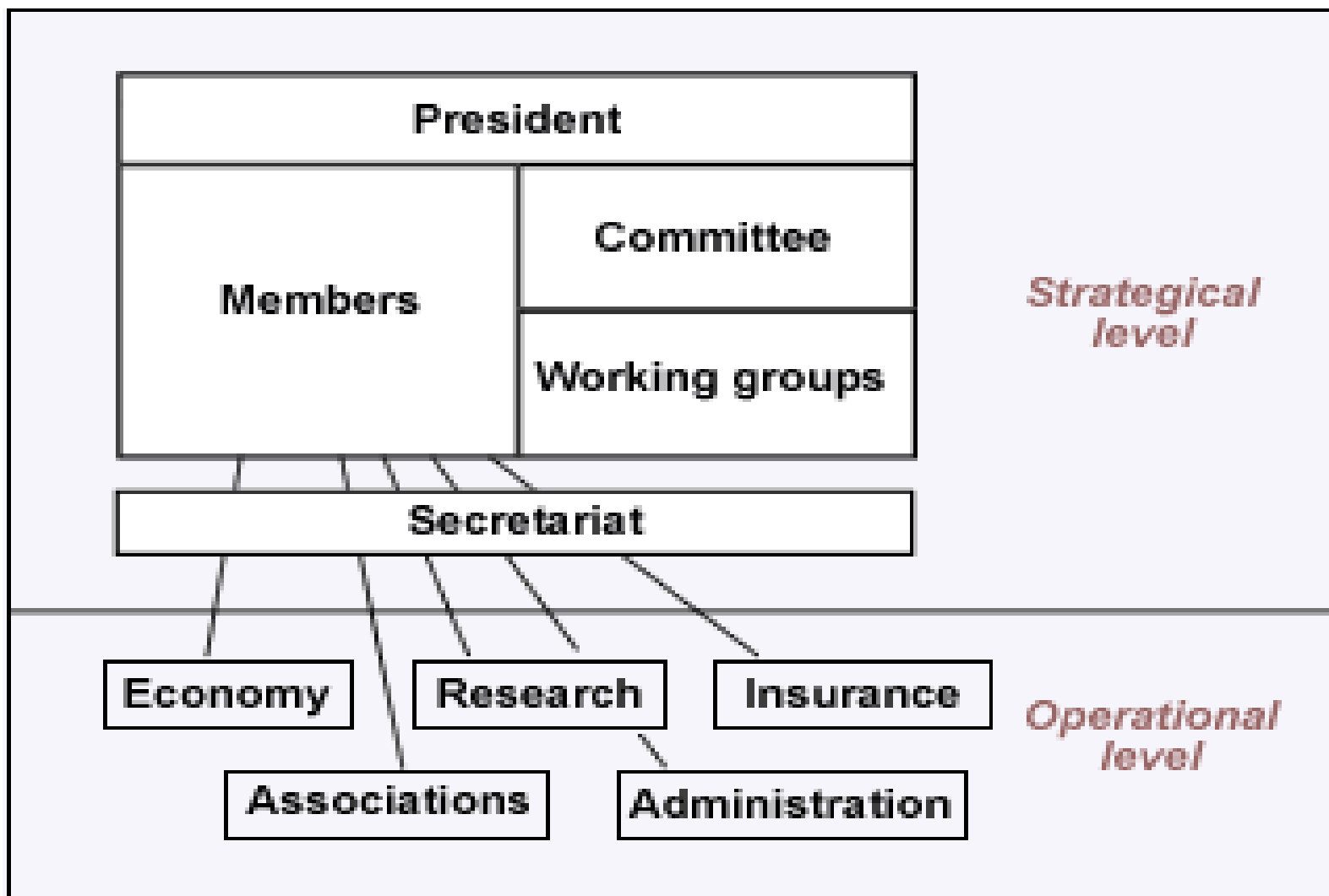
- DRR should be regarded as a national responsibility and a cross cutting issue within sustainable development framework
- NP should functioning should be a participatory process facilitating various sectors' engagement to benefit from their diverse perspectives and actions
- Build upon existing systems 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



Source: PLANAT URL - <http://www.planat.ch/index.php?userhash=82376793&l=e&navID=154>

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) -