Review of National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction 2012-2013

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Culmination of a collaborative and voluntary self-review process undertaken by 50 counties.

In response to a recommendation of the *Mid-Term Review of the Hyogo Framework of Action 2010-11* to undertake a comprehensive discussion on the role and function of National Platforms, and provide new guidance on effective national consultative and decision-making mechanisms for disaster reduction at the national level.
A National Platforms Review Working Group (Ecuador, Germany, Indonesia, Mexico and Sweden) was established with coordination and secretariat support, with UNISDR serving as the Working Group’s secretariat.

Financial and technical support was provided from the German Federal Foreign Office and the World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery.

A survey of National Platforms formed the basis of the analysis and findings of the Review. The findings focus on challenges, improvements, modes of collaboration, and future role of National Platforms.
In summary, the main findings are to:

i. Increase the number of National Platforms (or equivalent) in each region.

ii. Recognise the unique and added value of stakeholders and partners in National Platforms. Strengthen multi-stakeholder and cross-sector nature.

iii. Restructure and resource National Platforms around a coherent disaster risk reduction strategy at country level.

iv. Provide a legislative basis and clear Terms of Reference (TORs) for National Platforms in relation to the Cabinet or other high level political institutions.
v. Encourage National Platforms to:

- Take a more proactive and leadership and advocacy role in coordinating disaster risk reduction work at the national level.
- Foster exchange of experiences and expertise among National Platforms, for example through twinning arrangements and peer-reviews.
- Enhance collaboration with the private sector and local communities.
- Systematically engage with other sectors in deliberations of National Platforms.
- Facilitate the application of science and evidenced based decision-making in disaster risk reduction.
Next Steps

• Convene meetings at Regional Platforms and at a planned National Platform Forum at the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2015

✓ Develop positions on a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2) and determine methods of implementation of disaster risk reduction actions.


• Some deeper questions to ask:
  1) Given higher exposure and increasing accumulation of risk in the future are National Platforms the right mechanism to govern and oversight risk reduction?
  2) Are there alternatives (e.g. risk auditor) to consider?
  3) Will reform of the National Platforms fundamentally reduce risk (for example in the private sector)?