National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction

Global Highlights 2008 – Outlook 1st half 2009

Meeting of European National Platforms and HFA Focal Points – Bonn – 19-20 February 2009

Paola Albrito, regional coordinator Europe
National Platforms – Overview of developments in 2008

Main focus across regions has been on strengthening National Platforms for DRR
With the exception of the Americas fewer new National Platforms have been officially declared/ established.

New NPs declared in 2008:

- **Asia/Pacific:** Sri Lanka (January 2008)
- **Central Asia:** Kazakhstan (January 2008)
- **Europe:** Italy (January 2008)
- **Africa:** Senegal (March 2008 – launched in 2005 with UNISDR support, but never formalized)
- **Americas:** Dominican Republic (March 2008), El Salvador, Jamaica (July 2008), Argentina (October 2008)
Countries with National Platforms for DRR
Countries with plans to establish NP
National Platforms – Overview of developments in 2008

Engagement of Northern National Platforms and bilateral cooperation in promoting NP concept and sharing lessons learned with other national coordinating mechanisms from developing countries

• 1) A European Network of National Platforms/ SDC funded IDRC Davos workshop gathering representatives national coordinating mechanisms and National Platforms from Bangladesh, France, Germany, Jordan, Morocco, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Switzerland, Tajikistan – experience sharing and development of action plans (August 2008)

• 2) German Foreign Ministry financed SWOTs in Senegal and Madagascar (UNISDR project – January/ February 2008)
National Platforms – Overview of developments in 2008

UNISDR Secretariat support:

• Support to launch and build capacities of National Platform members in the Americas and Europe
• Advocacy events and sharing of NPs experiences at various regional and global meetings
• Support to organise multi-stakeholder meetings (Bahrain, Egypt, Central Asian countries, Bulgaria, Moldova, Indonesia, Kenya) and other country missions to engage UNCTs
• Placement of staff on short-term basis to support ISDR processes in India, Indonesia, Maldives, Sri Lanka
• Regional Meeting of National Platforms in Panama and Europe piloted exchange with Focal points for climate change adaptation
• Training on HFA monitor led to increase in submission of progress reports in all regions
National Platforms – Overview of developments in 2008

UNISDR Secretariat support:

• UNISDR/UNDP/WB/ProVention training workshop on Mainstreaming DRR and Risk Assessment (April 2008)
• Development of guidance material and promotion of information exchange, incl.:
  • Publication of good practices of Nps,
  • Setting up of National Platform sub-site on PreventionWeb with links to key NP events, NP documents, HFA monitor country reports, individual National Platform sites
  • Newsletters and “HFA pedia” website in the Americas
  • Development of concept paper for “Twinning of National Platforms” for Europe
  • On-going work on Toolkit for National Platforms
National Platforms – Some conclusions of 2008

• Most National Platforms face multiple challenges to work effectively and fulfil what is expected from them.

• Still need for advocacy on importance of National Platforms and for training on the basics of DRR and HFA.

• But also need for more guidance and training on how to make NPs work on a daily basis – suggested Toolkit one approach, but more generally enhance exchange, lessons learning and networking to overcome challenges.

• Need for enhanced information exchange and lessons learning among NPs and between NPs and other national coordinating mechanisms.

Need to engage key Ministries in National Platforms and to include and reach out to Climate Change Adaptation focal points or risk of being side-lined overtime.

• Need to further promote added value of an officially declared NP.
National Platforms – Some conclusions of 2008

• To build strong and sustainable National Platforms:
  Need for much stronger engagement, technical support and funding by:
  • regional organisations,
  • bilateral development agencies',
  • IFIs, private sector and NGOs to lobby and contribute to building National Platforms
  
  Need to engage more ISDR country programmes of support (NPs as important component and target)

Need for funding – several NP related projects submitted, but not yet funded (Caribbean Platforms programme, Project for French-speaking and lusophone countries, Central Asia project)
National Platforms – Outlook 1  half 2009

• NP declarations „in the pipeline“ (Indonesia, Macedonia, Peru, Norway, Turkey, Georgia)

• 2nd session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (Geneva, 16-19 June 2009)
  • Monday, 15 June 2009 Global Meeting of National Platforms
  • Possibility for National Platforms and national delegations to advocate and show progress through NP-related statements in the plenary, during the Informal Plenary, or by organising a special-event over lunch time or through a stand at the Marketplace

• Regional strategy to build National Platforms in Asia under development, in Europe collaboration with EUROPA and other region entities.

• Translation of guidance documents into French, Spanish, Portuguese (proof-reading of Words into Action by French HFA FP)
Thank you

United Nations, secretariat of the
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
International Environment House II
7-9 Chemin de Balexert, CH 1219 Chatelaine
Geneva 10, Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 917 8908/8907
Fax: +41 22 917 8964
isdr@un.org