

## GLOBAL MEETING OF NATIONAL PLATFORMS FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

A preparatory meeting of national coordination mechanism focal points to the second session of the  
Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG)  
Monday, 15 June 2009 (14-17:30 hrs)

### Background Paper

#### Background

Multi-sectoral National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPs) have been recommended as a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism to reduce risks and build resilience of communities in several UN General Assembly resolutions and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (HFA). As nationally owned and led fora of multi-stakeholders, National Platforms provide coordination, analysis and advice to help Governments in integrating (mainstreaming) disaster risk reduction into developments policies, plans and programmes in line with the implementation of the HFA. By harnessing the full potential available at national level for reducing disaster risk, NPs can help in establishing or enhance an existing national DRR system and become a key instrument thereof. Since the adoption of the HFA in January 2005, 48 countries have informed the UNISDR Secretariat of the setting up of their National Platform. Other countries are either engaged in the process of establishing National Platforms or likely to do so in the coming months.

The UNISDR Secretariat, together with ISDR system partners in particular United Nations Resident Coordinators, the United Nations Development Programme and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, has promoted the setting up of National Platforms for disaster risk reduction. In response to Governments' request, the UNISDR Secretariat has actively facilitated their establishment and strengthening in all geographical regions. Additionally, in collaboration with the Government of South Africa, it convened in October 2006 the First Consultative meeting of National Platforms and HFA Focal Points in Pretoria. At this meeting, Government officials from countries with National Platforms and a few that were planning to establish them revised "*Guidelines for National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction*", which – following the integration of comments by the UNISDR Secretariat - nowadays serve as reference document to establish such coordinating mechanisms worldwide. During this meeting, the UNISDR Secretariat was requested to continue supporting the establishment and functioning of National Platforms by documenting good practices and by developing a "Toolkit" as further guidance document to support National Platforms' work. A second meeting planned in 2008 to be hosted by the Government and the National Platform of Panama had to be postponed and may be convened at a later stage.

Meanwhile and benefiting from the participation of National Platforms in the second session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (Geneva, 16 to 19 June 2009) this meeting serves to address specifically National Platform related questions. As only meeting targeting national coordination mechanisms during this year's Global Platform session, the UNISDR Secretariat convenes this meeting to share experience, take stock of developments and define a position of National Platforms to inform the Global Platform.

**Goal**

The Global meeting of National Platforms Focal points aims to contribute to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action through support to multi-stakeholder National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction.

**Specific Objectives**

1. Provide a forum for National Platforms and selected HFA focal points to share information and knowledge in coordinating national initiatives for disaster risk reduction,
2. Discuss challenges and priority actions for National Platforms, including suggestions for UNISDR and other ISDR partners' support,
3. Adopt a common position on National Platforms with recommendations by National Platforms to be communicated to the second session of the Global Platform's Informal Plenary,
4. Share existing tools and services made available by ISDR system partners for National Platforms.

**Expected Outputs**

1. Examples of recent development and/or good practices on setting up and sustaining National Platforms shared and discussed,
2. Recommendations made to enhance the effectiveness of UNISDR and ISDR partner support to National Platforms,
3. Recommendations made by/on National Platforms as input for Global Platform discussions and to inform the Chair's Summary,
4. Better understanding of the constraints and needs of National Platforms and HFA Focal Points in their daily work on disaster risk reduction,
5. Better knowledge of existing guidance notes, tools and services available for National Platforms and connection between National Platform and ISDR system service providers established/ facilitated.

**Duration & Venue**

The Consultative Meeting will be held on Monday, 15 June 2009 from 14:00 to 17:30 hours at the International Conference Centre Geneva. The meeting is held at the venue and on the day preceding the opening of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

**Meeting Conveners**

The UNISDR Secretariat is convening the meeting in cooperation with the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Switzerland (PLANAT). Switzerland and its National Platform support the holding of this meeting as hosting country of the Global Platform session.