

Meeting of National Platforms: Enhancing Disaster Reduction through Better Governance
9 May 2011, 1400-1700HRS
Room 4, CICG

EVENT REPORT

Brief Outline of Key Issues and Challenges Addressed in the Event:

The Meeting of National Platforms aimed to: first, look into existing mechanisms which support Government action for disaster risk reduction and the effective implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) at national and local levels; and second, identify the way forward for improved and more efficient governance and institutional processes for disaster risk reduction. Presentations were made by representatives of National Platforms from Ecuador, Gambia, Italy, the Kyrgyz Republic, Mauritania and Vietnam, as well as by the European Network of National Platforms. The presentations focused on effective and innovative approaches to disaster risk reduction in their own country -- or within the regional context -- and relayed the challenges faced and lessons learned, as well as priority actions for governance in relation to disaster risk reduction (DRR). The moderator for the session was last year's chair of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction and the current focal point for the Swedish National Platform, Ms. Mette Lindahl-Olsson.

Key Messages, Outcomes and Recommendations:

- There is a need to measure progress and impacts in disaster risk reduction by identifying targets, indicators, outcomes and work plans.
- Strong policy instruments, legislations, protocol and frameworks are important tools for HFA implementation.
- Disaster risk reduction should be decentralized. The roles, responsibilities and capacities of local government should be reinforced. Additionally, local communities, the private sector, academia, and civil society actors should be involved in HFA implementation and in the work of the National Platforms.
- The linkage between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction should be strengthened. Research on DRR and the implementation of findings are essential.
- Private and public sector partnerships in the design and implementation of disaster risk management alternatives can improve the work at all levels and, therefore, should be promoted.
- National Platforms need commitment from political leaders and decision-makers. These Platforms need sustainable financial support in order to be able to function and serve their purpose as coordination mechanisms for DRR at the country level.

Conclusions by the Facilitator for the Meeting of National Platforms:

Ms. Lindahl-Olsson highlighted the importance of National Platforms in developing a culture of disaster prevention. She stressed that information-sharing and knowledge transfer are effective means to get stakeholders, including citizens of all ages, involved. She emphasized the need to strengthen the institutional and legal basis of disaster risk reduction and to make strong linkages between climate change adaptation and DRR. She encouraged those present to continue their cooperative efforts locally, nationally, and regionally, and to move forward with the establishment of multi-stakeholder National Platforms.