



United Nations
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

ISDR National Platforms for DRR - Guidelines

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**Meeting of the National Platform for Disaster Risk
Reduction of Kazakhstan - Astana – 24-25 July 2009**

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National Platforms for DRR – A definition

- A **nationally owned and led forum or committee of multi-stakeholders**
- Serves as an **advocate for DRR** at different levels
- Provides **coordination, analysis and advice** on areas of priority requiring concerted action through a coordinated and participatory process.
- A **commitment** to work on prevention, preparedness and mitigation instead of merely focusing on disaster management and recovery

*As such it is mentioned in the **Hyogo Framework for Action's** Priority of Action 1 – adopted by 168 States*

*Previously referred to in **UN Economic and Social Council Resolution** 1999/63 and 2005 **UN General Assembly resolution** A/RES/59/231*

National Platforms for DRR – A definition (cont'd)

- Should be **the coordination mechanism for mainstreaming DRR** into development policies, planning and programmes in line with the implementation of the **Hyogo Framework for Action**
- Should aim to **contribute to** the establishment and the development of a **comprehensive national DRR system, as appropriate** to each country and be its **custodian**.
- National Platforms are **not necessarily new institutions**, but ideally **build on existing national coordinating mechanisms** to become a forum for exchange and decision-making for coordinated DRR as a:
 - **multi-sectoral- ,**
 - **multi-stakeholder-,**
 - **multi-level tool**

National Platforms for DRR – A definition (cont'd)

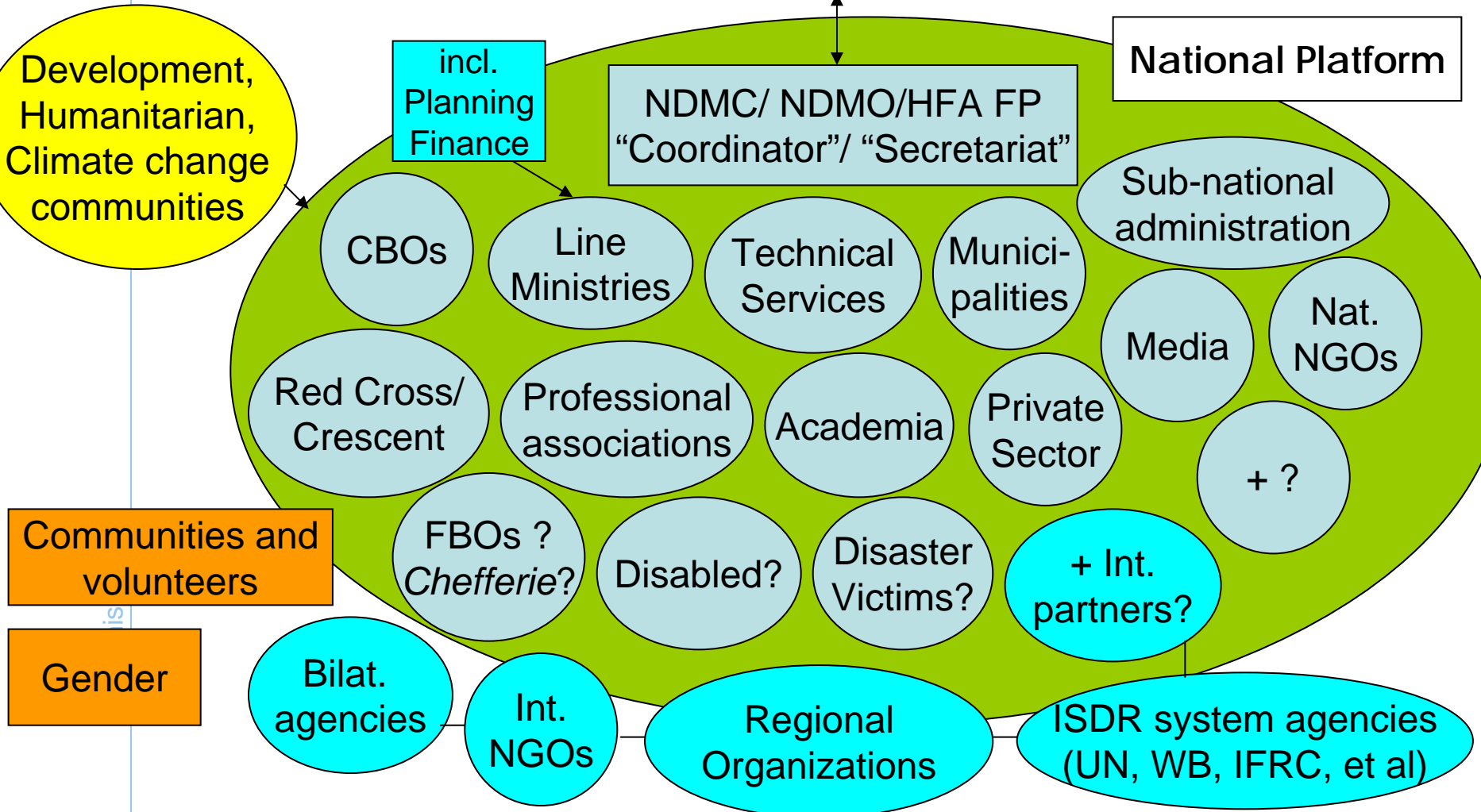
National Platforms are NOT the HFA Focal Point institution/ the National Disaster Management Institution, the Civil Protection Service, a National Steering Committee composed of Government Ministries only

...**but may well be** an existing national partnership forum or national coordinating mechanism, provided it is truly multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral and respects a country's diversity. It may keep its name and just becomes officially declared as National Platform for DRR

Hyogo Framework for Action: *“The expression **“national platform”** is a **generic term** used for national mechanisms for coordination and policy guidance on disaster risk reduction that need to be multi-sectoral and inter-disciplinary in nature, **with public, private and civil society participation involving all concerned entities** within a country. National platforms **represent the national mechanism for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.**”* (§16, ¹⁰)

Composition of National Platforms

National (Ministerial) DRM Steering Committee/Cabinet/ Parliament/ Board



National Platform core functions

- Be a **catalyst** for national consultations and consensus building
- **Increase national leadership and commitment** to the sustainability of disaster risk reduction 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**
- **Increase levels of knowledge and skills** on risk reduction
- **Increase national commitment to help** the most vulnerable and at risk population
- Through the HFA FP, **serves as national focal point** within the ISDR system and strengthens links with the ISDR secretariat/ UNISDR

Guiding principles for effective National Platforms

- Disaster risk reduction should be regarded as a **national and cross cutting issue within sustainable development**;
- National platforms should **utilize a participatory process that includes multidisciplinary and multi-sectoral perspectives** and actions, linked to existing systems;
- National platforms should influence positive changes through **concerted and coordinated efforts** particularly in policy, planning and decision-making process;
- National platforms should encourage **national adaptation and ownership of the HFA**.

Rationale: Why «National Platforms»?

– A tool for more efficient and effective action to reduce risks

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

Sustainability of DRR interventions – put action on a more long-term footing, legal basis, structures, entry point, ensure continued funding

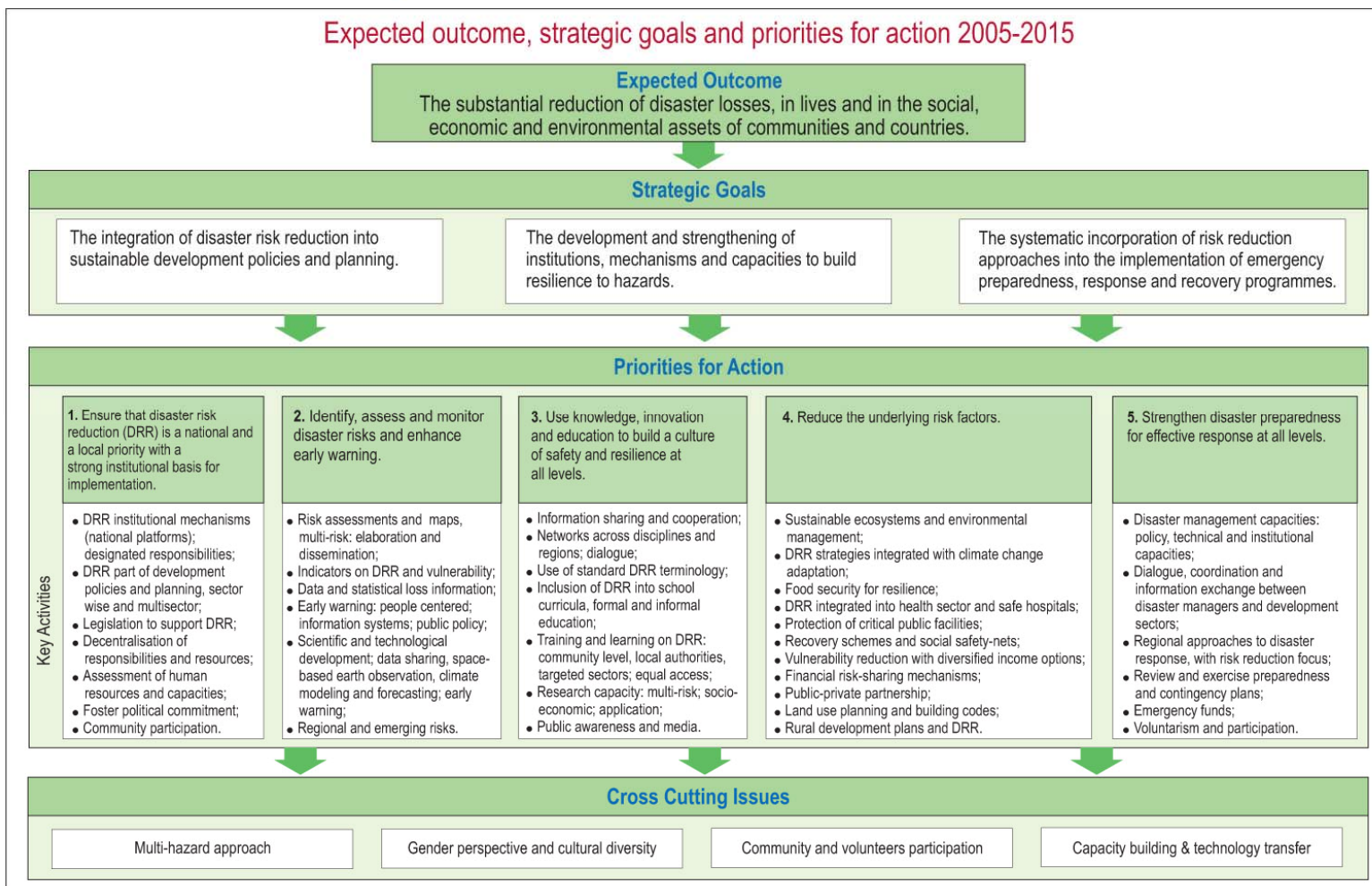
Rationale: Why « National Platforms »?

“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 of responsibility...”

Every citizen can contribute to disaster risk reduction by thinking safety and acting safely.”

From the introduction to the **South African Disaster Management Act** (2002) as presented by the City of **Cape Town Disaster Risk Management Centre**... for use by councilors and officials with **Disaster Risk Management** responsibilities

SUMMARY of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters



Rationale: Why «National Platforms»? (cont'd)

Disaster Risks – Some areas of relevance leading to stakeholders

Professional, academic, applied interests

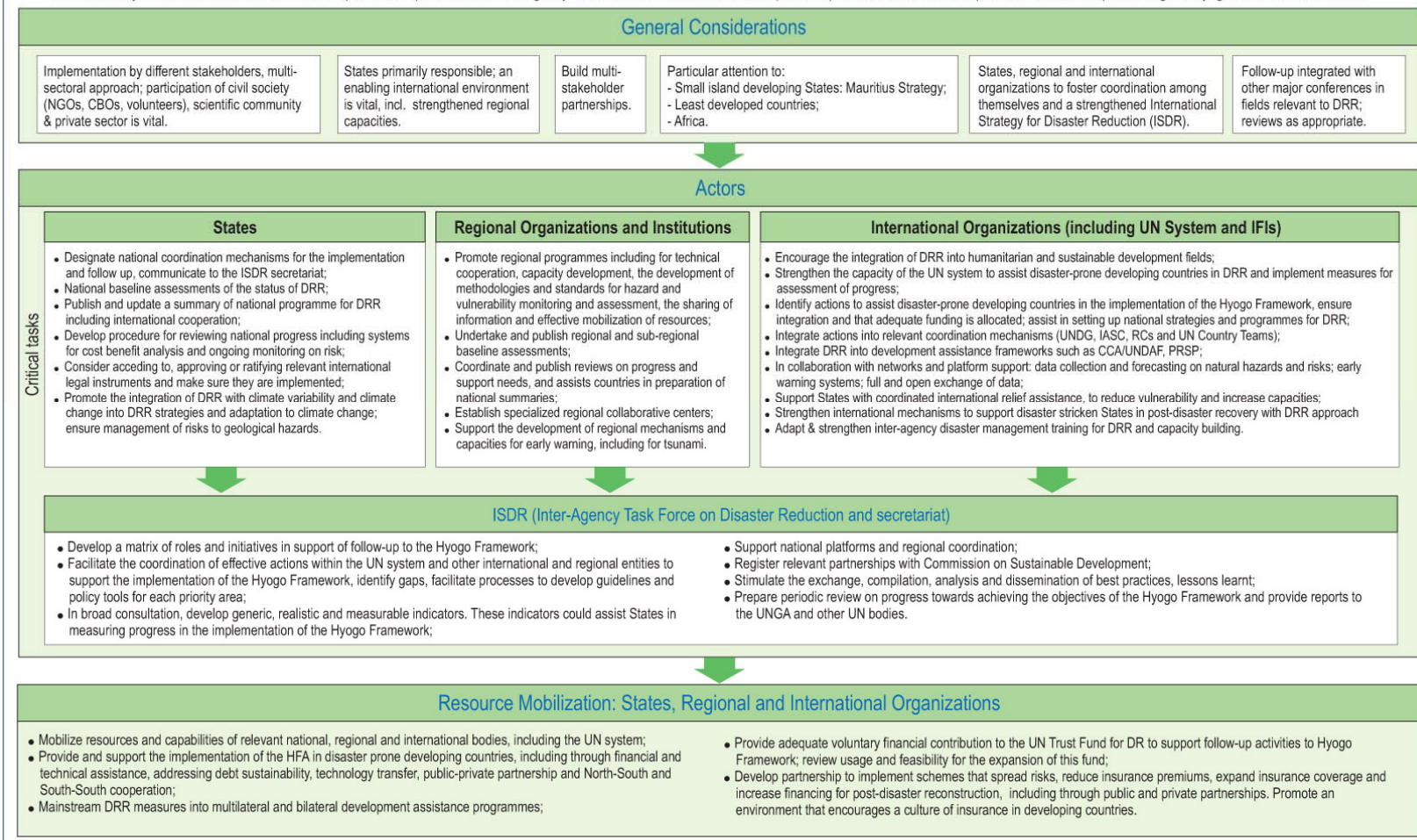
- Economics
- Public health, Epidemiology
- Food and Livelihoods, production
- Geography (human habitats) & Physical sciences (natural hazards)
- Planning (“Land use”) professions
- Natural resources, Environmental management
- Climate change
- Social sciences, Sociology, Anthropology
- Education
- Risk (and vulnerability) assessment
- Engineering, Infrastructure, Physical facilities
- Public administration

Some findings and recommendations of the latest UN Secretary-General report on the ISDR (2008)

- “... ensure strong coherence and **synergy between climate change and disaster risk reduction agendas....** This could include **participation in multi-stakeholder platforms for disaster risk reduction ..** By all concerned entities, including for ...climate change...”
- “Member States are encouraged to...setting targets for public spending on multi-year disaster risk reduction programmes.... **The Secretary-General encourages Governments, donors and funding institutions to increase their investment in DRR.**”

Implementation and Follow-Up

In order to achieve the strategic goals and act upon the priorities for action, the Framework identifies the following tasks for implementation and follow-up by States, regional and international organizations in collaboration with civil society and other stakeholders. The ISDR partners, in particular the Inter-agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction (IATF/DR)* and secretariat, are requested to assist in implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action.



ISDR system levels of action (“platforms”)

Define priorities: Strategic information, guidance and assessments of progress

National implementation

National frameworks, multi-stakeholders, and multi disciplinary **National Platforms for DRR**
Support from UN country team and/or WB – when appropriate

Regional

Based on existing regional and sub-regional strategies and mechanisms
e.g. CAREC, Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR, ISDR Asia Partnership
ECO

Thematic

Building on existing networks, clusters, programmes and other mechanisms
e.g. Education Platform (in preparation), Seismic Risk Reduction

Global Platform for DRR

Biennial sessions
Global Assessment Report

ISDR programme

coordinated international and regional efforts to support national and

local capacities

