



United Nations  
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

## **ISDR National Platform for DRR – Suggestions on how to make them work**

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

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## Suggested Priority Activities

- 1) Do a **baseline** on where the country stands in terms of Disaster impact & Disaster Risk Management (use HFA monitor or ISDR Indicators' document or similar tools)
- 2) Identify ***most urgent needs*** on DRR and the role or added value on this of a National Platform (e.g. risk mapping, focus of activities, integration of DRM, development or strengthening of the National coordination mechanism...) (keep an eye on the key activities of the HFA to lower transaction cost/ avoid reinventing the wheel)

## Approaches to make National Platforms work

### External links – external relations

- Propose/ review the **mandate of the National Platform (links with institutions and other mechanisms** - e.g. for climate change adaptation)
- **Scope (think tank, advise, coordination, operational involvement in DRR – and EM?)**
- **Decree or legal mention of the National Platform?**
- **Do not forget budget for the functioning of the NP** (secretariat and some operational expenses)
- Be specific, but also leave certain flexibility

### Internal Procedures:

- Establish working procedures (improve the overall working environment to make things happen)
- Define **Standard Operating Procedures**
- **TOR**
- **Roles and responsibilities of member organisations**
- **Different levels of participation** (full member, observer, etc....)
- **Budgetary issues** (who covers secretarial function?)

## Action planning

- In a participatory process develop an **Annual Work Plan** adapted to local conditions, but preferably aligned with the HFA or other regional frameworks and linked to priorities and activities in the National Development Plan (invite partners to contribute)
  - **Costed**
  - **Time-bound**
  - **Inclusive**
  - **Result-oriented with strong M&E/ Reporting component**
- **Divide roles and responsibilities - Set up Task Forces or Working Groups, delegate responsibilities and devise follow up and reporting/ feed back mechanisms to the plenary**
- **Use the potential and expertise of national and international/ regional DRR / ISDR stakeholders** present in your country/ the region to advance (see list of stakeholders on PreventionWeb, contact UNISDR Regional Office)
- (Cluster approach)

## Some proposed key activities

### Build the political and economic case for DRR and a NP

#### 1) Advocacy for investment in DRR, for HFA implementation and for NP support (obtain strong political commitment from the top)

- Risk and Loss Assessments;
- Reference to international, national and local trends and projections (“trends before disasters”)
- Cost-Benefit-Analyses showing the correlation between investment in DRR and sustainable development (risk of wiping out development gains)
- DRR as an accountability issue (Government has to be efficient in saving lives, international commitments to reduce risks)

#### 2) Advocacy for declaring and equipping a National Platform and its Focal Point institution

- Demonstrate the negative consequences of missing coordination, competition about resources, high transaction costs, slow or unpublized results, lack of visibility and recognition;
- Need for staff in the Focal point institution, but also operational resources

## Summary: Approaches to make National Platforms work

- Work towards clear and pragmatic **vision** of disaster risk reduction at national and community levels;
- Build strong national **ownership** (adapt int. and reg. strategies);
- Ensure adequate **consultation** in identifying problems and areas of priority;
- Achieve strong individual and institutional **commitment**;
- Engage in technical processes to develop a **knowledge base on disaster risk reduction** and develop a **methodological framework** for the national platform including a set of disaster reduction indicators