



United Nations  
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

## ISDR National Platforms for DRR - Guidelines

[www.unisdr.org](http://www.unisdr.org)

**Multi-stakeholder meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction –  
Bishkek – 27 July 2009**

Lars Bernd, Programme Officer National Platforms,  
UNISDR secretariat Geneva, [bernd@un.org](mailto:bernd@un.org)

## 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, <sup>10</sup>)

# Composition of National Platforms

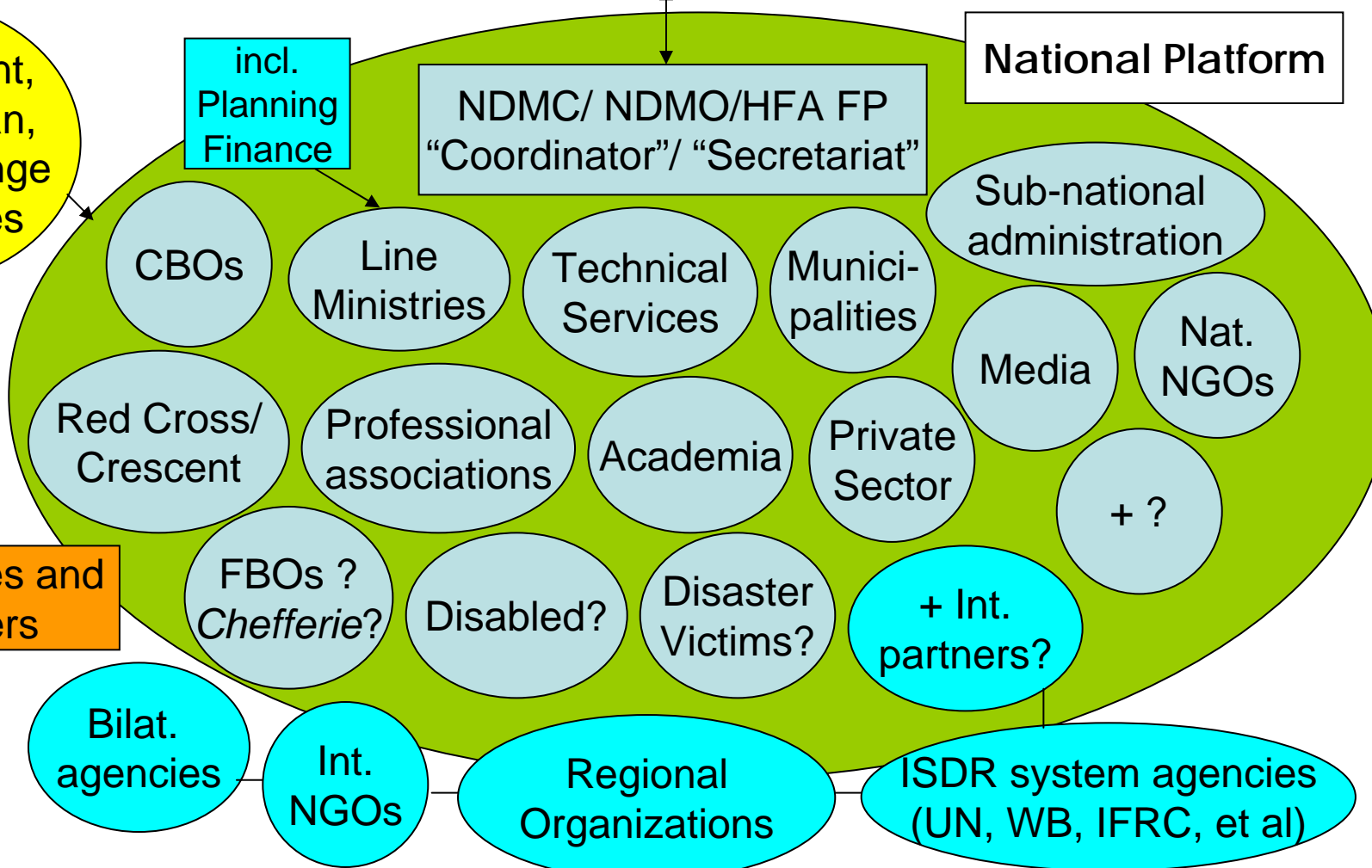
National (Ministerial) DRM Steering Committee/Cabinet/ Parliament/ Board

National Platform

NDMC/ NDMO/HFA FP  
"Coordinator"/ "Secretariat"

incl.  
Planning  
Finance

Development,  
Humanitarian,  
Climate change  
communities



Communities and  
volunteers

Gender

Bilat.  
agencies

Int.  
NGOs

Regional  
Organizations

ISDR system agencies  
(UN, WB, IFRC, et al)

## 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



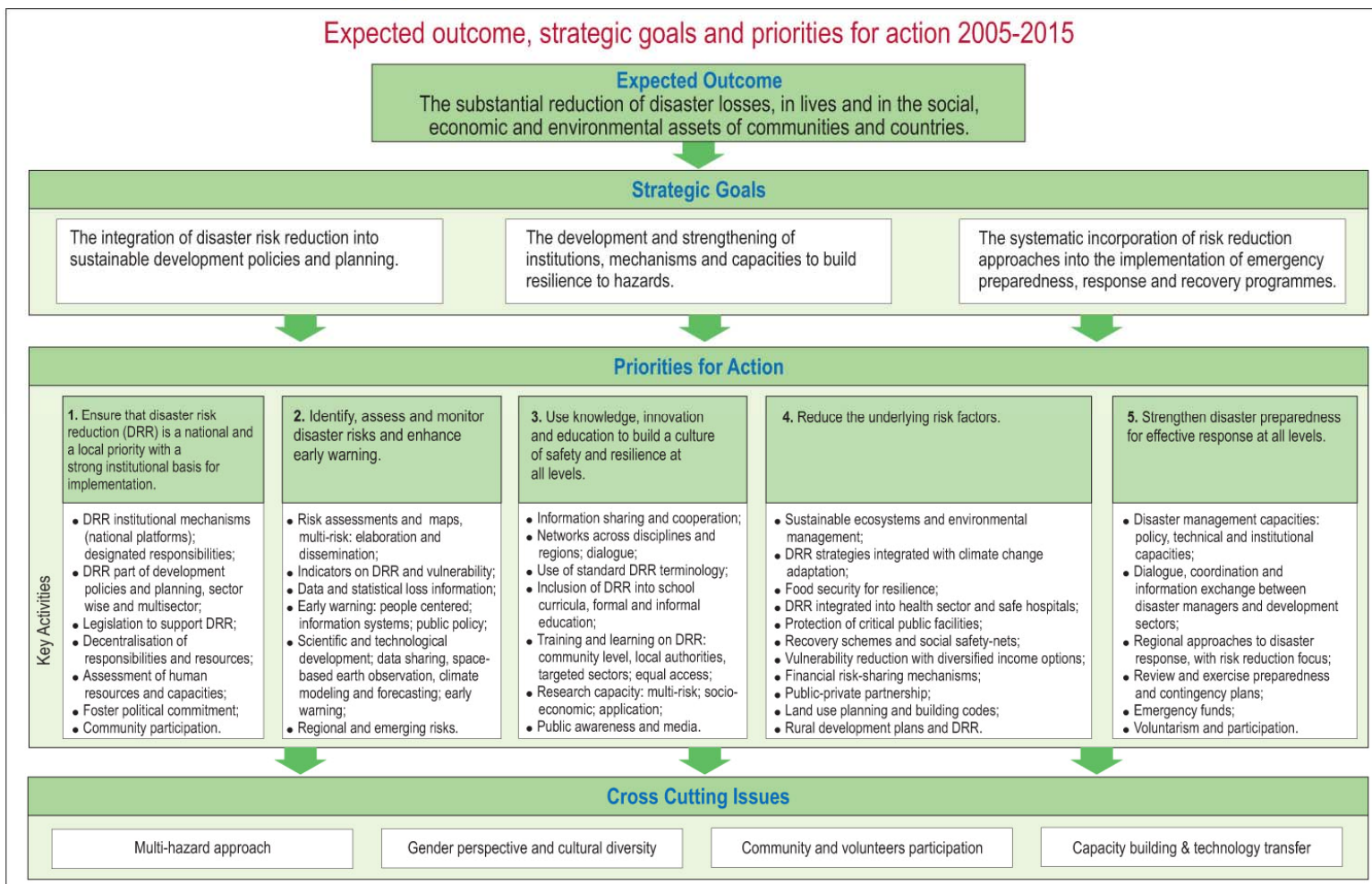
## Rationale: Why « National Platforms »?

*“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**

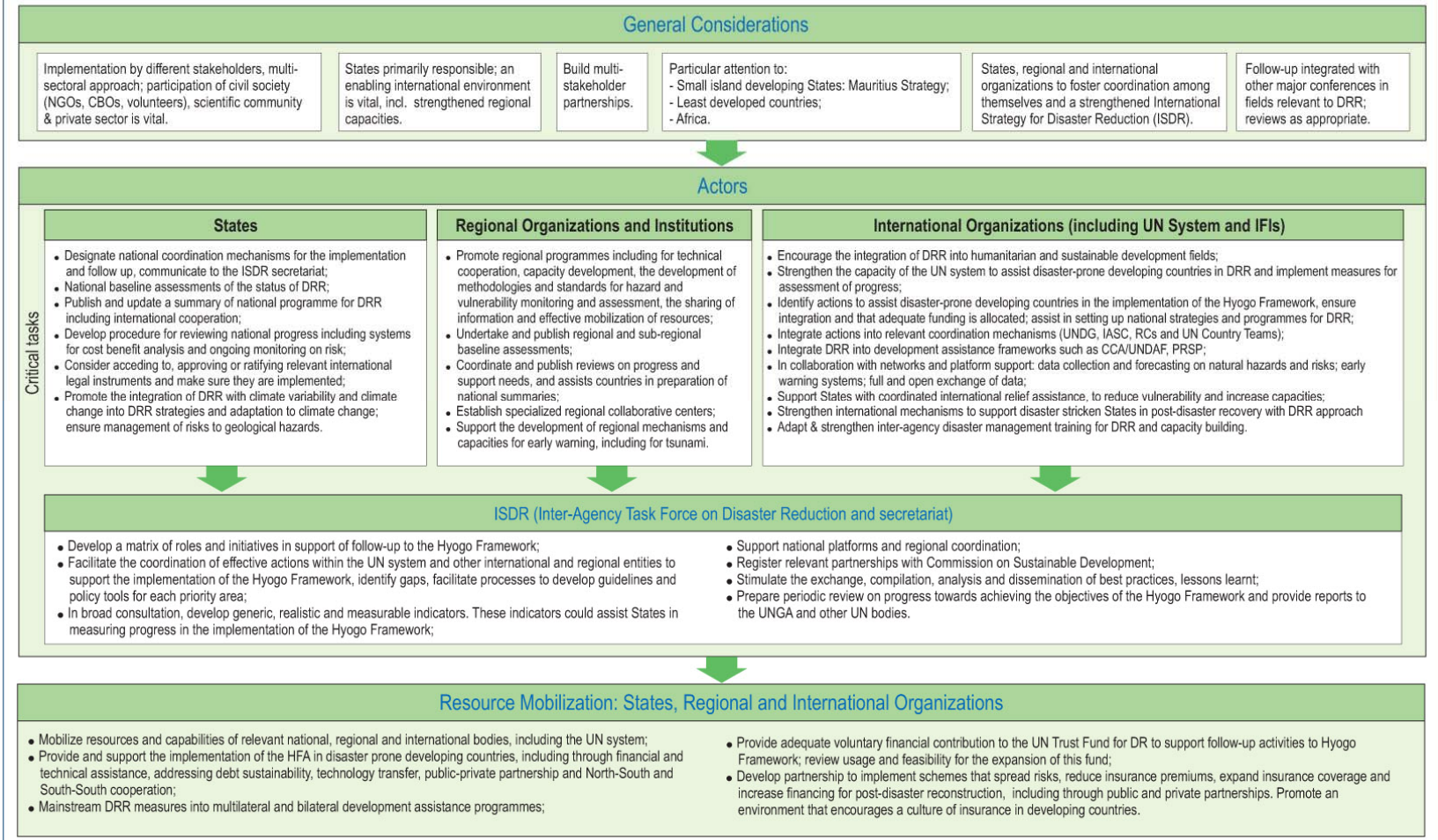
- Economics
- Public health, Epidemiology
- Food and Livelihoods, production
- Geography (human habitats) & Physical sciences (natural hazards)
- Planning (“Land use”) professions
- Natural resources, Environmental management
- Climate change
- Social sciences, Sociology, Anthropology
- Education
- Risk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

