



the dplg

Department:
Provincial and Local Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Meeting Report

First Consultative Meeting on National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction

11-13 October 2006
Pretoria, South Africa

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1. Context

The increased impact of devastating disasters and the growing understanding of disasters over the last decade have led Governments to start shifting from sole disaster response to comprehensive disaster risk reduction (DRR). Disasters are increasingly perceived as resulting from the combination of people's physical exposure to natural hazards and their socio-economic vulnerability. DRR is therefore accepted as a cross-cutting developmental issue.

To address the complexity of DRR, Governments collectively called for the establishment of multi-stakeholders platforms for DRR through UN resolutions, including ECOSOC Resolution 1999/63 in 1999, UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/59/231 in 2005 and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (HFA) adopted in 2005.

In response to these calls made by Governments, the UN/ISDR secretariat developed, in cooperation with other UN agencies, the Guidelines for the Establishment of National Platforms for DRR (the Guidelines) that have been used as a reference in different countries in their efforts to establish and develop multi-stakeholder platforms. Feedback information received from Governments over the past couple of years confirmed that the Guidelines were useful but needed to be reviewed together with end users and National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction (National Platforms for DRR), to reflect Government concerns and emphasize Government ownership and leadership of National Platforms for DRR.

To this end, the UN/ISDR secretariat deemed it was necessary to organize a First Consultative Meeting on National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction (the meeting) in the context of the implementation and follow up of HFA.

2. Date, venue, language & conveners of the Meeting

The Meeting was held in Pretoria, South Africa, from 11 to 13 October 2006, with English as its working language. It was convened through the joint efforts of the UN/ISDR secretariat and South Africa's National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC), which offered to host the Meeting. The UN/ISDR secretariat was in charge of some participants' travel arrangements and the provision of resource persons. Some participants had their travel and accommodation costs met by their organizations or countries.

3. Meeting objectives

The overarching goal of the Meeting was to contribute to the advancement of DRR for sustainable development. The UN/ISDR secretariat aimed to build Government ownership and leadership of National Platforms for DRR through the participatory process of revising the Guidelines, so that National Platforms for DRR become an effective mechanism to coordinate the promotion of DRR and its mainstreaming into development planning and programmes.

The specific objectives of the Meeting were to:

- Provide a forum for focal points of National Platforms for DRR to share information and knowledge in coordinating national initiatives for DRR;
- Review the effectiveness and relevance of the existing Guidelines by taking stock of the progress made and identifying gaps and challenges;
- Brainstorm on ways to advance DRR at national, regional and international levels;
- Discuss possible ways to enhance networking among national platforms; and
- Discuss priority areas, indicators (process and tangibles) and ways to implement and follow up the HFA.

4. Participation

The Meeting was designed for: (1) Selected National Platform focal points in countries having National Platforms for DRR; (2) Governments planning to establish DRR from Africa, America, Asia and Pacific, and Europe. The Meeting was attended by 22 representatives of the following 14 countries: China, France, Germany, Iran, Italy, Japan, Madagascar, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Peru, Senegal, South Africa and Uganda – with some countries represented by two or three officials. A list of participants is attached to this Meeting Report as Annex.

Each participant was required to review the existing “Guidelines for the Establishment of National Platforms” and prepare a presentation (15 minutes per country) including the following elements: (1) Context and rationale for the establishment of National Platforms for DRR; (2) Key members and legitimacy of and resources for National Platforms for DRR (for all countries represented); (3) Major progress, constraints and challenges in advancing the work of National Platforms for DRR; and (4) Comments and inputs for the revision of the existing Guidelines.

5. Proceedings

The three-day Meeting focused on the following issues:

On Day 1 – (1) Better understanding of the progress made, constraints and challenges faced and the way forwards for National Platforms for DRR – through presentations by National Platforms representatives and ISDR staff members; and (2) Group discussions.

On Day 2 – (1) Better understanding of the global implementation of the HFA and the role played by the strengthened ISDR System in that context; and (2) Group discussions and presentations on the “Effectiveness and Relevance of the Guidelines to Promote National Platforms for DRR within the Context of the HFA and its Mainstreaming into Development Planning and Practice”;

On Day 3 – (1) Reviewing the current Guidelines through group discussions and presentations; and (2) Evaluation of the Meeting.

The participants were divided into two working groups:

GROUP 1: China, France, Germany, Iran, Italy, Madagascar, Nigeria, Peru, South Africa.

GROUP 2: China, France, Iran, Italy, Japan, Norway, Panama, Senegal, Uganda.

A Drafting Committee was also formed as follows:

Satoru Nishikawa (Japan, Chairperson), Karl-Otto Zentel (Germany), Petter Nulland (Norway), Olusegun Edward Ojo (Nigeria), Feng Min Kan (Senior Advocacy & Outreach Unit Coordinator, UN/ISDR, Geneva), Christel Rose

(UN/ISDR Regional Programme Officer, Asia/Pacific), Haris Sanahuja (UN/ISDR Regional Programme Officer, Latin America/Caribbean), Paola Albrito (UN/ISDR Programme Officer, Policy Unit, UN/ISDR, Geneva).

5.1. Day 1

- The Meeting began with opening remarks by Mr Tozi Faba, Deputy Director-General of the South African Ministry of Provincial and Local Government, who spoke on behalf of the South African Minister for Provincial and Local Government, Mr Sidney Mufamadi. Welcoming the participants, Mr Faba said South Africa's Disaster Management Act, promulgated in January 2003, was an internationally recognized path-breaking example – before the adoption of the HFA at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction on January 2005. He added that South Africa wished to be the lead country on this subject.
- Thereafter, UN/ISDR Regional Coordinator for Africa Mr Martin Owor expressed the UN/ISDR secretariat's great appreciation of the support from the Government of South Africa. He urged the participants to see how they “could turn National Platforms for DRR - which are actually the foundations and cornerstones of the global DRR process - into real forces that can set national agenda, or at least influence the agenda at regional and global levels”.
- As the chairperson of the Day 1 proceedings, Mr Kenneth Westgate, the UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) Regional Disaster Reduction Adviser for Africa, asked the participants to introduce themselves, which the participants did.
- Ms Feng Min Kan, UN/ISDR Senior Advocacy and Outreach Unit Coordinator, took the participants through the agenda and presented the main objectives of the Meeting, after which the agenda was adopted.
- As indicated in the agenda, most National Platform focal points and the other delegates gave their presentations on DRR in line with the HFA, along the following lines:
 - Context and rationale for the establishment of National Platforms for DRR;
 - Key members and legitimacy of and resource for National Platforms for DRR;
 - Major progress, constraints and challenges in advancing the work of National Platforms; and
 - Comments and inputs for the revision of the existing Guidelines.
- The National Platform focal points' presentations were captured on a CD-Rom and distributed to the participants (for full view of full presentations, please see www.unisdr.org).
- To support group discussions on the Guidelines, presentations on the current Guidelines and the Best Practices and Lessons Learnt were made respectively by Mr Haris Sanahuja, the UN/ISDR Regional Programme Officer for Latin

America/Caribbean, and Ms Feng Min Kan, the UN/ISDR Senior Advocacy and Outreach Unit Coordinator.

- The participants were divided into two working groups to discuss on Areas and Ways for National Platforms for DRR to Facilitate the Implementation of the HFA based on a set of questions. Group 1 was chaired by Madagascar, Group 2 by Japan. The outcomes of the group discussions and ensuing group presentations and plenary discussion are presented in Section 6 below entitled Outcomes of the Meeting.

5.2. Day 2

- Day 2 began with a recap of the previous day's proceedings by Mr Kenneth Westgate, the UNDP/BPCR Regional Disaster Reduction Advisor for Africa. He said there seemed to be several common achievements and challenges amongst National Platforms for DRR and an understanding of how National Platforms for DRR could further be developed through interaction and collaboration between international and national organizations. A central question in revising the Guidelines, he said, would be to clarify the relevance of its functions and how National Platforms for DRR could bring real changes where DRR was tangible for stakeholders. Referring to the National Platforms for DRR presentations, he said there might be still some way to go to shift from disaster response to DRR. Mr Westgate ended the recap with an encouragement to all stakeholders to address the challenges on how to keep DRR and National Platforms for DRR alive.
- The two working groups continued their presentations on Areas and Ways for National Platforms for DRR to facilitate the Implementation of the HFA, which began the previous day. The outcomes are presented in Section 6 below entitled Outcomes of the Meeting.
- As indicated in the agenda, Mrs Helena Molin Valdes, the Deputy Director of the UN/ISDR secretariat, began a series of presentations entitled "Setting the Agenda within the Strengthened ISDR System". She presented the global implementation of the HFA and the ISDR System, saying that the ISDR System has developed into a much more inclusive "movement" including a "Global Platform" that includes Governments, regional organizations, NGOs, academia, private sectors, International Financial Institutions and UN agencies. Mrs Helena Molin Valdes also stressed the following points:
 - National Platforms for DRR should be the cornerstones within the ISDR System for the implementation of the HFA. Many international organizations that are members of the ISDR System (i.e. UNDP, OCHA, WMO, UNEP, UNESCO, WHO, etc.) have made high-level commitment to support the strengthened ISDR System. The commitment has not been fully matched yet by actions in the field, but some progress has been observed;
 - The World Bank "Global Hotspot Study", which identifies high-risk countries, has generated more interest from financial institutions;
 - Donors are showing increased interest in DRR;

- UN Resident Coordinators are increasingly interested in and committed to DRR (the HFA is now included in UN Resident Coordinators induction courses);
 - The UN/ISDR secretariat 2006-2007 world campaign entitled “Disaster Risk Reduction Begins at School” conducted with UNESCO, ActionAid and others is making good progress. The 2008-2009 one entitled “Safer Hospitals” will be launched in collaboration with WHO.
 - DRR is being included increasingly into UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF), Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and National Development Strategies (NDSs) with support from UNDP and the World Bank;
 - An increasing number of multi-stakeholder partnerships are being observed, for instance the emerging NGO Network for DRR and Business Alliance for DRR;
 - The First (Annual) session of the Global Platform for DRR will be held in Geneva from 5 to 7 June 2007 and the establishment of regional platforms is also encouraged;
 - Thematic platforms have been set up: on education, early warning and recovery;
 - The ISDR System will face two major challenges: (1) Monitoring progress and setting realistic targets with indicators to be used by national platforms and the international community; and (2) Defining roles and responsibilities for follow-up of specific areas of the HFA.
- Another presentation was given by Ms. Paola Albrito, Programme Officer in the UN/ISDR Policy Unit, on a number of guidelines that are being developed by the UN/ISDR secretariat and its partners to support the national implementation of the HFA. The guidelines, which will primary target national implementers, are aimed at supporting them in their implementation of the five HFA priorities for action. They are the following:
 - Matrix of Commitment and Initiatives: mapping out who is doing what at international, regional and national levels;
 - Words Into Action: guidelines on how to implement the HFA;
 - Guidelines on how to monitor achievements in HFA implementation;
 - Guidelines on how to mainstream DRR into sustainable development programmes and mechanisms (such as the CCA/UNDAF);
 - Common reporting on DRR achievements; and
 - How to approach the five HFA priorities of action practically: methods and examples;
 - The above presentation was followed by group discussions on the Effectiveness and Relevance of the Guidelines for the Establishment of National Platforms for DRR to Promote DRR within the Context of the HFA and its Mainstreaming into Development Planning and Practice” based on a set of questions. As was the case in the previous day, Group 1 was chaired by Madagascar, Group 2 by Japan.
 - The group discussions were followed by group presentations and a Plenary session to discuss the outcomes presented in Section 6 below entitled “Outcomes of the Meeting”.

- After the group presentations and the plenary discussion, the rest of the day was free for most participants to allow the Drafting Committee to develop a first draft of the revised the Guidelines in the light of the inputs made by participants.

5.3. Day 3

- Day 3 began with a recap of the previous day's proceedings by Mr Satoru Nishikawa, Director for Disaster Preparedness in the Japanese Government's Department of Disaster Management, Cabinet Office. Referring to the ISDR System presentation, he highlighted that Governments needed to maintain their commitment to support and strengthen the ISDR System. He also stressed the key role of National Platforms for DRR in implementing the HFA and in promoting DRR at national level. Mr Nishikawa concluded the recap by encouraging participants to continue their efforts in building a comprehensive tool that would provide guidance to other nations on planning or strengthening National Platforms for DRR.
- The two groups presented the results of their discussions through presentations. Group 1 was chaired by Madagascar, Group 2 by Japan. They provided invaluable inputs for revision of existing Guidelines, which include recommendations on contents and structure of the updated Guidelines. Detailed results are provided in Section 6.5.
- Based on the results of the group discussions held in Day 1 and Day 2, a Drafting Committee represented by Government officials from Japan, Germany, Norway, Nigeria and supported by ISDR staff had more detailed discussion on the Guidelines. Their inputs and recommendations were reported to the last plenary session of the meeting and incorporated directly in the draft version of the revised Guidelines.
- Due to time constraint, it was agreed that the draft version of the Guidelines presented at the Plenary would be finalized based on the following procedure:
 - The UN/ISDR secretariat will include eventual remaining elements suggested by the working groups;
 - The draft Guidelines will be reviewed by the Drafting Committee;
 - Governments representatives participating in the Meeting will advance the draft for finalization; and
 - The final document will be made in a booklet format for easy and wider reference and dissemination.
- Thereafter, the participants proceeded to evaluate the Meeting. They expressed satisfaction over the way the Meeting in Pretoria was organized, the general atmosphere and high level of participation observed, and the outcomes of the Meeting.
- After the above evaluation, the Meeting ended with closing brief remarks from the UN/ISDR secretariat and the Government of South Africa.

6. Outcomes of the Meeting

6.1. From National Platform focal points' presentations on progress, constraints, challenges and ways forwards relating to national platforms (Day 1)

Some of the common achievements made and challenges faced by the National Platforms for DRR are captured below together with some comments on how to revise the Guidelines. (For full view of achievements, please see full presentations on www.unisdr.org)

Common achievements

Multi-stakeholder cooperation among ministries, donors and nationally based UN agencies (enhanced at country level); increasing integration of DRR in international development and humanitarian assistance programmes and strategies; DRR integrated into national development policies, strategies, legislation or national plans; legislation relative to DRR developed or its creation supported; elements of DRR integrated into sustainable development issues; better understanding of DRR and vulnerability at national and community level; educational sector engaged in the inclusion of DRR in school curricula; community participation in DRR promoted through awareness raising and training activities; media, private sector, scientific community engaged in DRR issues; risk mapping developed and early warning systems and building codes strengthened; disaster preparedness strengthened and disaster contingency plans developed; regional cooperation strengthened.

Common challenges

Limited human and financial resources and little or no allocation from national budget; capacity building for National Platform members; inadequate training in DRR as opposed to disaster response; conflicting institutional priorities; commitment not translated into action; knowledge not fully translated into practice; to improve ways for collaboration among national, regional and international levels sustainability of DRR activities decision-making power is increasingly shifting to regional political units (e.g. European Union).

Comments/suggestions on how to revise the Guidelines

The participants suggested to include elements related to the added value of National Platforms for DRR; provide a definition of DRR; elaborate on how National Platforms for DRR fit in the strengthened ISDR System; stress that DRR is an ongoing, continuous process; introducing a 2005-2015 timeline will help focus efforts; a reporting regime will promote national accountability and responsibility; establish the link between local, national and international; stress that coordination does not mean taking over responsibility.

6.2. From group discussions on Areas and Ways for National Platforms for DRR to Facilitate the Implementation of the HFA (Day 1 & Day 2)

What should be the goal of National Platforms for DRR?

Capacity building/development; coordination; promoting change of mentality and attitude (from response to prevention); coordinate DRR policy; multi-stakeholder mechanism to advocate for DRR; link between local, national, regional, international; ensure sustainability of DRR agenda.

What is the primary function of National Platforms for DRR?

To serve as a platform/forum for consultations; brainstorming; exchange of information; mediation; bridging gaps between politicians, civil society, experts and private/public sector; support national consultations and/or identification of priorities for DRR; support policy formulation (national, regional, international); monitor the implementation and review of DRR activities; implement HFA at national level.

What are the key activities that National Platforms for DRR can do that regional and UN and other international stakeholders may not be in a position to do?

- Advocating and developing policy/plan/strategy/legislation;
- Advocating for the integration of DRR into international humanitarian assistance and development policies of their countries;
- Influencing development of regional policies, plans and strategies;
- Integrating DRR into school curricula;
- Setting research priorities on DRR at national/regional level;
- Advising authorities on local and national regulations on development activities;
- Monitoring and reporting, including on national implementation of HFA;
- Adapting HFA to national context;
- Establishing baselines;
- Benchmarking progress;
- Identifying challenges and areas of concerns;
- Identifying, inventorying, mobilizing resources at local/national level;
- Setting forth accepted targets.

Who should be the members of National Platforms for DRR?

Private sector; public sector; NGOs and civil society; UN country teams (UNCT); media; insurance; academia; opinion shapers.

Who should ideally be the leading national agency or ministry to oversee the coordination of DRR for sustainable development?

- Group 1 said it should be based on existing structures but it had to be an organ with high-level coordination capacity is recommended.
- Group 2 said it differed from one country to another but it should meet or combine the following criteria: (1) strong leadership and good convener; (2) budget allocation; (3) legislative mandate; (4) continuity/sustainability.

What is the brief definition of National Platforms for DRR?

- Group 1 suggested the following definition: “Group of stakeholders with a common vision of DRR to enable society to live with risk, reduce vulnerability to risk and build the resilience of society; a group that is assigned by Government through a letter to UN/ISDR via diplomatic channel”.
- Group 2 adhered to the definition provided in the Guidelines.

What kind of cooperation do National Platforms for DRR expect from UN agencies especially at country level?

- Research on economy of risk; common voice from UNCT; technical and financial support;
- Financial support: facilitate relationship with cooperation/development agencies;
- Technical support: information sharing, expertise, twining;
- Advocacy support: provide opportunities and foster collaboration and dialogue among national platforms regionally.

Is there a need for National Platforms for DRR to establish a mechanism to ensure that together they play a key role in risk and vulnerability reduction and ensure regional and international efforts in DRR?

- Group 1 said such a mechanism was necessary to represent the interests of NPs, channel requests on DRR and facilitate peer review.
- Group 2 said there was no need to establish such a mechanism, but there was need for exchange, partnership and collaboration within the existing mechanism.

6.3. From group discussions on the “Effectiveness and Relevance of the Guidelines to Promote DRR within the Context of the HFA and its Mainstreaming into Development Planning and Practice” (Day 2)

How adequate is the current Guidelines for guiding the establishment of National Platforms for DRR and why?

- Scope described in Guidelines suitable;
- Useful for direction especially for new National Platforms for DRR, but are still weak and present gaps for strengthening/further development of existing National Platforms for DRR;
- National Platforms for DRR are introduced as new mechanisms, which may lead to confusions. There is need to highlight and reinforce the concept that National Platforms for DRR should be built on existing mechanisms at national level;
- Useful for maintaining focus and balance but needs restructuring;
- Overview of Guidelines is useful for engaging different actors into the system, but national annual work plans for National Platforms for DRR need to be developed;
- Structure of Guidelines suitable even if improvements could be made; it should be kept in mind that it will be difficult to develop the Guidelines to another step (deeper) due to national particularities;

- Country-specific long-term process could follow a step-by-step approach;
- Elaborate on existing National Platforms to show “how-to” examples;
- The process must consist of comprehensive elements;
- More focused on multi-stakeholder nature of national platforms is needed, especially the involvement of civil society.

What are the missing aspects and topics that need to be reflected in the Guidelines?

- Participatory process;
- Participation should consist of key actors based on country needs and expectations from National Platforms for DRR;
- Explain how the National Platforms for DRR are part of the strengthened ISDR System;
- Relationship between UN/ISDR and National Platforms for DRR need to be interactive. Why, how, when should be clearly stated;
- The National Platforms for DRR need to do advocacy work;
- Connection between national systems and National Platforms for DRR should be clear to avoid overlap;
- Definition of DRR missing;
- Revise consistency of language used in the Guidelines;
- UNCTs should have an expert role for DRR, assisting National Platforms for DRR and Governments;
- Added value(s) of National Platforms for DRR should be included, listing benefits for both countries and the international community from having such mechanisms in place;
- Incentives for countries to set up national platforms should be included. It should be mentioned, for instance, that National Platforms for DRR should play a key role in approving/screening access to international funds and resources for DRR activities in their countries (such as the country facilities to be set up by the World Bank). Another example of incentives was related to participation in global forums (such as the Global Platform) being linked to the existence of national platforms;
- Disasters and post-disaster situations represent lessons learned for National Platforms for DRR and these lessons learned should be captured in the Guidelines;
- To provide guidance to existing National Platforms for DRR, the Guidelines should be complemented with more tools such as CCA-UNDAF guidelines;
- Concrete examples based on existing National Platforms’ experiences, especially achievements made by national platforms in advancing DRR issues, should be profiled in the Guidelines.
- More explicit reference is needed to Small Island Development States as special target countries for the establishment of National Platforms for DRR.

What are the examples of National Platforms for DRR that should be included in the current Guidelines?

- Examples of different National Platforms for DRR: How they interact/connect with Government systems, broader national systems;
- Added value of National Platforms for DRR through adequate knowledge of how the national system works and how to establish the National Platforms for DRR accordingly;
- Added value to broader governmental system;
- Examples of how different actors can add value;
- How national stakeholders can spell out and relate to DRR in their every day activities;
- Common goal amongst stakeholders;
- How to defeat obstacles around common goals – current practices and examples;
- Experience of disasters, actions taken and further strategies of countries;
- How to sustain an established National Platforms for DRR and DRR as a concept;
- No blueprint for National Platforms for DRR;
- Diversity of national platforms;
- Activities of National Platforms for DRR to mobilise resources for DRR in humanitarian assistance and development projects and strategies
- Progress achieved by National Platforms for DRR: Gaining political commitment; enlarging the participation of stakeholders and sectors in DRR; promoted DRR legislation, influenced processes such as PRSPs and development plans and programmes by incorporating DRR aspects.
- Brief compilation of such achievements would be useful as an advocacy and promotional tool (profiling the 13 National Platforms for DRR present at the Meeting would be a good start).

What are the lessons learned that should be included in the Guidelines?

- Capture examples of lesson learned;
- Define grouping of National Platforms for DRR for finding practical examples;
- Situation before and after establishment of a National Platform for DRR with emphasis on what has been gained;
- National Platforms for DRR cannot be successful without proper political backup;
- Global and regional National Platforms meetings enable great deal of information sharing and should be encouraged. These meetings are also crucial for the concept of “movement” being promoted by the new ISDR System;
- Twinning National Platforms for DRR, especially those with similar hazard profiles: there is already a good twinning experience that National Platforms for DRR can provide;
- ISDR regional offices should have seed money to advocate face-to-face the establishment of National Platforms for DRR;
- There is still a need to provide information on existing National Platforms for DRR to national offices/representatives of international organizations that received the instructions to join National Platforms for DRR but do not know who/where they are. The example of WMO

and its National Meteorological Services, as well as WHO and its Ministries of Health, are relevant;

- National Platforms for DRR should be actively involved in monitoring;
- Regional and sub-regional intergovernmental bodies (such as AU, CEPREDENAC, ASEAN) need to be more engaged in advocating for the development of National Platforms for DRR. Inclusion of the considerations of National Platforms for DRR in the guidelines of key organizations, such as the OECD, is also very relevant.

Are the suggested tasks for National Platforms for DRR comprehensive and realistic?

- Group 1 said: Concrete language should be used; high-level advocacy was important to generate political commitment; coordination, review, confidence building needed to be included; social responsibility needed to be stressed, such as regulations that should protect the population.
- Group 2 said the tasks were comprehensive but it was not realistic that all could be addressed by all National Platforms for DRR at the same time, adding that it depended on the evolution process of the National Platform for DRR itself; which varies from one country to another. Nevertheless, the Group said, the tasks could be re-grouped by refining the key objectives and key activities expected for National Platforms for DRR.

Who should decide when and how a National Platform for DRR should be established?

- Group 1 said it should be decided at national level, at the highest political level with access diplomatic channels, and that the establishment of a National Platform for DRR had to be communicated through diplomatic channels.
- Group 2 said it should be a prerogative of countries, and that they can do it by communicating the establishment of a National Platform for DRR to the UN/ISDR secretariat. Endorsing the major guiding principles should be part of the process of becoming a National Platform for DRR, in order to ensure that all National Platforms for DRR have a common identity in terms of overall goals.

6.4. Other issues discussed (Day 2)

Official recognition of national platforms

- Legitimacy of National Platforms for DRR is crucial;
- Formal endorsement, ideally from highest political level, to avoid “individual” dependence;
- Through state counsel official documents to designate committee for DRR as National Platforms for DRR;
- Grouping of National Platforms for DRR, as discussed earlier, is possible based on legitimacy of National Platforms for DRR:
 - Highly centralized (China);
 - Mixed private/public model (Nigeria and other African countries);

- “Liberal” where views are coming together through the support of civil society and NGOs (Germany).

How to increase human and financial resources for National Platforms for DRR

- E.g. DKKV (Germany): annual budget; funding associations from national level; funding raised through organization of events;
- E.g. China: annual budget;
- E.g. Iran: special budget approved by Parliament; funds distributed through Ministry of Interior (fund distribution including loans, reconstruction funds);
- E.g. Madagascar: annual budget, through work plan within the context of HFA, funds from UNCTs, World Bank, etc.;
- Securing funding by diversifying income;
- Working with UN partners through sustainable development tools like CCA/UNDAF.

Sustain the interest and commitment of National Platforms leaders

- Tangible activities to work together to trigger interest;
- Involve volunteers, e.g. groups like pensioners;
- Access to information and funds;
- Associate economic sector, insurance, and research sector;
- Share members’ achievements to show added value of National Platforms for DRR;
- Give visibility to actors;
- Advisable to propose that all National Platforms for DRR should have annual work plans developed by members;
- Help members learn from outside events, from other countries; also drawing lessons depend on how we read extreme events;
- Media involvement.

Ensure national ownership and national leadership of national platforms for DRR in the context of follow-up to and implementation of the HFA

- National Platforms for DRR must organize training for members on how to implement the HFA;
- Build no “natural composition” of National Platforms for DRR; be flexible to benefit from regional and international activities;
- High level of coordination within the National Platform for DRR;
- Empowering National Platforms members to advocate DRR and increase their competence.

6.5. From a group review of the current Guidelines (Day 2 & Day 3)

On contents of updated Guidelines

- Include a definition of DRR;
- Elaborate on benefits and added value of having a National Platform for DRR;
- Reformulation of key objectives, main functions, major guiding principles, key activities;

- Update section relative to the role of the UN System (reflecting the ongoing strengthening of the ISDR System);
- Include examples illustrating the four elements of the establishment and strengthening of National Platforms for DRR.
- Based on geographical representation, examples to be included in a “longer version” of the Guidelines to be then transformed into a publication; examples to be developed from information collected from existing national platforms. (Comment for chair: this is an update that will some time need to be captured)

Proposed structure (table of contents) of updated Guidelines

- Introduction (to include definitions of National Platforms for DRR and DRR);
- Key Objectives;
- Main Functions;
- Composition of a National Platform for DRR;
- Major Guiding Principles and four elements to put them into practice;
- Main Activities
- The role of the ISDR System and its secretariat in supporting National Platforms for DRR;
- Challenge: to include elements proposed keeping in mind the goal of having a brief and user-friendly document.

Next steps for finalization of the Guidelines

- Geneva head office of UN/ISDR secretariat to include eventual remaining elements suggested by working groups;
- Drafting Committee to review draft Guidelines;
- Participants of the Meeting to review final draft for final version;
- The Guidelines of National Platforms for DRR will be captured in booklet format for easy and wider reference/dissemination.

ANNEX

Final List of Participants

Name and Surname	Organisation	E-mail
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