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Findings of the Review of National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction 2012-2013

Final Report

*Including comments, feedback and recommendations from National Platforms
Consultation on a Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction held at the Fourth
Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (19-23 May 2013, Geneva)*

*With financial and technical support from the German Federal Foreign Office and the World
Bank Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (WB/GFDRR)*

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The UNISDR wishes to express deep appreciation to the Working Group and Reference Group members and to those who have contributed to the Review.

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)

List of Acronyms

BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa
CC	Climate Change
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
COP	Convention of Parties
CTGC	(Technical Council for Disaster Management)
DG	Director General
DKKV	German Committee for Disaster Risk Reduction
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EUR-OPA	(European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement)
G20	(Group of Twenty Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors)
HFA	Hyogo Framework for Action
HFA2	(Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction)
IFIs	International Financial Institutions
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NAPs	National Action Plans
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPs	National Platforms
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
UNFCCC	UNFCCC United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNISDR	The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
WB/GFDRR	World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery
WCDRR	World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Review of National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction 2012-2013* is the culmination of a collaborative and voluntary self-review process undertaken by 50 countries. The Review is a response to a recommendation of the *Mid-Term Review of the Hyogo Framework of Action 2010-11* to undertake a comprehensive discussion on the role and function of National Platforms up to 2015 and beyond, and provide new guidance on effective national consultative and decision-making mechanisms for disaster reduction at the national level.

A National Platforms Review Working Group¹ was established to steer the review process, with coordination and secretariat support from the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). Financial and technical support was provided from the German Federal Foreign Office and the World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery.

A survey of National Platforms formed the basis of the analysis and findings of the Review. The findings focus on successes and challenges, proposed improvements, modes of collaboration and the future role of National Platforms. The Review also outlines possible paths for National Platforms beyond 2015 and includes key recommendations that emerged from a National Platforms Consultation on a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2) held in the context of the Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (19-23 May 2013, Geneva).

In summary, the Review's main findings are to:

1. Increase the number of National Platforms (or equivalent) in each region.
2. Recognise the unique and added value of stakeholders and partners in National Platforms. Strengthen multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral nature of National Platforms.
3. Restructure and resource National Platforms around a coherent disaster risk reduction strategy at country level.
4. Provide a legislative basis and clear Terms of Reference (TORs) for National Platforms in relation to the Cabinet or other high level political institutions.
5. Encourage National Platforms to:
 - Take a more proactive leadership and advocacy role in coordinating disaster risk reduction work at the national level.
 - Foster exchange of experiences and expertise among National Platforms, for example through twinning arrangements, peer-reviews and the constitution of regional networks of National Platforms.
 - Enhance collaboration with the private sector and local communities.
 - Systematically engage with other sectors in the deliberations of National Platforms.
 - Facilitate the application of science and evidenced based decision-making in disaster risk reduction.

The Review is an on-going process that aims at supporting and fostering disaster risk reduction implementation at the national level. In that spirit, National Platforms are encouraged to convene meetings on the occasion of Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction. A National Platforms Forum is also planned to be held at the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2015².

¹ The National Platforms Review Working Group is composed of National Platforms from Ecuador, Germany, Indonesia, Mexico and Sweden, with UNISDR serving as the Working Group's secretariat.

² The Chair's Summary of the Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (May 2013, Geneva) called for a National Platforms Forum to be held on the occasion of the World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (March 2015, Sendai, Japan).

LIST OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements.....	ii
List of Acronyms.....	iii
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	iv
LIST OF CONTENT	v
INTRODUCTION.....	1
I. Goals and Objectives	2
II. Methodology.....	2
III. Scope of the review.....	3
CHAPTER 1. Institutional Setting, Governance Structure, Roles and Mandates	4
I. Relevant aspects of institutional settings and governance structure	4
II. Relevant considerations about National Platforms’ main functions and tasks	5
III. Specific gaps and challenges identified	9
IV. Proposed recommendations on institutional and governance structures.....	11
CHAPTER 2. Integration with Sustainable Development – Focus on multi-sectoral/multi-stakeholder processes and planning instruments	12
I. Multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach.....	12
II. National guiding and planning tools	15
III. Influencing public investment and promoting disaster risk transfer	16
IV. Identified gaps and challenges	17
V. Proposed Recommendations.....	17
CHAPTER 3. Access to Information and Data for Disaster Risk Reduction	19
I. General Findings.....	19
II. Proposed Recommendations	21
CHAPTER 4. National Platforms’ Engagement at the International Level and Contribution to the Post 2015 Framework Negotiations	22
I. Expected role and support from UNISDR	22
II. Other international institutions seen by National Platforms of valuable support in strengthening their capacity and functions	23
III. The added value from National Platforms participation in regional and global disaster risk reduction fora	24
IV. National Platforms’ contribution to a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2)..	26
V. Possible new functions foreseen and proposed by National Platforms beyond 2015	27
CHAPTER 5. National Platforms Consultation on a Post-2015 Disaster Risk Reduction Framework... 29	
CHAPTER 6. Final considerations and matrix of recommendations.....	30
Summary Table of Challenges and Recommendations.....	34

INTRODUCTION

In 2011, at the 66th Session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon indicated that “the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction will launch a process jointly with national mechanisms to capture national experiences and ensure that a viable model for disaster risk reduction promotion can be established to contribute to optimal risk management” (page 2; paragraph 50).

The 2010-2011 *Mid-term Review of the Hyogo Framework for Action* (HFA) recognized that “National Platforms can be an important element of national institutional mechanisms for disaster risk reduction, but the composition and focus of National Platforms vary widely, depending on how they have developed in different country contexts. For example, the participation of civil society and the private sector varies greatly across countries.”³ The Advisory Group to the *HFA Mid-Term Review* also recognized that the time was ripe for a comprehensive discussion on the role and function of National Platforms, and for possible new guidance on effective national consultative and decision-making mechanisms for disaster reduction at the national level. (Chapter 5, page 59).

The National Platforms Review process was an informal exercise undertaken as a response to the call made by the Secretary-General. It was carried out on a voluntary basis by 50 National Platforms from all regions (see below) including six National Platforms in development⁴ throughout May 2012 to December 2012, following an invitation from Ms. Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction.

“Multi-stakeholder national platforms for disaster risk reduction have represented an important model and potential source for guidance for informed decision-making and awareness. However, their potential has not been fully utilized and there is a need to further review how can they best support domestic decision making and international cooperation”.

Ban-Ki mon.-United Nations Secretary General. Report on the “Implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (A/66/301 12. August 2011)

The review was facilitated by an active Working Group of volunteer National Platforms (including Ecuador; Germany; Indonesia, México, Philippines, Senegal and Sweden), who effectively supported the process through valuable contributions, recommendations and advocacy work within their respective region. It was also supported by a broader Reference Group⁵ composed of National Platforms sharing feedback and comments, when required. The UNISDR coordinated the overall Review and served as the Review Secretariat.

³ Mid-Term Review of the Hyogo Framework for Action (Chapter 5, p 58). UNISDR, 2011.

⁴ Six National Platforms are currently in development.

⁵ The National Platforms Review **Reference Group** was composed of 22 National Platforms, including Afghanistan, Argentina, Burkina Faso, Canada, Côte d’Ivoire, Ecuador, Gambia, Germany, Guinea, Indonesia, Iran, Liberia, México, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Senegal, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Sweden, USA

Region	Number of contributing National Platforms
Africa	12
Americas & the Caribbean	8
Asia & Pacific	14
Europe	16
Total	50

The report and related analysis was built on the information submitted by the 50 National Platforms who contributed to the Review on a voluntary basis. As such, this report does not reflect the 81 official National Platforms' views and working conditions or progress, which differ from one country to another.

Goals and Objectives

The overall goal of the Review process was to generate an understanding of the challenges faced by National Platforms in implementing disaster risk reduction through the identification of National Platforms' existing working modalities and roles, the challenges and opportunities they encounter at the national level, good practices in national disaster risk reduction coordination and their expectations about their role and mandate, in particular, in the context of a post-2015 Framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2).

The Review was undertaken with the following objectives:

- Decision makers and DRR stakeholders better able to understand the drivers for the establishment of National Platforms (Why was the decision taken to set up a National Platform? What elements or context prompted such a decision? What were the respective expectations by Government and National Platform members when setting up the National Platform?)
- Key challenges facing National Platforms illuminated and presented collectively to DRR decision makers and stakeholders.
- The support needed to reach the objective of 168 credible and robust National Platforms by 2015 identified and articulated.

Methodology

A set of questions building on the recommendations that emerged from key UNISDR processes was compiled by UNISDR as the review Secretariat, and a detailed questionnaire was developed by the Working Group to guide the Review process. The questionnaire consists in a set of 60 questions and was made available through a user-friendly on-line process to allow National Platforms fill in their answers directly online. The structure of the questionnaire and the questions asked are shown in Appendix

The answers were compiled from the on-line system and became part of a quantitative report that was discussed with Working Group members on the occasion of a meeting of the National Platforms Review Working Group, on 12-13 March 2013 in Geneva.

The software MAXQDA 11⁶s was used for the quantitative analysis of the Survey to facilitate the clustering of the responses in a systematic, structured and transparent manner. The process of analyzing the replies consisted of the following steps:

1. Perusing the answers provided
2. Establishing preliminary categories.
3. Classifying matching answers to the categories.
4. Reviewing the categories and reorganize them, when necessary.
5. After assigning the replies to matching categories, the content was summarized using the computer tool MAXQDA. Based on the output provided through MAXQDA the results for all categories were summarized.

Depending on the question of the survey (closed answer “yes or no”, “multiple choice”), the methodology allowed quantitative statements and the preliminary identification of trends. For the “open ended” series of questions, the report summarizes the main findings.

Scope of the review

This first report was shared with a wider number of National Platforms on the occasion of a National Platforms consultation on a post-2015 disaster risk reduction framework (HFA2) that was held during the Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (19-23 May 2013, Geneva).

The information that was gathered through the Review process and presented in the report, will be the basis of important follow-up actions such as: 1) a compilation of existing National Platforms structure across all regions, 2) the updating of the Guidance to National Platforms and / or 3) a position paper on National Platforms’ role and mandate beyond 2015.

These actions go beyond the scope of this preliminary analysis of the survey’s results. They are however highly valuable as they allow all National Platforms’ contribution and involvement.

⁶ MAXQDA is a software program designed for computer-assisted qualitative data, text and multimedia analysis in academic, scientific, and business institutions.

CHAPTER I. INSTITUTIONAL SETTING, GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE, ROLES AND MANDATES

Institutional and governance dimensions such as leadership, legal framework and membership to some degree define the capacities and limitations to foster disaster risk reduction in their countries. At the same time, focus areas of intervention (such as advocacy and/or coordination functions) are important to depict the existing National Platforms and their challenges and potential to champion the disaster risk reduction agendas in their countries.

Some of the main findings resulting from the Review with regards to the status of the National Platforms in terms of their institutional settings, governance structures are presented below.

I. Relevant aspects of institutional settings and governance structure

The answers in the survey reveal that a variety of terms are being used by National Platforms to describe their organizational set-up and structure. There is no one-size-fits-all approach and the language used reflects each country's structure, capacity and needs. Altogether the following terms seem to prevail when describing the institutional setting for national platforms: multi-stakeholder agency, authority network, national assembly, advisory committee, coordinating body, and forum or mechanism. In at least one case, the name of the mechanism indicates an articulated approach between disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change (see below Box No. 1)

Box No. 1 Integrative approach to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation

The topic of climate change adaptation is in at least one case included into the name of a National Platform (e.g. National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change - Republic of Benin). This approach demonstrates the Governments' attention to respond to global threats and policy trends of integrating climate change adaptation plans and disaster risk reduction into a single consolidated national action plan. The latter contributes to empowering National Platforms in areas of critical importance at the national level.

In terms of institutional leadership, the review confirms that the structure and the status of establishment of the National Platforms is not homogeneous across countries, and varies according to the respective Government's structure as well as countries' capacity, resources and requirements.

- Out of fifty (50) National Platforms, 36 are integrated in, or are part of, governmental or public authority at different levels (e.g. Ministry of Water & Environment, Institute of Meteorology and Water Management, Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs among others). They can act, for example, as a governmental interagency body or under the Prime Minister's office
- Only three (3) National Platforms are organized through a non-governmental organization (NGO) structure. They include the Czech Republic, Germany and Indonesia.

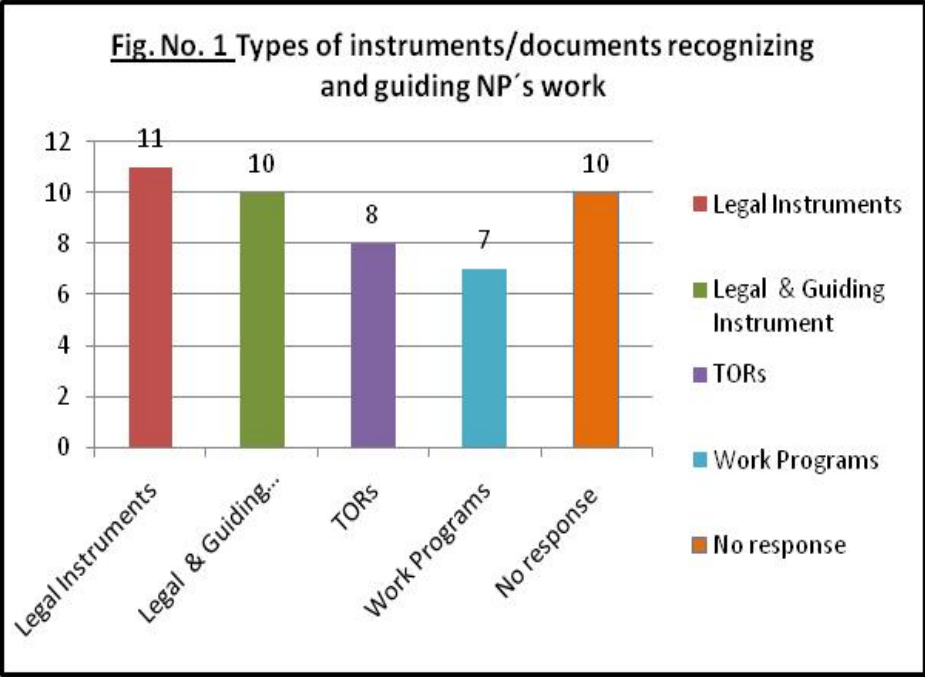
The definition of National Platform puts a special emphasis on the multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder composition of these mechanisms. The survey shows that the membership is comprised of the various stakeholder groups and (depending on the country), includes governmental bodies, research institutes,

relief and development agencies, private sector partners, NGO, civil society organizations, UN agencies and military divisions. The membership may be open and free, or require payment of a fee.

In terms of the internal structure, 23 National Platforms share the following general structure at the national level:

- Executive committee (or steering group, committee board, board of trustees, and council)
- Working and expert groups
- Secretariat

With regards to the normative or legal status, twenty-one (21) National Platforms, out of fifty (50), have at least a legal foundational document formalizing their establishment through an act, decree or law. Fifteen (15) NPs have developed more technical documents guiding their work, including Terms of Reference (ToRs) or a work programme, that clearly define their tasks and working modalities as well as different sorts of national plans, programmes, strategies (e.g. response plan, security plan, hazard mitigation plan but also environment, climate change adaptation and communication strategies) The chart below shows the results of the Review with regards to the legal status of the National Platforms.



II. Relevant considerations about National Platforms' main functions and tasks

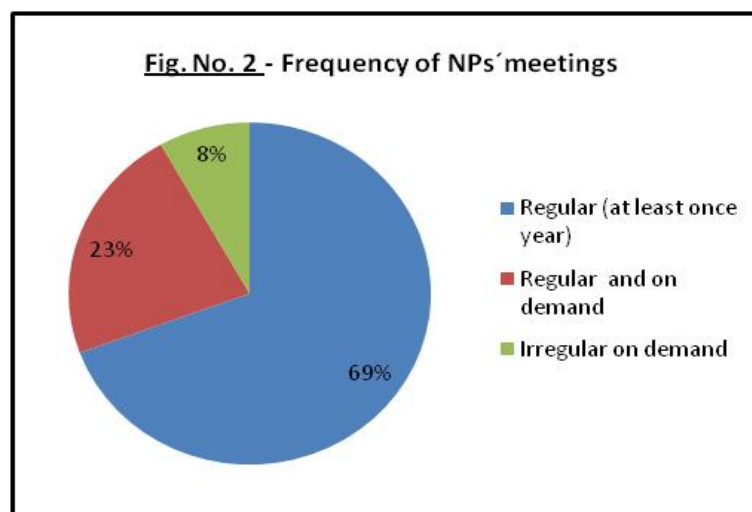
The Review process highlighted that National Platforms have a formal recognition of their work at the national level with a detailed programme that guides their daily work. Activities range from overall coordination, policy support, and technical guidance to key national actors / partners, to general mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction through sectoral approaches.

The Review also covers key aspects of disaster risk reduction such as education, public awareness, science and technology etc. The list below provides a few elements reported by National Platforms as daily activities that are just examples and do not represent exhaustive list of tasks of all National Platforms:

- Coordination of policy dialogues (e.g. mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into policy and strategies for managing and reducing disaster risks)
- Substantive and operational coordination (e.g. formulation of basic disaster management plan and deliberation of important issues on disaster management, setting up of thematic working groups and organization of their work);
- Information sharing;
- Formulation of science- and technology-based guidance for policy makers (early warning and response);
- Advice and guidance for disaster prevention
- Documentation of major disasters;
- Implementation of policies and special programmes including research,);
- Collaboration, including partnership-building and involvement of local and international experts for strengthening disaster risk reduction;
- Education and public awareness and disaster mitigation.

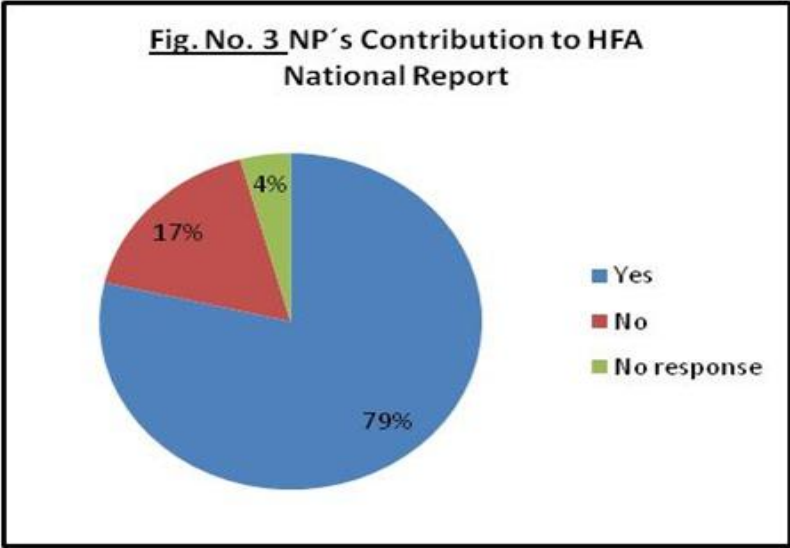
Most National Platforms demonstrate a sound consultative process and organize regular meetings on an almost quarterly basis, involving key national partners and stakeholder groups. Ad-hoc / extraordinary meetings also take place on demand (see Fig. 2).

The Review shows that one of the important functions assumed by National Platforms is regular reporting through the production of different types of reports (annual reports, Monthly/Quarterly Reports) in a consultative manner, as well as minutes of meetings. While 36 National Platforms confirm contributing to the development of national HFA report, nine (9) are reported as producing the National HFA Report themselves. This trend confirms National Platforms’ growing leadership capabilities on disaster risk reduction work (see Fig. 3).

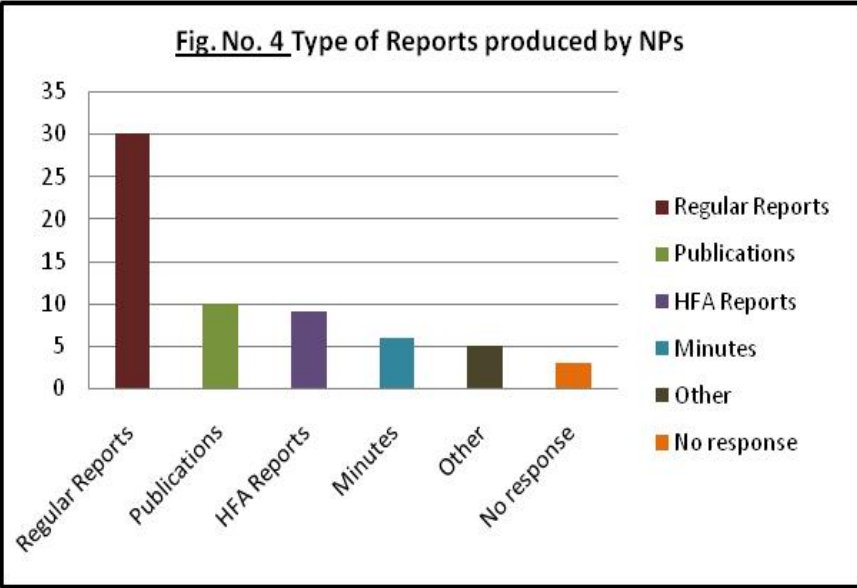


Most reports are produced in a consultative manner by inviting comments and inputs from members, amendments and approval, interview and consolidation of reports developed in a decentralized manner. Some NPs “activate” their partnerships by involving networks in the production of specific reports. This is

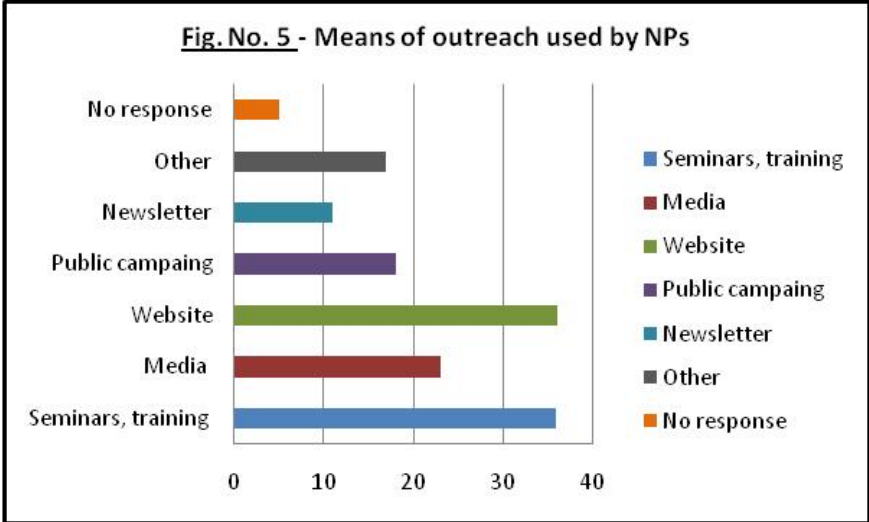
the case of the Netherlands, where political and analytical institutions are preparing reports, whereas in Bahrain reports are prepared by specifically trained external reporting units.



In Finland reports are prepared by experts as well, and the reports are being approved by an executive committee prior to publication. However, despite the involvement of external service providers, the reporting is being conducted under the supervision of and approval by the National Platform, who remains accountable for the products. In some cases, National Platforms organize the consultations through online systems (Nigeria, Virgin Islands, and Comoros) due to limited capacity and geographical reasons.



National Platforms Coordinator / representatives also undertake regular advocacy activities, observations, knowledge-building and sharing on behalf of the National Platform, thereby reinforcing the visibility of National Platforms work at the national level, as well as the added value of their work, in particular *vis-à-vis* donor partners. Advocacy work at the national and local level includes a good variety of communications / outreach products from various National Platforms. Fig. 5 presents the different means through which the National Platforms convey their messages to relevant stakeholders at all territorial levels.



Only eight (8) National Platforms are measuring the impact of their communications / outreach programmes. This may highlight the difficulty of this task for National Platforms and their limited resources in this area. Work at sub-national levels seems to be an increasing approach in the work of National Platforms. Box No. 2 presents evidence of such initiatives.

Box No. 2- Increasing engagement of National Platforms at the local level

The Review has highlighted a new development in National Platforms’ work, as a few National Platforms have indeed engaged in supporting Disaster Risk Reduction implementation at the local and sub-national level. Some valuable initiatives include the following:

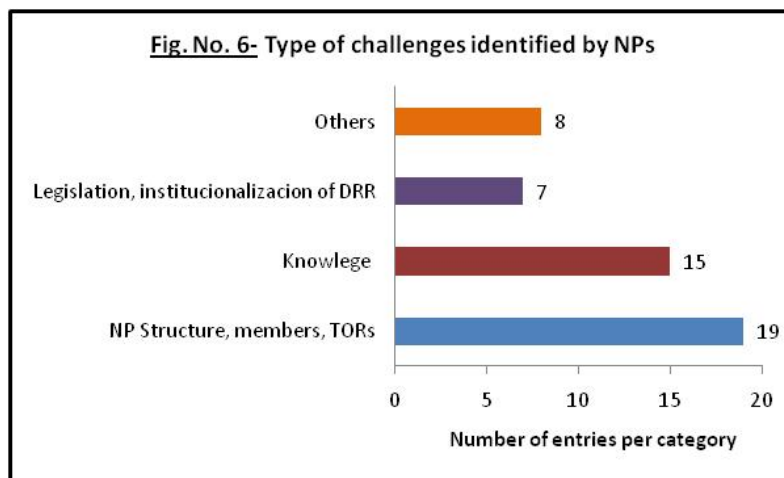
- The development of local platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction in the United Kingdom.
- One local / regional outreach branch of the Czech Republic’s Platform.
- Nine provinces are members of the National Platform in South Africa.
- The Cayman National Platform provides guidance to 16 subcommittees.
- In Congo Brazzaville, the National Platform involves local authorities.
- In Ecuador, the National Platform’s decentralised system addresses risk management in cooperation with the public and private sector at all levels, including decentralised autonomous governments (parish and municipal boards, metropolitan districts and provincial governments); and central state units (coordinating and sectoral ministries, provincial authorities, national police, armed forces, national institutes, companies etc.)

III. Specific gaps and challenges identified

While most National Platforms have demonstrated significant progress in coordinating, planning and supporting disaster risk reduction at the national level, common challenges were highlighted by the National Platforms as major obstacles in their daily work. Those relate in particular to structural aspects, including legislation and institutionalization of disaster risk reduction as well as the role, mandate and recognition of National Platforms.

Financial resources remains a common concern for most National Platforms and some acknowledge the lack of knowledge and experience in disaster risk reduction, the absence of databases and insufficient public awareness and communication on disaster risk reduction.

Other challenges include the lack of expertise and capacity in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into sectoral activities and networks as well as technical limitations. Figure No.6 shows the challenges identified by National Platforms classified in main categories.



A comprehensive matrix describing the key identified challenges was developed (see below), and complemented with possible solutions recommended by the National Platforms themselves. (17 National Platforms proposed solutions).

GAPS / CHALLENGES	SUBSTANTIVE SOLUTIONS
On National Platform structure, members, Terms of Reference (TORs)	
Lack of involvement of NGOs, the private sector and research institutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restructuring of the National Platform to reflect a broader and more diverse membership Include the views of additional disaster management sectors Issuing guidelines for civil societies and private sector participation
Low capacity and lack of expertise or experience of National Platforms members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise the profile through: address the topic at DG level (Heads of National Departments) Political support including letters to designate

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> members signed by a Minister Participation in the national platform should become part of a member's performance agreement in the position in which he/she is appointed On the job training and creating of sector DRR/Climate change units, which include the sector CTGC member may improve the performance of the CTGC and the contribution of its sectoral members
Disaster risk reduction not a priority of agencies	Mainstream disaster risk reduction into activities of member agencies
National Platforms Terms of Reference (TORs) are missing, unclear or isolated or not linked to other plans	Annual operating plan in coordination with the National Platform Head
Low potential to influence the ministerial and state bodies regarding prevention and crisis management	National Platforms are in a position to influence different sectors
A number of National Platforms as a single institution demonstrate insufficient impact and / or outreach.	Establish different thematic platforms that concentrate on different areas of DRR.
On Normative –Legislative Issues	
Lack of comprehensive disaster reduction laws and regulations resulting in non-supporting policies. Insignificant implementation of laws on disaster prevention resulting in failure to eliminate disaster risks.	No recommendation provided.
Slow legislation process.	Rely on a risk management law to enhance the established processes in the public and private sectors.
Missing a legal basis	Development of a model law on the Environment, a National Environmental Policy, an Environmental Action Plan, and an Implementation Strategy
Challenges regarding the institutionalization of DRR and the absence of an independent authority dealing with DRR	No recommendation was provided.
On Knowledge Management	
Lack of best practices for National Platforms and prevention measures for different sectors	Intention to prepare overview of prevention measures
Lack of coordination & exchange of information between the relevant authorities.	Use interactive internet website in order to: 1) Enable the participants to communicate in between meetings, 2) To gather all the actions done in Disaster Risk Reduction, 3) To give information to the local government and 4) Raise awareness of citizens
Missing databases on disaster losses and	Efforts made to improve the situation including an interactive

disaster risk reduction actions.	website to gather and publicize all reported DRR actions.
Missing (political) awareness & self preparedness of population	Reference in legislation about the National Platform being in charge of Disaster Risk Reduction
Weak linkage between climate change and disaster risk reduction	No recommendations provided.
On Financial Issues	
Lack of resources is hinders the work of the National Platforms and the implementation of the HFA.	Minimal support coming from UNISDR required Voluntary principles ??
On other general issues	
Recognised the need for optimising the work of National Platforms (Establishment technical task teams to optimize the work of the National Platforms.
Gaps in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into policies, sectors and organisations' work and strengthening of disaster risk reduction (e.g. cost-benefit of National Platforms)	No recommendations were provided.

IV. Proposed recommendations on institutional and governance structures

The following key recommendations emerged from the review on the issue of governance:

It is recommended to allocate necessary efforts and resources to measure the impact of National Platforms' advocacy work:

1. National Platforms should look at how they are reaching out to stakeholders at municipal, county and provincial level and consider possible new types of outreach programmes and instruments.
2. It is recommended to National Platforms to have a legal instrument endorsed by high-level Government authority to obtain the relevant legitimacy and credibility at the national level.
3. It is also important for National Platforms to have well defined tasks and programme objectives to provide effective guidance and tools in support of Government's action in disaster risk reduction.
4. Regular meetings are encouraged to facilitate a culture of prevention, promote long-term planning and a sustained engagement in Disaster Risk Reduction.
5. National Platforms coordinators / members are encouraged to improve their technical understanding of disaster risk reduction, increase their awareness and knowledge, share experiences and promote cooperation on disaster risk reduction including through field trips and observation missions in vulnerable and disaster-affected areas.
6. Several National Platforms have identified similar gaps and challenges. They are therefore encouraged to learn from innovative solutions among themselves through more systematic exchanges of experience and knowledge and long-term exercises such as twinning (among national platforms or city-to-city) and peer-reviews, among others.
7. In a similar spirit, the constitution of regional networks of National Platforms is strongly encouraged to Guild more systematic opportunities for partnerships and exchanges of experience, expertise and knowledge on DRR across regions.

CHAPTER 2 INTEGRATION WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOCUS ON MULTI-SECTORAL / MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PROCESSES AND PLANNING INSTRUMENTS

Disaster risk reduction is a complex and cross-cutting process. As such, it requires commitment from all sectors and stakeholders in order to influence public policies and effectively incorporate disaster risk reduction criteria within the context of sustainable development planning.

A multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach by the National Platforms is thus essential to clarify roles and promote integrated disaster risk reduction. At the same time, one of the concrete goals that National Platforms should aspire to gain from the consultative processes among sectors and stakeholder is the development of planning instruments, such as national policies, strategies and plans to guide decision making and monitor the collective actions aiming at reducing the disaster risk. The degree of integration and harmonization of such disaster risk reduction planning instruments with other relevant public policies, strategies and plans is a measurement of how effectively disaster risk reduction is being incorporated in the development processes.

The Review shows that most of the National Platforms (83%) reported that their countries have integrated disaster risk reduction as part of their Sustainable Development Strategy and Plan. The Review also reveals that 70 % of the National Platforms are supporting the integration of climate change adaptation into the countries' disaster risk reduction plans. A closer look at the responses of the National Platforms in relation to multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder process, as well as their policy and planning tools, is presented below. This helps to illustrate how the National Platforms are integrating disaster risk reduction into development processes.

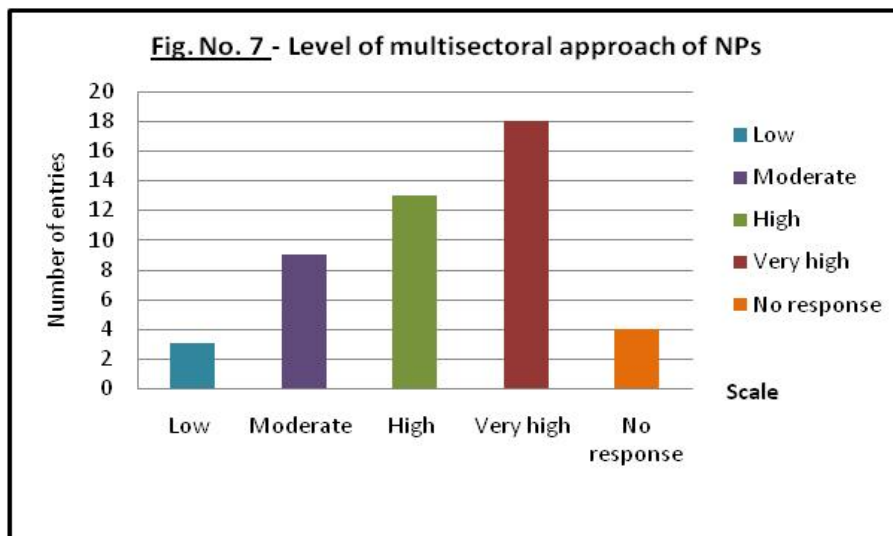
I. Multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach

Structured dialogue among sectors and stakeholders is considered the best way to address the complexity of both disaster risk reduction itself and of sectors and stakeholders' concerns⁷. A multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach is indeed one of the common features across all National Platforms, despite their distinctive national arrangements.

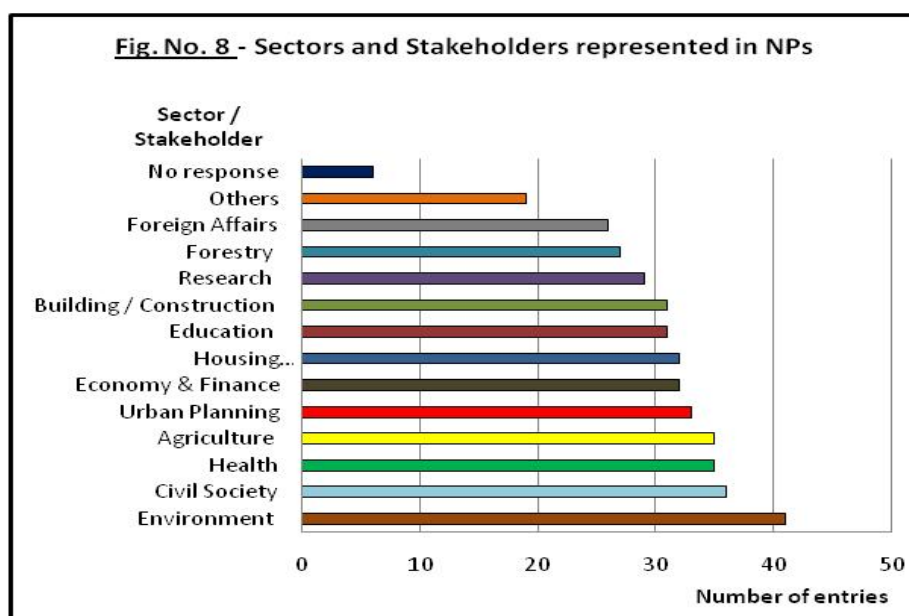
Chapter One presented some of the findings from the Review in terms of the sectoral and stakeholder composition of the National Platforms,. This new Chapter will further illustrate National Platforms' multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach to disaster risk reduction..

Most of the countries that responded to the survey, incorporate a multi-sectoral approach in their National Platforms to varying degrees. Figure No. 7 shows that 66% of the respondents considered that their countries have from moderate to high incorporation of a multi-sectoral approach, while 25% consider such incorporation to be from moderate to low (8% of National Platforms did not respond this question).

⁷ From "Words Into Action: A Guide for Implementing the Hyogo Framework" (Chapter 1: Making disaster risk reduction a priority). UNISDR, 2007.

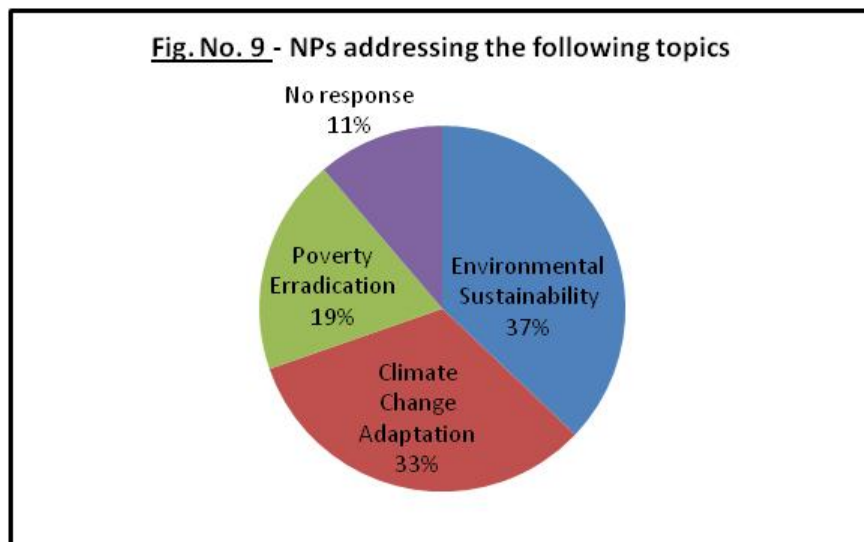


Among sectors that were reported to be represented within National Platforms are health, agriculture, urban planning, economy/finance, housing and infrastructure, education, building/construction, natural resources and forestry.

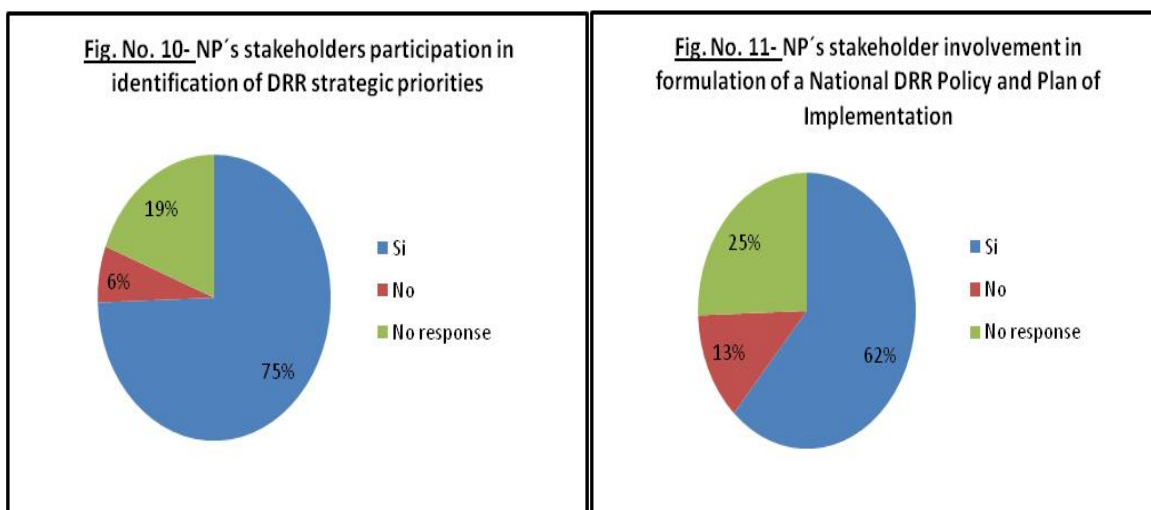


It is noteworthy to mention that several countries answered that they are working with different sectors, including the media, private sector, UN country teams, National Government bodies, although they are not officially part of their National Platforms. Figure No. 8 below showcases the broad range of National Platform multi-stakeholder and multi-sector participation.

The Review also inquired if National Platforms are ensuring that efforts in disaster risk reduction embrace development processes such as poverty eradication, climate change adaptation and environmental sustainability. Figure No. 9 presents the results, showing that 70% and 61% are addressing environmental sustainability and climate change, respectively, while only 36% indicate involvement in poverty eradication.



A larger percentage (80%) of National Platforms indicate that they have promoted the participation of multi-stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society, academia and media in the Platform. The Review revealed that stakeholders participating in the National Platforms were actively involved in the identification of strategic priorities for disaster risk reduction. Figure 10 shows that almost 75% of National Platforms responded positively about the participation of the stakeholders in setting priorities for disaster risk reduction. The Review also presents that 62% of the National Platforms stakeholders were involved in the formulation of the national disaster risk reduction policy and their implementation plans (see Figure 11)

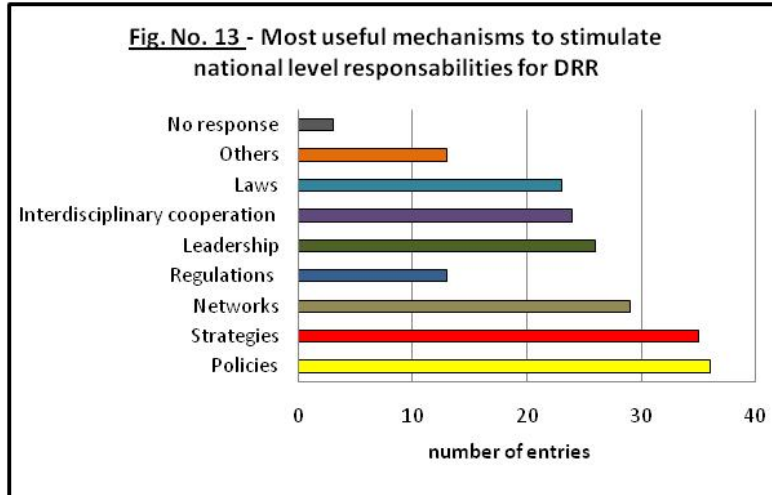


Five National Platforms mentioned that cooperation with private and public bodies and the public itself proved to be effective, but it is a challenging task. The following entities have been identified as:

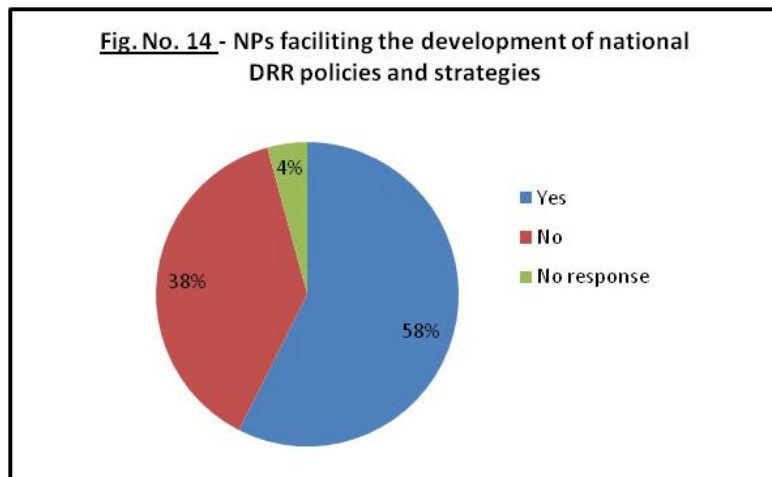
- Technological-scientific institutes and private companies
- Urban housing and livelihood sector
- Citizens/community

II. National guiding and planning tools

The development of disaster risk reduction policies and plans is among the objectives of a National Platform, and is needed for its role as a coordinating and guiding mechanism for DRR at the national level. These policies comprise relevant assessments, strategies, goals, approaches, rules, plans, activities, priorities and responsibilities. According to the findings of the Review, national policies and strategies for disaster risk reduction are considered among the most effective mechanisms for National Platforms to stimulate national level responsibility for disaster risk reduction (see Figure 13).



The National Platforms reported that the majority of the countries (76%) have developed their National Strategic Plans for Disaster Risk Reduction, but in only 57% of these cases, the National Platform facilitated the development of a National Strategic Plan (see Figure 14).



Most of the National Platforms provided information as to how the steps and processes, which led to their development, were carried out. It is interesting to note that for some respondents, the establishment of the National Platform for DRR seems to be equivalent to a plan or strategy for disaster risk reduction, while for the majority of the respondents, a plan or strategy for disaster risk reduction is a document jointly developed by involved stakeholders. The box below describes the actions and processes in order to develop plans and strategies for disaster risk reduction which were commonly employed by the National Platforms.

Box No. 3: Common approaches towards developing a national strategy and plan for Disaster

Risk Reduction

- ✓ A typical approach for facilitating the process of developing a national strategy and plan for disaster risk reduction consists of a consultative multi-stakeholder process including meetings, workshops, presentations, receiving comments from relevant actors. This process can include actors from different levels (including local actors) and actors not being members of the National Platform. The jointly elaborated plan or strategy can be then submitted for approval to decision making levels like the cabinet, a ministry or a group of involved actors.
- ✓ Some National Platforms described a more centralized top-down approach, where a central body is commissioned with the coordination and the task of developing a comprehensive national plan for DRR.
- ✓ Other representatives use consultants to draft the national plan or the HFA as guidelines for the plan.

Source: Survey on National Platforms, 2012-13

Providing guidance for decision-making processes proved to be effective through the development of “scenarios”. That was the case with the U.S. National Platform and the development of a "series of the ‘Grand Challenges for Disaster Reduction’ in consultation with its membership from the U.S. Federal government agencies. The scenario exercise included 15 natural and technological disasters, providing a framework for prioritizing the related U.S. Federal investments in science and technology. “The document has proved to be an extremely valuable assessment tool to improve America's capacity to prevent and recover from disasters and to fulfill our Nation's commitment to reducing the impacts of hazards and enhancing the safety and economic well-being of every individual and community.” (U.S. National Platform, Survey).

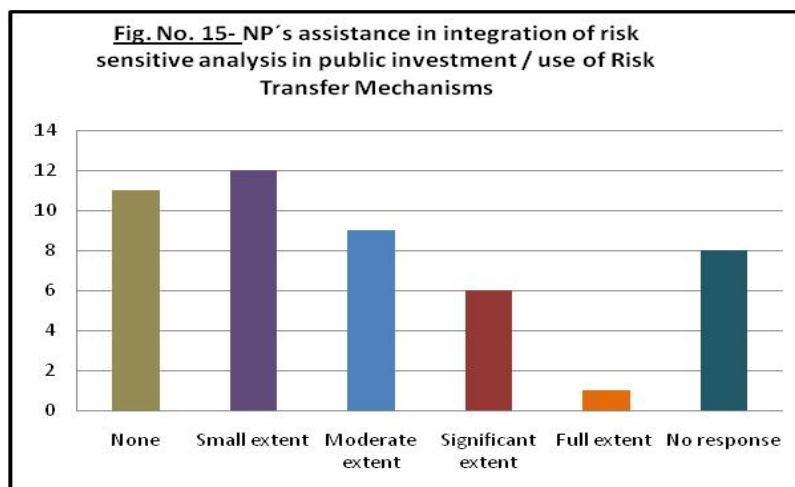
III. Influencing public investment and promoting disaster risk transfer

One concrete means through which the work of the National Platforms can be measured is their degree of influence in promoting and mobilizing public investment for Disaster Risk Reduction. The mainstreaming task of the National Platforms through the public sector members should at some point materialize in those institutions investing in disaster risk reduction initiatives, thus integrating disaster risk reduction into their sectoral planning. In particular, the incorporation of disaster risk analysis, as part of the public investment processes, is an important prospective disaster risk management tool. At the same time, risk transfer is becoming a foundational part of the disaster risk financial and insurance strategies of the Governments, complementing the retention mechanisms that are often most common in the countries. A robust disaster risk financial strategy should be based on different layers of coverage, where the Governments retain the risk associated to low-medium impact and high frequency, while transferring the low frequency and high intensity risks to the insurance sector or the markets.

The Review shows that more than half of the National Platforms surveyed did not discuss the public investment and risk transfer topics as part of their work. The Review process also included one specific question enquiring “to what extent national platforms assisted national, country or local stakeholders with the integration of risk-sensitive analysis of public investment systems, as well as the use of financial mechanisms to reduce or transfer risks”.

The Review’s results show that only (2%) of National Platforms assisted stakeholders to a large extent with the integration of risk-sensitive analysis of public investments systems and the use of financial mechanisms to reduce or transfer risk whilst 13% assisted to a significant extent and 20% to a moderate

extent. Those percentages are extracted from the number of responses received (as reflected in Figure 15 below).



IV. Identified gaps and challenges

The Review also reveals a common set of challenges hindering the integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development, and particularly in reference to the development of plans and strategies for Disaster Risk Reduction, as part of the outputs of the multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral consultative processes they are promoting:

- ✓ National Platforms require more support and attention from their governments or governmental decision or empowerment in order to be able to develop DRR plans.
- ✓ Political and public awareness need to be raised.
- ✓ Disaster risk reduction legislation needs to be improved in terms of avoiding conflicting laws and better integration of disaster risk reduction into the legal systems.
- ✓ A disaster risk reduction network with mandatory assignments for all involved actors provide an for dialogue.
- ✓ The lack of a work plan for the National Platform represents a significant gap.
- ✓ There is a need for a HFA 2 framework with quantitative targets to be agreed upon as an outcome of World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) in 2015.
- ✓ Advocacy to integrate DRR into the various sectors of the economy is still a challenge to be addressed.

V. Proposed Recommendations

Following is a list of the recommendations that are captured by the Review with regards to the integration of disaster risk reduction:

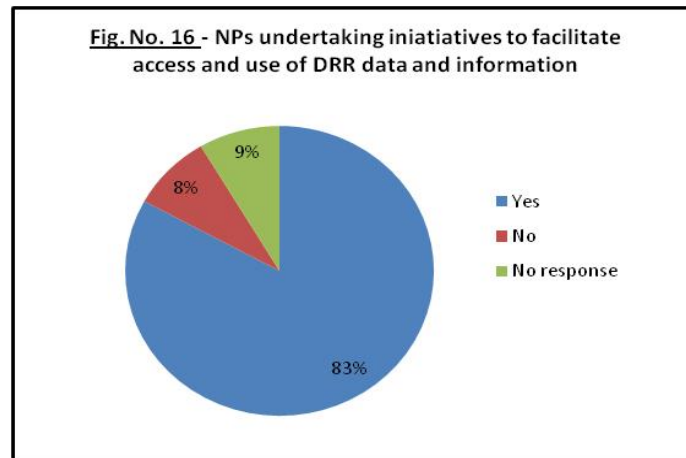
- ✓ More efforts should be placed to integrate disaster risk reduction as part of sustainable development policies, plans and strategies as well as part of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

- ✓ The integration of climate change adaptation (CCA) as part of national disaster risk reduction strategies should be embraced as an important advocacy task for National Platforms. A collaborative approach between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation is recommended as a good practice towards an effective climate vulnerability reduction in the countries.
- ✓ Multi-stakeholders from all different sectors including the non-members of the National Platform, should be actively involved in the steps and processes of the development of a National Strategic Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- ✓ The National Platform should be involved and encouraged to take the role to facilitate the development of the country's National Strategic Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- ✓ Monitoring and Evaluation mechanisms for the National Strategic Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction should be developed and implemented.
- ✓ In order to achieve more effective coordination of actions for disaster risk reduction and a stronger commitment from all sectors, it is necessary to pursue efforts in involving all stakeholders in a consultative process, to define policies and planning as well as responsibilities for the implementation of national and local strategies.
- ✓ National platforms should increase stakeholders' knowledge of the recovery costs from disasters in their own country.
- ✓ Methodologies to assess the impacts of investment on disaster risk reduction need to be developed and implemented. These will be useful for disaster risk management agencies to open the dialogue with investors; governments or private sector, stressing the importance of investing in disaster risk reduction activities.
- ✓ National Platforms should work towards increasing knowledge about the importance of public and private investments in disaster prevention, which will in the long run, reduce not only human suffering and environmental degradation, but also avoid or decrease the enormous costs associated with a disaster.

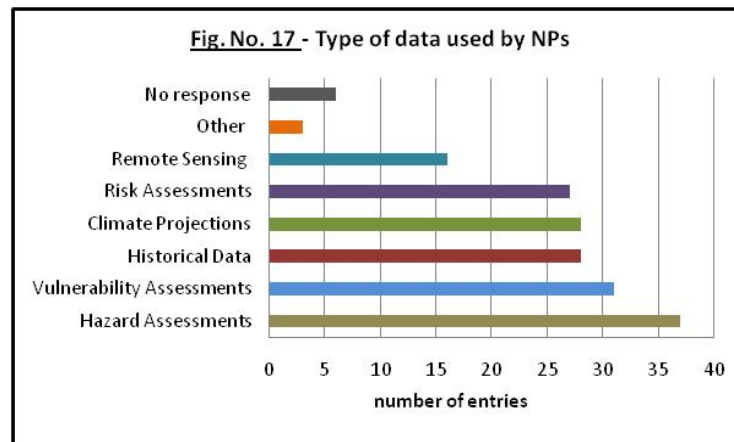
General Findings

Access to quality and timely information and data is paramount to policy development and planning. National Platforms should have a critical role on nourishing the conditions for an enhanced access to relevant information and data required to assess and reduce disaster risk in their countries. Following are the results of the questions posed to the National Platform respondents regarding access to information and data for disaster risk reduction.

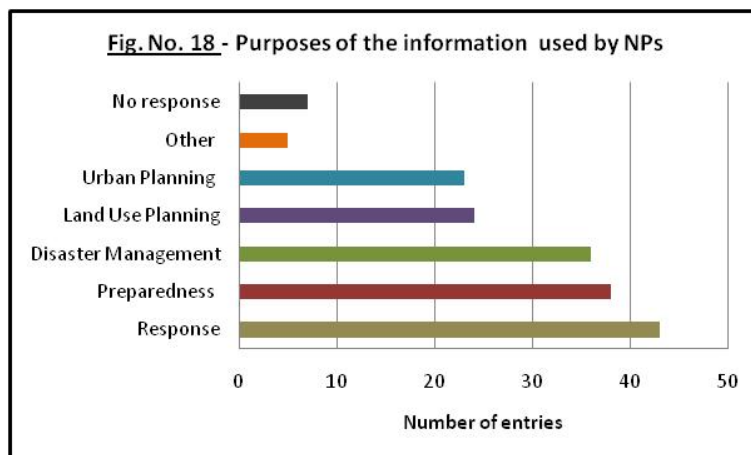
- ✓ Thirty-nine (39) National Platforms have taken concrete initiatives to facilitate access and use of information and data to influence disaster risk reduction policy development; while four (4) National Platforms have not undertaken any initiatives (four National Platforms have not answered this question). Figure No. 16 shows the results, that almost 83% of National Platforms respondents have taken relevant initiatives in this important domain.



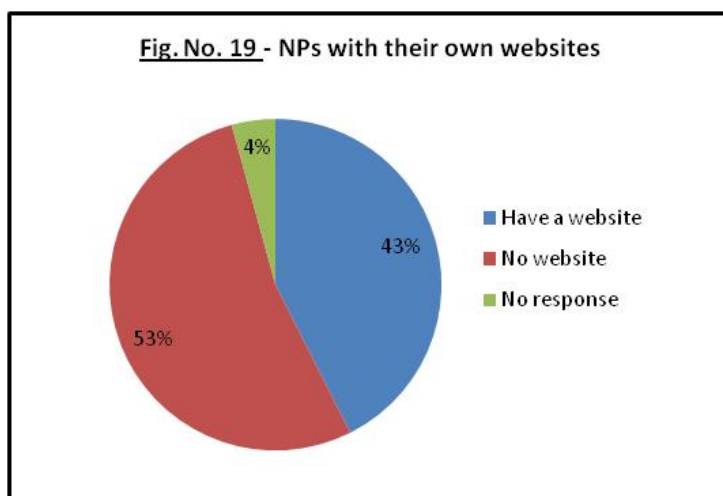
- ✓ The Review also portrays a fair distribution of research efforts regarding the nature and range of data and information used by National Platforms related to hazard, vulnerability and risk assessments as well climate projections, remote sensing and historical data (details in Figure No. 17).




- ✓ Figure No. 18 shows quite clearly that a large percentage of these data target disaster preparedness and response activities, while a smaller percentage is related to prevention and mitigation activities, such as land-use and urban planning. Although a large percentage of the data is reportedly used for response efforts (43%), land-use and urban planning collectively account for 47% of the end use of disaster risk reduction related data.



- ✓ According to the Review, National Platforms see UNISDR’s role, as crucial in particular in: 1) generating knowledge and sharing information products in particular studies, statistics, research, tools and research materials, guidelines, baseline studies, risk assessments, and 2) facilitating the organization of seminars, workshops, knowledge networks, or regional meetings. Another added-value recognized for UNISDR is their capacity to facilitate disaster risk reduction expertise when required, including through the direct involvement of UNISDR in disaster risk reduction-related initiatives and events, including risk assessment activities.
- ✓ The findings of the Review reveal that more than 50% of the National Platforms surveyed do not have their own website as yet. This can be seen as a possible limitation for their role in facilitating the access and exchange of relevant disaster risk reduction information at the national level and in strengthening the advocacy work at the national and sub-national levels (see Figure No. 19).



II. Proposed Recommendations

- Increase the use of disaster risk reduction information for land-use planning and urban planning purposes.
 - Promote the exchange of information between National Platforms to harness the potential of discussing and sharing risk management experiences.
 - Standardize systems for maintaining the records and use of information in their countries and develop exchange protocols to increase the availability and the quality of data.
- 

This chapter addresses several aspects relevant to National Platforms' international engagement that were reported through the Review process. They include the relationship with UNISDR and other international institutions that provide support to National Platforms' capacity building processes as well as the added value generated from National Platforms' participation in regional and global platforms.

Special consideration is given to National Platforms' contribution to the 2015 post-Hyogo negotiations as well as their future role and the required support from UNISDR and other international institutions. These contributions portray preliminary thinking on the way forward from the National Platforms' point of view. The debate is very timely, since the Hyogo Framework for Action infused a clear and visible role for the National Platforms up to 2015. The post-Hyogo process encourages new and forward-looking ideas about how National Platforms will contribute to and re-define their roles within a new global framework.

I. Expected role and support from UNISDR

The scope of answers received from the 50 National Platforms was very ample, and ranged from roles and organizational aspects, to funding issues. Most of the responses were submitted as "recommendations" and are summarized below:

- ***Recognition as the national counterpart and formal channel for UNISDR***

Many responses from National Platforms highlighted the importance of getting recognition as main "entry points" for UNISDR in the countries, and the need to more organically integrate their work in the planning instruments of UNISDR. At the same time, National Platforms can provide strategic guidelines for UNISDR agenda in the countries and support the adaptation of the international instruments to national/regional conditions and realities.

- ***Reinforcing UNISDR's role in information exchange and knowledge generation***

The National Platforms consulted emphasized the crucial work of UNISDR in promoting and facilitating exchange of information and generation of disaster risk reduction knowledge. In order to strengthen the establishment and work of National Platforms, UNISDR was encouraged to enhance this role and "continue providing excellent information through *Prevention web* and office personnel". Several specific recommendations in this area were submitted by National Platforms. Box No. 4 summarizes the main ones.

Box No. 4: Specific recommendations on knowledge exchange

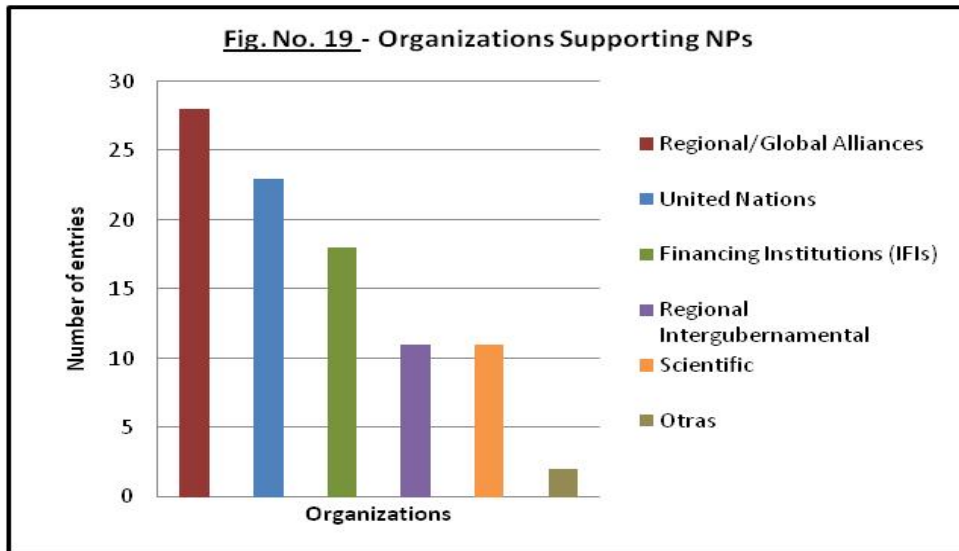
- Proposed pooling of international experts in DRR.
- Foster the exchange of knowledge and expertise between National Platforms from the same region or across regions, including through twinning as well as regional and international cooperation.
- Early and easily accessible information on upcoming events/discussion in order to allow National Platforms to facilitate their participation and possible joint position with other NPs.
- Development of good practices and lessons learned from a given number of successful National Platform for replication and implementation within a newly-developed or poorly - functional National Platform.

- ***Support to raising political awareness, understanding and leadership in Disaster Risk Reduction***
The Review highlights the need for UNISDR's enhanced support to National Platforms in raising political awareness, understanding and leadership in disaster risk reduction, through advocacy and various awareness-raising tools. The latter includes the promotion of official missions at the highest level, the acknowledgment of National Platforms' successful work through official letters to national Governments, support to policy formulation and support to nation-wide public awareness campaigns. National Platforms also expect support in advocating the concept and principles of DRR in global structures (e.g. G20, BRICS, and COP.).
- ***UNISDR's support to capacity building for National Platforms***
The Review captures the call from National Platforms to UNISDR to include training activities on disaster risk reduction and related areas such as climate change adaptation, ecosystems protection, as well as provision of technical support in specific disaster risk reduction areas. Some specific areas of capacity building were mentioned, such as provision of technical support in progress monitoring, data acquisition, exchange and dissemination, and storage, as well as the design of communication strategies. This support is particularly sought by countries that are in the process of establishing their National Platform.
- ***UNISDR's assistance, strategic guidance and technical support for resource mobilization for disaster risk reduction.***
The Review highlights a general need and call to UNISDR to support the design of resource mobilization strategies and to provide overall guidance on financial issues to help support National Platforms' development and implementation, alert on ad-hoc funding opportunities through targeted projects at country level (i.e. progress monitoring, risk assessment, hazard mapping), the recruitment of consultants to support National Platform development, implementation and monitoring.

II. Other international institutions seen by National Platforms of valuable support in their capacity and functions

A significant number of international organizations were acknowledged by National Platforms as potential valuable contributors to strengthening National Platforms' capacity in coordinating and implementing disaster risk reduction at the national and local levels (see Figure No 19 below and Annex 1). Among the most frequent partners referred to are the following:

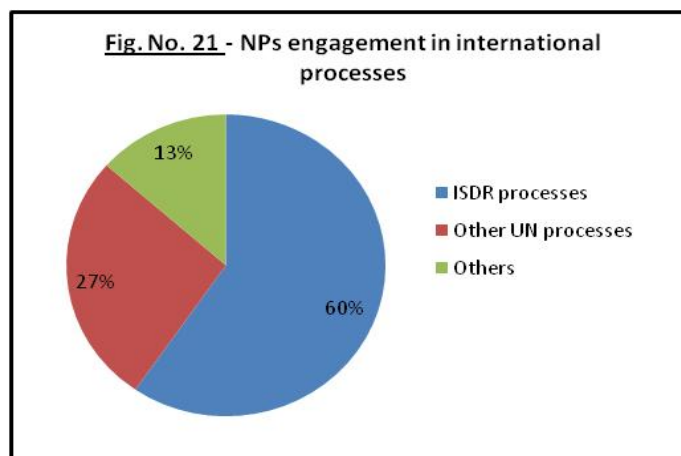
- *Regional/Global Alliances* which includes different kinds of alliances at the regional and global levels such as military alliances (NATO) economical, disaster risk reduction and environmental alliances.
- *International Financial Institutions (IFIs)*, with main emphasis on regional development banks and donor agencies.
- *United Nations Organizations and Agencies*
- *Regional Inter-Governmental Organizations*, with special emphasis on the *European Union*, the *European Commission*, the *Council of Europe* and *EUR-OPA* (European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement)
- *Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) / Humanitarian Aid and Development Organizations*
- *Scientific, Technical and Academic Institutions*
- *"Others" including "bilateral cooperation" and "cooperation with Gulf countries".*



III. The added value of National Platforms' participation in regional and global disaster risk reduction fora

Approximately 80% of National Platforms acknowledge the added-value of being involved and participating in regional and international disaster risk reduction events and fora. Such gatherings offer opportunities to National Platforms to: 1) exchange disaster risk reduction information & knowledge for concrete field application / replication, successful experiences, specific expertise, best practices and lessons learned; 2) engage in networking activities; and 3) develop synergies, collaboration and cooperation among National Platforms across regions and other stakeholders.

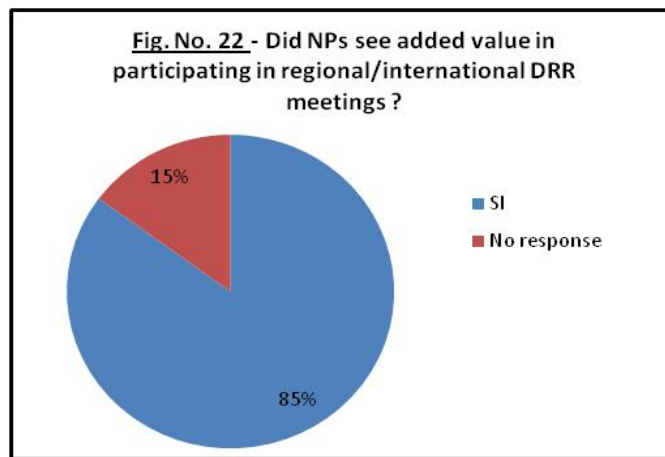
At the global level, National Platforms mainly participate in processes organized by UN organizations, especially those convened by UNISDR, such as: a) Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, and b) processes related to the HFA, including the HFA-national progress report, Mid-Term Review process and the Post-HFA discussion. The process of climate change negotiations led by UNFCCC is another important topic followed by National Platforms (see Figure No. 21).



Gatherings also allow National Platform members to discuss the creation of regional networks of National Platforms, to promote and address trans-border cooperation on disaster risk reduction and to ensure

consistency, “reality checks” and relevant adjustments of disaster risk reduction programmes to the international context and trends that affect the implementation of disaster risk reduction programmes (climate change, conflicts, economic crisis, among others).

National Platforms benefit from and add value to international discussions on disaster risk reduction. Their involvement in regional and international fora contributes to boosting and strengthening their strategies and positions at the national and sub-national levels, and to lobbying / mobilizing effective action around disaster risk reduction implementation at the national, regional and international levels. Such activities contribute to broadening their circle of influence, help them work more effectively and optimize their tasks and functionality. They also provide smaller states, Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) with better opportunities to reach out, voice their ideas and concerns and bring their valuable contribution and innovations to the international discussions.



Several recommendations to enhance National Platforms' recognition and contribution to regional and international fora emerged from the Review. They relate mainly to information sharing, exchange of experiences and good practices, as well as knowledge production and management. They include the following.

- Developing a common “National Platforms’ viewpoint and position” in regional and global ongoing discussions and political decision-making processes.
- Establishing common criteria among National Platforms’ statement in order to achieve greater recognition and contribution to such fora.
- Increasing the frequency of National Platforms’ meetings for more active communication and exchange as well as a consistent and sustainable disaster risk reduction action, planning and implementation.
- Developing a strategic approach to National Platforms’ participation in regional and international fora (see Box 5 below).
- Improving the production and more systematic sharing of good practices to enhance National Platforms’ knowledge and capacity to contribute and support regional or global discussions and initiatives.
- Pursuing the production and dissemination of publications. All publications should be made available in official UN languages and local languages to the extent possible to reach out to a wider community and avoid any disparity in the access to information.

- National Platforms ‘successful achievements’ could be disseminated by UNISDR through the international press to build increased awareness on national disaster risk reduction achievements and provide higher visibility and recognition to National Platforms.

Box No.5: Strategic approach for National Platforms participation in regional / international fora

1. Identify relevant fora where National Platforms’ work and contribution can bring added value and be highlighted;
2. Identify NPs that have the capacity and good elements liable to contribute effectively to the forum’s discussions; and
3. Highlight National Platforms’ added value to other stakeholders and offer them services

IV. National Platforms’ contribution to a Post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2)

The negotiation process towards a Post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2) invites reflection on the way forward for National Platforms, as the disaster risk reduction global agenda embraces a new road map for the next decade. Approximately 80% of participating National Platforms do foresee a significant role for National Platforms in the post-2015 disaster risk reduction framework. They see value added in their daily work and propose to maintain their present national level coordination functions which they consider crucial for the following reasons:

- 1) The implementation of disaster risk reduction is a long-term open-ended process, and the new policy framework will require mechanisms such as the National Platforms to promote it and assess national progress.
- 2) The progress achieved differs among different countries, time is required to bring them all to an equitable level of implementation (common minimum implementation standards); and
- 3) The attainment of concrete achievements and the adoption of policy or legal actions for disaster risk reduction take time and require a long-term and sustainable commitment.

National Platforms’ areas of work that National Platforms propose to pursue beyond 2015, as they emerged from the Review, are as follows:

1. **Overall coordination work** including the mobilization of key stakeholders around a set of common actions and in support of cross-sectoral cooperation, as well as the mobilization of financial resources for national level disaster risk reduction decisions adoption and implementation. It was proposed to set up a group of high-level decision-makers and a network of agencies and organizations at the unit supervisor level to lift up political actions and secure a higher level commitment for disaster risk reduction.
2. **Advocating for and raising public and political awareness** on disaster risk at different levels, with particular emphasis on reaching out from national to local levels. In this context civil preparedness was highlighted as an area deserving more emphasis and development, in order to better reach out to decision-makers.

3. **Building networking** opportunities was recognized as one of National Platforms' crucial functions and essentials that need to be maintained beyond 2015. National Platforms see added value in: organization of, and participation in, meetings; experience-sharing opportunities; the inter-disciplinary exchange of information at national and regional levels; their involvement and support in the production, update and exchange of disaster data and best practices; and the continued preparation of national and local progress reports on disaster risk reduction shared with local authorities and central governments. Regional and Global Platform meetings were also recognized as major networking opportunities "to establish trust and understanding among different countries, agencies/organizations' cultures" and to enhance willingness to cooperate.
4. **Establishing and consolidating linkages between national Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Development policies and related decisions implementation** was also acknowledged as a major and growing function of National Platforms. One National Platform has so far fully integrated climate change adaptation as part of its title. This positively reflects National Platforms' awareness of global trends in better integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation plans and supporting this integration process at the national level.
5. **Accountability:** National Platforms see themselves as dedicated disaster risk reduction organizations performing tasks in accordance with national and international standards. They feel fully accountable for pursuing national disaster risk reduction objectives and for national progress reporting processes. Despite the possible duplication in accountability and function with national HFA Focal Points, the importance of maintaining such a function, in particular in countries where no formal National Platform exist as yet, was also raised through the Review process.

V. Possible new functions foreseen and proposed by National Platforms beyond 2015

Besides the endorsement of National Platforms' continued role and contribution to the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2) through their current functions and mandates, the Review captured National Platforms' recommendations on the new functions they foresee for themselves beyond 2015. Selected National Platforms recommendations and general points are summarized here-below:

1. ***Stronger engagement in Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Development.*** A "greater uptake of climate change adaptation initiatives" was proposed as well as a "clearer role on climate change adaptation". National Platforms can "address disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation issues and make recommendations to the appropriate authorities" through a stronger advisory role. National Platforms "should serve as the forum for discussion of climate change adaptation and sustainable development issues, thus providing an integrative structure for the different topics".
2. ***Raise National Platforms' profile and recognition:*** From the Review outcomes, National Platforms recommend that, beyond 2015, they should be set up in specialized institutions dealing with disaster risk reduction and management. They "must be institutionalized in a way that will vest them with the authority they need". Governments decide whether the National Platform should be raised to a political level and represent different governmental departments. Governments are also encouraged to "endorse national platforms as a consultative body" and decide whether they should be funded independently.

3. ***Consider all phases of Disaster Management.*** National Platforms “are not just the exponents of Disaster Risk Reduction. They should be involved across the whole cycle, looking at prevention, preparedness, response and recovery, and also early warning and rehabilitation activities. These disaster risk reduction phases should always be developed together using technical means, legislation and education and training”.
4. ***Set up Incentives Programmes.*** National Platforms proposed to act as a “promoter of new risk management initiatives in each country” and to establish “incentive programme” such as “proposing and developing implementation mechanisms intended to increase resilience”.

A National Platforms Consultation on a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction was held at the Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (19-23 May 2013, Geneva).

The Consultation discussions gave the opportunity to National Platforms to call for an increased number of National Platforms by 2015 and to confirm some of the key points that emerged from the Review process in relation to National Platforms' role and priority focus areas proposed for integration as part of a post-2015 global framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2), as reflected below:

Governance

1. Need to urgently clarify the role, mandate and Terms of Reference (TORs) of National Platforms for better accountability and governance.
2. Promote a legal foundation for National Platforms to enhance their legitimacy and leadership for Disaster Risk Reduction coordination at the national level.
3. National Platforms represent a hub for horizontal and vertical coordination. They represent effective tools to address multi-sectoral challenges.
4. National Platforms represent crucial mechanisms to support national-level disaster risk reduction implementation, in close coordination and cooperation with UN Country Teams.
5. It is urgent to identify ways to optimize funding for National Platforms. Aligning National Platforms' work with the development sector is crucial to mobilize financial support.

National Platforms role and activities by 2015 and in HFA2

1. Enhance National Platforms' advocacy capacity for disaster risk reduction at the national level.
2. National Platforms should be a central point for sharing experiences and good practices on disaster risk reduction. They are encouraged to campaign for disaster risk reduction (in support of global disaster risk reduction campaigns) and to better use the material (guidelines, good practices, reviews) made available at the global and regional levels to enhance their expertise and know-how for effective Disaster risk reduction implementation
3. Promote the application of science and technology and social science research to disaster risk reduction policy decision-making.
4. Better mainstream and integrate climate adaptation work at the national level
5. National Platforms should take a leading role in coordinating national progress review processes as well as peer-reviewing processes
6. National Platforms should help promote and strengthen women's leadership in disaster risk reduction

Partnership building

1. International in-country partners call for a better recognition of National Platforms as unique mechanism for disaster risk reduction coordination at the national level. Only National Platforms have the capacity to facilitate a better coordination and overview of disaster risk reduction activities at the national level for more effective planning and reduced duplication of projects and financial allocation.
2. National Platforms also represent unique mechanisms to bridge the gap between national and local levels. Their engagement with local communities should be strengthened.
3. Their engagement with the private sector also requires further development. Only two few National Platforms integrate the private sector in their composition, more efforts should be made on that front.
4. Encourage for stronger partnerships at the national and local levels but also at the regional and international level through networking, the setting up of regional networks of national platforms and twinning initiatives. Peer-reviewing processes of progress are strongly encouraged to better identify and overcome challenges.

While the Review process showcases a partial sample of the whole universe of National Platforms' views and insights, it does provide valuable preliminary information on the structural and functional aspects of the current National Platforms process around the world. At the same time, the Review process raises a significant number of recommendations for addressing some current gaps and challenges, as well views on the future role of National Platforms in the context of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2).

The previous chapters have presented the findings of the Review in a descriptive fashion around some of the core aspects of National Platforms inquired through the Survey. This final chapter intends to capture some of the issues that have emerged as common challenges and recommendations from the information presented. They can inspire future debate and provide some focus for more elaborated analysis. In addition, an exhaustive matrix of recommendations is presented at the end of this chapter, which allows for a detailed account of all recommendations that resulted from the Review process, structured along main issues inquired in the survey.

National Platforms' structure and governance

- The Review shows that a large percentage of the NPs surveyed have a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder composition from the national level in their membership. Still there is a need to engage a broader range of stakeholders and particularly the private sector and the media remain a challenge for many National Platforms. While stakeholders from sub-national and local levels are still underrepresented in National Platforms' composition, there is a number of National Platforms that are working proactively on that front, which is emerging as a new and necessary way forward to consolidate and strengthen the role of National Platforms.
- Still there is need to engage a broader range of stakeholders and particularly the private sector and the media remains a challenge for many National Platforms. While stakeholders from sub-national and local levels are still underrepresented in National Platforms' composition, there is a number of National Platforms that are working proactively in that front, which is emerging as new and necessary way forwards to consolidate and strengthen the role of National Platforms.
- While the Review shows some consistency among the multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder nature of the National Platforms surveyed, the type of leadership and the institutional setting varies a lot, assuming many different formats and designs, and hierarchical levels within their respective national governance structures. At the same time, most of the National Platforms emphasize the importance of being under the leadership with authority to influence cross-cutting public policies, and be established with a strong legal backup. Currently there is a wide range of legal and working instruments that provide the basis for the establishment of the National Platforms, with only 50% having a formal legal foundation.

National Platforms integrating Disaster Risk Reduction into Sustainable Development

- While the multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral composition seems to be well represented in National Platforms, this does not translate into much influence in the formulation and implementation of national policies and strategies for disaster risk reduction. In those countries represented in the

survey that already have National Strategic Plans for Disaster Risk Reduction, only 57% of the National Platform facilitated that policy process. The strong multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder composition of the National Platforms should be an added value to ensure participatory consultative process in those countries developing new policies and strategies in disaster risk reduction.

- The Review shows that in half of the National Platforms surveyed, the topic of public investments and disaster risk financial issues, such as risk transfer, as related to disaster risk reduction, is not on the National Platforms' discussion agenda. National Platforms should seek the opportunity to empower the productive, financial and planning sectors of the government represented in the National Platform, to undertake investments to reduce the risk in their respective sector portfolios. A work plan (or the national policy or strategy) should include disaster risk reduction goals to be achieved by these sectors. Risk transfer, and in general, disaster risk financial management strategies, should be part of the National Platforms portfolio of topics. Governments and the private sector are very receptive to financial protection mechanisms and the range of instruments and approaches is evolving rapidly.
- The integration of adaptation to climate change, as part of the national disaster risk reduction strategies, should be embraced as a new important advocacy task for National Platforms. National Platforms can help to inform climate change adaptation process and promote the harmonization of both policy frameworks within the wider context of sustainable development. A collaborative approach between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation is recommended as a good practice towards effective climate vulnerability reduction.

National Platforms' current roles and tasks

- The Review depicts a wide range of tasks being undertaken by National Platforms, but one of them seems to be a clear added value provided by National Platform, and that is reporting. Most of the National Platforms are very active in disaster risk reduction reporting process and are seen as means of validation through consultative, participatory and representative processes channelled by National Platforms. This role seems to be a consolidated niche within the disaster risk reduction agenda for National Platforms, providing added value for national, regional and international reporting processes.
- Another main role of National Platforms that was re-enforced by the results of the Review is the advocacy and knowledge exchange, which seems to be core functions for most of the National Platforms surveyed. One aspect that emerged is that different means are commonly used by National Platforms to convey the message and reach out to stakeholders at different levels. However, the evaluation of the effectiveness of the communication methods is conducted rather rarely. The crucial role of UNISDR as a clearinghouse of information and its added value for enhancing the knowledge management and advocacy work of the National Platforms was highlighted through the review. At the same time, the need of the National Platforms for capacity building on the design of communication strategies and associated monitoring and evaluation processes was also captured by the Review.
- In terms of the type of information the National Platforms is portraying, the results of the Review show that a large percentage focuses on disaster preparedness and response activities, while a smaller percentage is information more related to prevention and mitigation activities. More focus has been suggested on topics such as land-use and urban planning, as these processes become key disaster risk reduction drivers in many countries.

Planning and programmatic tools

- It is quite clear from the Review that importance is attached to the formulation of plans and programmatic tools to guide the work of the National Platforms. They help to set goals and define roles and responsibilities among their members. All functional National Platforms should be characterized by the existence of an updated working plan with clear mandates to guide the work of the National Platforms.
- Resource mobilization is still a common concern for most the National Platforms. Capacity building for designing resource mobilization strategies is considered very important for the sustainability and strengthening of the National Platforms functioning.

National Platforms and the international engagement

- The Review raises a clear consensus among National Platforms on the added value of engaging and participating in international and regional activities and fora. National Platforms recommend continually working closely with the organizations of the United Nations and to promote a stronger engagement of with other UN-processes. This is especially important in the area of UNFCCC climate change negotiations, climate change adaptation, and the work programme on loss and damage and sustainable development.
- National Platforms engagement at regional level, particularly with regional disaster risk management alliances, strategies, programmes and conferences, including increasing our knowledge of climate change and implementing climate change adaptation initiatives and work programmes. They also recommend the continued implementation of regional meetings or fora of National Platforms.
- The Review highlighted a general need and call for UNISDR's financial assistance, strategic guidance and technical support for resource mobilization for disaster risk reduction. In the same fashion, National Platforms call for UNISDR's support to promote stronger involvement of new stakeholders such as the private sector and the media as part of National Platforms and facilitate and increased interaction with regional inter-governmental organizations.

National Platforms' future role, mandate and added value beyond 2015

- The Review provides insights as how National Platforms foresee their role in the post-Hyogo context. While arguing for the importance of maintaining their current roles and mandates, they also call for stronger recognition as UNISDR's "formal entry point" to the country. UNISDR should channel all disaster risk reduction-related information. and requests on national disaster risk reduction initiatives through them to allow them to perform their coordination function.
- National Platforms can play a significant role in adjusting the international disaster risk reduction frameworks and their assessment tools, adapting them to regional and national realities. At the same time, the multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral nature of the National Platforms will provide for the best mechanism to channel public policy reform processes associated with the new international disaster risk reduction policy framework.

- Some of the National Platforms state that they should be created through legal instruments, establishing clear mandates, roles, functions and guidance as to how it interacts across society at the national, state and municipal levels. Additionally, it is also suggested that National Platforms should be established within national structures already entrusted with disaster reduction and management responsibilities, providing assistance to government decision-makers.
- Some National Platforms indicated that they should have a stronger role in enhancing and enacting disaster risk reduction policies and legislation, and ensuring unified national standards in disaster risk reduction approaches.
- National Platforms recognized the importance of fostering an integrative approach between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.
- As confirmation of an emergence trend, some National Platforms recommended to continue working towards reaching the local level, as the fundamental territorial basis for disaster risk reduction, and embrace a bottom-up approach, with strong political support.
- Finally, some National Platforms referred to the importance of formulating quantitative targets in a post 2015 agreement on disaster risk reduction, which will guide the work of National Platforms.

SUMMARY TABLE

NATIONAL PLATFORMS FOR DRR: CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Institutional Issues	
CHALLENGES and GAPS	RECOMMENDATIONS from the Review
NP STRUCTURE and MEMBERSHIP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally frameworks of NPs do not fully consider stakeholder inclusion. • Lack of involvement of NGOs, the private sector and research institutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restructure National Platforms to reflect a broader and more diverse membership. • Include the views of additional disaster management sectors. • Enhancing the involvement of civil society needs focus. • Issue guidelines for civil societies and private sector participation. • In order to achieve more effective coordination of actions for disaster risk reduction and a stronger commitment from all sectors, it is necessary to continue efforts to involve all stakeholders, in a consultative process, to define policies and planning, as well as responsibilities in the implementation of national and local strategies. • Multi – stakeholders from all different sectors, including the non-members of the NP, should be actively involved, in the steps and processes of the development of a National Strategic Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction, facilitated and lead by the NP. • Involve high level decision- makers such as second Vice president, Prime Minister or Minister of State for Disaster Management. • The importance of maintaining national HFA Focal Points, in particular in countries where no formal National Platform exists, as yet. National Platforms encourage significant participation of stakeholders from local and national levels. There is, however, the need to more intensively involve provincial levels into the work of National Platforms.
NP MECHANISMS and PROCESSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of a work plan for NPs. • Recognized need of optimizing the work of NP-bodies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular meetings are encouraged to facilitate a culture of prevention, promote long-term planning and a sustained engagement in disaster risk reduction. • Recommended is the development of a disaster risk reduction networks with obligatory assignments for all involved actors thus providing a space for dialogue. • Technical task teams, within the NP’s, are recommended to help optimize efforts. • NPs will need to draw up semi- annual and annual reports. This will facilitate the effort of compiling reports every two years. • A dedicated desk officer with a secretariat should be established for the NP in each country.

<p>NP ROLE/ToRs / MANDATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPs Terms of Reference (ToRs) are missing, unclear or isolated or not linked to other plans. • Lack of focus on gender issues generally. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider all phases and aspects of Disaster Management. NPs are not just the exponents of DRR. They should be involved across the whole cycle, looking at prevention, preparedness, response and recovery, and also early warning and rehabilitation activities. These DRR phases should always be developed together using technical means, legislation and education and training. • There should be an annual operating plan coordinated by the Head/Chair of the National Platform. • Establish different thematic platforms that concentrate on different areas of DRR. • Useful for National Platforms, to have well defined tasks and programme objectives of work, to provide guidance and tools in support of Government's action in disaster risk reduction. • NP's should be encouraged to take the role of facilitating the development of National Strategic Plans for Disaster Risk Reduction. • NP's can facilitate the preparation for, and implement of, basic Disaster Management Plans. • Better define or highlight more National Platforms' leadership role in national and local risk assessment. • NPs need to be instrumental in ensuring there are unified national standards in disaster risk reduction approaches. • NPs should act as the coordinating institutions for bodies involved in DRR including teams whose daily concerns are concentrated on these issues to ensure effective coordination. • NPs should be in charge of monitoring and evaluating programmes on DRR which are implemented by the government, in order to measure the achievement. • NPs should be created by statute with clear mandates, roles, functions and guidance as to how it interacts across society at the national, state and municipal levels and within national structures charged with disaster reduction and management and with providing assistance to government decision-makers.
<p>LEGITIMIZATION of NP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missing legal basis. • Challenges regarding the recognition of the need for institutionalization of DRR. • General absence of an independent authority dealing with DRR. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For National Platforms to obtain the relevant legitimacy, it is recommended to have a legal basis instrument endorsed by a high-level Government authority. • There should be reference in legislation about the National Platform being in charge of disaster risk reduction.
<p>GOVERNANCE of NP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of, and changes in, leadership. • Varying degrees of governmental support and interest reported in terms of international, national, sub-national and local levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NP's to be given the highest recognition possible at all levels.

<p>FUNDING / FINANCIAL SUPPORT of NP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of resources is negatively influencing the work of the NPs and the implementation of the HFA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal support coming from UNISDR is recommended. Voluntary principles are to be examined for effectiveness. Support is recommended to take the shape of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct financial support to Governments in support of National Platforms development and work implementation; Ad-hoc funding for targeted projects at country level (progress monitoring, risk assessment, hazard mapping etc.); and The recruitment of consultants to support National Platforms development, work implementation, and monitoring.
<p>TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES/EXPERTISE of NP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low capacity and lack of expertise or experience of National Platforms members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-the-job training and creating disaster risk management /climate change units. National Platforms coordinators / members are encouraged to improve their technical knowledge of disaster risk reduction, increase their awareness, , share experiences and promote cooperation on DRR including through field trips, and observation missions in vulnerable and affected-areas.
<p>DATA and INFORMATION related to NP's Function</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standardize records systems and use of information in their countries. NP's to use an interactive internet website in order to: 1)enable the participants to communicate in between meetings; 2) to gather all the actions done in DRR; 3) to give information to the local government and 4) raise awareness of citizens.
<p>KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT/EXCHANGES for NPs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the exchange of information between national platforms to harness the potential of information and experiences of risk management. Develop exchange protocols to increase the availability and confidence in the quality of information. Enhance and organize, in a more systematic manner, exchanges of experience and knowledge among National Platforms including possible long-term engagement such as twinning (city-to-city, peer-reviews). Building "virtual platforms" to foster exchange opportunities, including the sharing of experiences on disaster risk reduction, calls for cooperation or specific expertise. Promoting the idea of a web-based reporting as an incentive for completion of reports with the capacity of exchanging reports through an on-line platform accessible by all. The constitution of regional networks of National Platforms is strongly encouraged for more systematic exchanges of experience, expertise and knowledge on DRR across regions. Best practices should be encouraged and recognized through merit awards and by acting as role models for the rest of the National Platforms. In this context, particularly

	illustrative national HFA reports could be shared by UNISDR to all National Platforms, for information but also for inspiration.
NP's STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of outreach. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Platforms should look at how they are reaching out to stakeholders at municipal, county and provincial level. Consider using new types of outreach programmes and instruments for NPs.. Highlight National Platforms' added value to other stakeholders and offer them services. Optimize National Platforms' work, effectiveness and outreach through a better utilization and dissemination of information and a global communication strategy highlighting National Platforms' activities and outcomes. Continue pointing out that the local level is the basis for disaster risk reduction. Need to keep a solid bottom-up approach with strong political support.
MONITORING and EVALUATION of NPs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General lack of Monitoring and Evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for the achievement of the National Strategic Plan for DRR should be developed and implemented. Funding should be reserved for this task. It is recommended to discuss, develop and apply evaluation procedures enabling an impact assessment of the different types of dissemination and communication methods.
IMPACT of NPs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of impact. Lack of measuring impact. Lack of communicating and sharing impact. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended to allocate necessary efforts and resources to measure the impact of National Platforms' advocacy work. Methodologies to assess the impacts of investments in disaster risk reduction need to be developed and practiced. These will be useful for Government, disaster management agencies, or private sector, and to convince the investors; on the importance of investing in disaster risk reduction activities. It is recommended that measuring and reporting on the impact of NPs be incorporated into relevant strategies and plans.
KEY CONTEXTUAL ISSUES	
CHALLENGES and GAPS	RECOMMENDATIONS from the Review
POLITICAL WILL for NPs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DRR is not seen as a priority of agencies. Low potential to influence the ministerial and state bodies regarding prevention and crisis management. NPs require more support and attention from their governments or governmental empowerment in order to be able to develop DRR plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainstream DRR into activities of member agencies (so DRR becomes part of every agency's concerns). NPs, as such, are in a position to influence different sectors, and should capitalize on this opportunity. Civil preparedness was highlighted as an area deserving more emphasis and development, in order to better reach out to decision-makers. Raise the profile through addressing the topic at Director General level (heads of national departments). Political support, such as letters, to designate members, should

	<p>be signed by a Minister.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the national platform should become part of a member's performance agreement in the position in which he/she is appointed. • Use opportunities to raise political awareness for DRR. • The wider the instrument focus is CCA, Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development. Then there should be a wider political focus. The country needs to decide at what level the national platform will be established and maintained since the platform might need to have a stronger political mandate.
<p>LEGAL FRAMEWORK of DRR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of comprehensive disaster reduction laws and regulations resulting in inadequate supporting policies. • Insignificant implementation results of laws on disaster prevention and control resulting in failure of eliminating disaster risks. • Slow legislation process. • DRR legislation needs to be improved in terms of avoiding conflicting laws and better integration of DRR into the legal systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rely on a risk management law to enhance the established processes in the public and private sectors.
<p>DRM DATA and INFORMATION Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of coordination & exchange of information between the relevant authorities. • Missing databases on disaster losses and DRR actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the use of information for purposes of land-use planning, urban planning and other mechanisms for risk prevention. • Emphasize collecting reliable data and enhancing knowledge as part of the NP's key role.
<p>CULTURE of PREVENTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General lack of disaster prevention culture. • Lack of prevention measures for different sectors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public awareness for DRR needs to be given more attention. • Suggestions to prepare and disseminate overview of prevention measures.
MAINSTREAMING	
CHALLENGES and GAPS	RECOMMENDATIONS from the Review
<p>MAINSTREAMING DRM INTO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICY/PLANNING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaps in mainstreaming DRR into policies, sectors and organisations work and strengthening of DRR (e.g. cost-benefit of NPs as a motor for DRR). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There need be the development of a (DRR inclusive and mainstreamed) model law on the environment, a National Environmental Policy, an Environmental Action Plan, and an Implementation Strategy. • More efforts should be placed to integrate DRR as part of sustainable development policies, plans and strategies, as well as part of the MDGs. • Advocacy is recommended to integrate DRR into the various sectors of the economy.

DRR and CLIMATE CHANGE

CHALLENGES and GAPS	RECOMMENDATIONS from the Review
<p>CONNECTING DRR with CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION EFFORTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak linkage between CCA and DRR. • Bridging science and policy remains a challenge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The integration of CCA as part of the national DRR strategies should be embraced as a new important advocacy task for National Platforms. A collaborative approach between DRR and CCA is recommended as a good practice towards an effective climate vulnerability reduction in the countries. • Joint NAP's for DRM & CCA in place has been a very effective tool in the implementation of DRR. • There should be funding for pilot projects and research within the communities that focus on DRR and climate change adaptation and that can provide practical evidence of how valuable this work is.

NP's and INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

CHALLENGES and GAPS	RECOMMENDATIONS from the Review
<p>COLLABORATION with UNISDR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNISDR support in terms of “operationalization of newly created Platforms, and helping establish NPs in countries that still lack them” and its leading function. • UNISDR to continue the production and dissemination of DRR publications. All publication should be made available in official UN languages and local languages to the extent possible, to reach out to a wider community and avoid any disparity in the access to information. • UNISDR to assist in resource mobilization for NPs. • NP's to be given full recognition as the national counterpart and formal channel for UNISDR. • National Platforms can provide strategic guidelines for UNISDR's agenda in the countries. • NP's can support UNISDR in the adaptation of the international instruments to national/regional conditions and realities. • National Platforms' successful achievements could be disseminated by UNISDR through the international communications network to build increased awareness on national disaster risk reduction achievements and provide higher visibility and recognition to National Platforms. • Reinforcing the importance UNISDR's pivotal role in facilitating exchanges of information and knowledge. Specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ UNISDR continues to develop pooling of international experts in DRR to assist NPs. ➤ UNISDR is to continue to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and expertise between National Platforms from the same region or across regions, including through twinning as well as regional and international cooperation. ➤ UNISDR is to provide early provision of information on upcoming events/discussion in order to allow NPs to develop a position jointly with others. ➤ UNISDR is to facilitate the development of good practices

	<p>and lessons learned from a given successful National Platform for replication / operationalization within a newly-developed or inadequately functional National Platform.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need for UNISDR’s enhanced support to National Platforms in raising political awareness, understanding and leadership in DRR, through advocacy and various awareness-raising tools. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ the promotion of official missions at the highest level; ➢ the acknowledgment of National Platforms’ successful work through official letters to national Governments; ➢ support to policy formulation; ➢ support to nation-wide public awareness campaigns; and ➢ support in advocating the concept and principles of DRR in global structures (e.g. G20, BRICS, and COP). • UNISDR to include training activities on disaster risk reduction and related areas such as climate change adaptation and ecosystems protection. • UNISDR also to facilitate the provision of technical support in specific DRR areas. Some specific areas include monitoring, data acquisition, exchange and dissemination, and storage, as well as the design of communication strategies.
<p>NPs COLLABORATION with REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FORA/OGANIZATIONS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a common “National Platforms’ viewpoint and position” in regional and global ongoing discussions and political decision-making processes. • Establishing common criteria among National Platforms’ in order to achieve greater recognition for and contribution to such fora. • Increasing the frequency of National Platforms’ meetings for more active communication and exchange, as well as consistent and sustainable disaster risk reduction action, planning and implementation. • Improving the production and more systematic sharing of good practices to enhance National Platforms’ knowledge and capacity to contribute and support regional or global discussions and initiatives. • Developing a strategic approach to National Platforms’ participation in regional and international fora. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Identify relevant fora where National Platforms’ work and contribution can bring added value and be highlighted. ➢ Identify NPs that have the capacity and good elements liable to contribute effectively to the forum’s discussions. ➢ Highlight National Platforms’ added value to other stakeholders and offer them services. • At regional levels, NPs are encouraged to be involved in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Regional disaster risk management alliances, strategies, programmes and conferences; ➢ Regional meetings of National Platforms; ➢ Regional forums and networks of National Platforms; ➢ Climate change and climate change adaptation initiatives and work programmes; ➢ Transboundary water and river management commissions; ➢ economic communities; and ➢ Regional processes and implementation of projects financed by regional funding organisations.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A stronger engagement of National Platforms in other UN-processes can be recommended - especially in the area of UNFCCC climate change negotiations, climate change adaptation, the work programme on loss and damage and sustainable development. • Interactions of other global - not necessarily UNISDR driven, processes are recommended. A few examples can be proposed: Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction, international expert exchanges and conferences, interactions between National Platforms (e.g. peer-review-processes). Formation of a joint Support Service Unit that can be established with participation of organizations of the United Nations System to identify relevant actions to assist NP's in the implementation of HFA to provide assistance to set up national strategies and plans of action and programmes for DRR and to develop its institutional and technical capacities in the field of DRR.
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THE WAY FORWARD

CHALLENGES and GAPS	RECOMMENDATIONS from the Review
<p>NPs as related to +2015 Agendas/Agreements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need for quantitative targets and a binding agreement as an outcome of World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) in 2015. • In order to strengthen NPs current implementing structure and capacity, it is recommended that HFA related activities in post-2015 be coordinated by NPs in close cooperation with HFA Focal Points wherever they exist. • Formulate quantitative targets in a post 2015 agreement on DRR which allow NPs to become more active.
<p>Other Future Areas of Work for NPs Foreseen</p> <p>Challenges include the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implementation of disaster risk reduction is a long-term open-ended process that has no end. • The progress achieved differs among different countries. Time is required to bring them all to an equitable level of implementation (common minimum implementation standards). • The attainment of concrete achievements and the adoption of policy or legal actions for disaster risk reduction take time and require a long-term and sustainable commitment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise the profile of NPs. Beyond 2015 NPs are proposed to be set up in specialized institutions to deal with all issues related to disaster risk and management. They "must be institutionalized in a way that will vest them with the authority they need". The government should consider if the NP could be raised to a political level and represent different governmental departments". Their role should involve "government endorsement on national platform as a consultative body" and funded independently. • Proposed to set up a group of high-level decision- makers and a network of agencies and organizations at the unit supervisor level to lift up political actions and secure a higher level commitment for disaster risk reduction. • Building networking opportunities was recognized as one of National Platforms' crucial functions and essentials that need to be maintained beyond 2015. National Platforms have added value through : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ the organization of, and participation in, meetings; experience-sharing opportunities; ➢ the inter-disciplinary exchange of information at national and regional levels; ➢ their involvement and support in the production, update and exchange of disaster data and best practices; and ➢ the continued preparation of national and local progress

reports on disaster risk management shared with local authorities and central governments.

- Regional and Global Platform meetings were recognized as major networking opportunities “to establish trust and understanding among different countries, agencies/organizations’ cultures” and to enhance willingness to cooperate.
- Establishing and consolidating linkages between national disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and sustainable development policies and related decisions implementation was also acknowledged as a major and growing function of National Platforms. A “greater up take of climate change adaptation initiatives” was proposed as well as a “clearer role on climate change adaptation”. NPs can “address DRR and CCA issue and make recommendations to the appropriate authorities” and have an advisory role. NPs “should provide the forum for CCA and sustainable development issues, thus providing an integrated structure for the different topics”.
- NPs proposed to act as a “promoter of new risk management initiatives in each country” and to establish “incentive programme”. For example: “Proposing and developing implementation mechanisms intended to increase resilience”.

LIST OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS CONTRIBUTING TO STRENGTHENING NATIONAL PLATFORMS CAPACITY**United Nations organizations (24 counts)**

1. Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO)
2. Global Risk Identification Program (GRIP)
3. International Civil Defense Organisation (ICDO)
4. Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)
5. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)
6. United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN SPIDER)
7. United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC)
8. United Nations Development Programme - Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (UNDP/BCPR)
9. United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI)
10. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
11. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
12. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
13. United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)
14. World Health Organization (WHO)
15. World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and other international Organizations (18 counts)

1. Asian Development Bank
2. KfW Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau, German development bank (KfW)
3. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
4. The African Development Bank
5. The World Bank (WB)
6. West African Development Bank (BOAD)
7. West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA)

NGOs / Humanitarian Aid and Development Organisations (12 counts)

1. Environmental Unit. Swiss Agency
2. German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ)
3. Indian Ocean Regional Intervention Platform (PIROI)
4. Oxfam
5. Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
6. The International Red Cross Society
7. United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
8. World Vision

Regional Inter-Governmental Organizations (10 counts)

1. Comité Andino para la Prevención y Atención de Desastres (CAPRADE)
2. Coordination of Natural Disaster Prevention in Central America (CEPREDENAC)
3. Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)
4. Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS)
5. Organización de los Estados Americanos / Organization of American States (OEA)
6. Secretaría de Integración Económica Centroamericana (SIECA)
7. Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
8. The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
9. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR)
10. African Union (AU)
11. European Commission (EC)
12. Council of Europe (COE)

Regional Initiatives / Global Alliances (7 counts)

1. BRICS - Alliance of Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa
2. Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD)
3. Group of Twenty (G20)
4. Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)
5. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
6. The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR)
7. The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)

Scientific, Technical or Academic institutions (11 counts)

1. African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD)
2. Applied Geoscience and Technology Division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SOPAC)
3. European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT)
4. Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR)
5. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
6. European universities

Others (2 counts)

- Bilateral cooperation
- Cooperation with Gulf countries