



PREPARATORY EVENT

National Platforms and HFA Focal Points Forum

Session Report

Schedule	Friday 13 th March 10.00 – 13.00
Room and venue	Main Hall, Sendai International Conference Centre
<p>Chair:</p> <p>Ms. Mette Lindahl Olsson, National HFA Focal Point, Head of Natural Hazards and Critical Infrastructure Section, Risk & Vulnerability Reduction Department, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, Sweden.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Mr. Movses Poghosyan, Director of the National Platform Secretariat, Armenia</p> <p>Mr. Mohamed Belazougui, Director, Centre National de Recherche Appliquée en Génie Parasismique, Algeria</p> <p>Ms. María del Pilar Cornejo de Grunauer, Secretaria de Gestión de Riesgos y Miembro de la Mesa del Comité, Ecuador</p> <p>Mr. Taito Vainio, Ministerial Adviser, Department for Rescue Services, Ministry of the Interior, Finland</p> <p>Mr. Gordon Otieno Muga, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Interior & Coordination of National Government, Kenya</p> <p>Tbilisi Statement¹</p> <p>Mr. Nodar Nadirashvili, Undersecretary of the State Security and Crisis Management, Government of Georgia</p>	

¹ Thirty five participants from nine countries from Asia and Europe (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Germany, Turkey, Sri Lanka) participated in a meeting of National Platforms in Tbilisi, Georgia on 17-19 Feb 2015 and came up with eight recommendations (called as the 'Tbilisi Statement') for consideration by global policymakers at the 14-18 March 2015 Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, in Sendai, Japan.

Key Discussion Points:

- The main objective of the session was to i) deliberate on the learning form the existing National Platforms ii) to identify core requirements to strengthen the National Platforms towards implementation of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and iii) provide a set of actionable recommendations to the plenary sessions.
- A total of 77 participants attended and contributed to the deliberations on the future form of and approach to National Platforms and national HFA Focal Points, based on the experience and learning from the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 -2015.
- The presentations and discussions focused on the experiences, learning and challenges in implementing National Platforms and participants came up with a set of recommendations to be shared with the chairs of Ministerial Round Tables and plenary sessions.
- National Platforms should take the lead in facilitating the implementation and monitoring of the post-2015 framework for DRR, to ensure the reduction of existing disaster risks and the prevention of future risk towards a resilient society.
- Ideally, an officially designated National Platform should be established in every country. Governments' experience clearly suggests that National Platforms are an effective tool to increase the impact and effectiveness of disaster risk reduction activities at the national level.
- National Platforms should be multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder in nature, in order to be inclusive. Special attention should be devoted to the strategic engagement of Ministries of Planning and Finance, the private sector and other stakeholders.
- National Platforms should develop a programme or a plan of action with clear roles and responsibilities to guide work and activities of the platform members and measure progress on a regular basis.
- National Platforms should increase their efforts to support the establishment of local platforms in order to secure synergies between national policies and local implementation of disaster risk reduction. To this end, capacity building is essential.
- The added value of National Platforms and HFA Focal Points was highlighted throughout the session. As a result, participants made a call for National Platforms worldwide to join efforts and build a global partnership to foster the implementation of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.
- UNISDR secretariat should support the strengthening of National Platforms

through revision of current National Platform Guidelines and development of implementation and monitoring guidelines for the effective implementation of the post-2015 DRR framework.

Key Recommendations:

Based on the presentations made by the panel members and subsequent discussions, the following key recommendations were made by the Chair of the session:

- We need to continue to have designated focal points and entry points responsible for regular reporting in each country for DRR, with defined and clear responsibility and accountability to ensure that development is risk sensitive.
- A multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach should be adopted by National Platforms to ensure that risk considerations are factored in sectoral development planning and practices. This requires the engagement of all stakeholders, including the private sector.
- Governments need to ensure that existing National Platforms are sustainable and that the future platforms are built on existing coordination mechanisms, based on the national context.
- National Platforms need to focus on the integration of disaster risk reduction into development processes by influencing relevant sectors and ministries at the national and local level.
- While UNISDR should continue to support the strengthening of National Platforms, the UN System needs to coordinate through the National Platform for both national and local level actions.
- Cooperation among countries and National Platforms needs to be strengthened to facilitate sharing of learning and experiences and foster a culture of collaboration, especially on disaster risk related trans-boundary issues.
- National Platforms, through the leadership of national HFA Focal Points, should take a leading coordinating role on the implementation and monitoring of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.
- Governments need to take leadership and action to raise the profile of National Platforms, and enable them to effectively coordinate with all stakeholders.