



KOBE REPORT draft
Report of Session 1.2, Thematic Cluster 1

National Platforms within UNISDR

1. Summary of the presentations and discussions

Presentation were given by representatives from National Platforms from:

Austri, Austrian National Platform (Mr. Bueckl)
Czech Republic, Chzech National Platform (Mr. Obrusnik)
France, Ministry of Environment (Mr. Feunteun)
Germany, DKKV (Mr. Zentel)
Sweden, Swedish Rescue Service Agency (Ms. Lindahl Olsson, Ms. Näslund-Landenmark)
Switzerland, PLANAT (Mr. Widmer)

The presentations provided information on the structure, the mission and the ongoing activities of the National platforms.

Issues which were discussed included:

- What is the added value of National platforms?
- What are the activities undertaken by NP?
- What role NP can play with regard to disaster reduction on the national level?
- Which tools can we use to achieve a better communication between each other and in countries?
- What are advantages of networking among NP?
- Are there opportunities for cooperation with developing countries NP?

National Platforms provide the opportunity to bring together all relevant stakeholders in disaster reduction on the national level. Thus they can promote multisectoral and interdisciplinary cooperation. Combine synergies and improve the information flow and knowledge exchange. It was shown that the structures differ from country to country reaching from governmental agencies and ministries, to academic institutions and non-governmental organisations. The activities implemented by NP are a mirror of the different structures, natural hazards, geographical contexts, environment, risks and the members of the NP. NP work on risk maps, information and knowledge exchange, lessons learned,, provide expert advice, raise public awareness, concentrate on research and political lobbying. As important tool to disseminate information, Internet, material for school curricula and visualisation material were discussed.

Based on the knowledge that disasters do not accept boundaries, networking on regional level was seen as an important element to improve the efficiency of work. Networking would provide the basis to identify synergies and to avoid duplications on the regional level. The regional approach can be based on common risks, similar physical processes and/or political entities like in Europe. It was commonly understood that there is a need for a regional network of NP. ISDR has a role as coordinator to assist – if needed – in the implementation of NP. Following the implementation phase on national level a regional network could provide the focal point for ISDR. This would provide a structure to mobilize the potential of NP world wide, by avoiding duplications and tremendous coordination at ISDR level, when dealing with each NP separately.

Developing countries could use the networking model to improve their capacities in disaster reduction. Each country should determine by itself the model to follow based not only on existing risks but also taking into account the political structure, legal framework, civil society and the need of public awareness. The possibility of north – south cooperation was seen positively. It was mentioned that already members of European Platforms are working in different sectors and that

as an example the knowledge could be used to improve resilience in the rehabilitation phase. The procedures for such a cooperation would have to be determined case by case.

2. Primary issues

- The structure of a National Platform is oriented in accordance with the needs, demands and opportunities of each country.
- Governments are asked to initiate establishment and/or strengthening of National Platforms as part of regional networks, as intersectoral, interdisciplinary and interministerial structures (as already requested in Yokohama, 1994) in each member state by 2015.
- Governments are requested to provide the necessary resources to support the work plans of National Platforms (as requested by the UNGA Resolution on ISDR in November 2004).
- ISDR is asked to develop a global strategy and implementation plan for national platforms, that is not only based upon the development of relevant regional structures but also works in close cooperation with existing platforms.
- ISDR is requested to report to the IATF on the progress being made by improving the network of National Platforms

3. Suggested indicators to measure accomplishments

Focal points are existing in all member states to report on the progress in the establishment of NP within one year.

Each government has to report to ISDR on the
Regular reports of ISDR to the IATF on the progress being made.

4. Existing indicators with reference

National Platforms are established in all member states by 2015.

5. Partnerships

Based on the knowledge that natural disasters don't accept boundaries the national platforms on disaster reduction participating in the thematic session on National Platforms within ISDR (Austria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland) agree on:

- To increase cooperation among themselves based on shared thematic issues and regional structures.
- To establish a system of information flow which is open to everybody interested.
- To work together in projects based on common interest.
- To cooperate in lobbying activities on the political and public sector in disaster reduction.

The overall aim of this initiative to increase the already existing networking activities on the European level is to enhance existing synergies, to avoid duplications and to use the added value of the multisectoral structure of national platforms to maximum extend possible. The networking is based on the understanding that following the principle of subsidiarity local initiatives should receive increased support.

6. Name, affiliation and contacts of person filling in the form with support from the panel

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