PREPARATORY EVENT

National Platforms Briefing
Tuesday 23 May, 13:30-15:30, Arena D, Moon Palace Resort, Cancun

Concept Note

The National Platform Briefing is a preparatory event that aims at bringing together National Platforms for disaster risk reduction and Sendai Focal Points to discuss how to enhance National Platforms’ contribution, role and engagement in supporting the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction by 2030.

The briefing will feature success stories, exchange experiences and lessons learned in establishing effective National Platforms and in engaging them in the design, development, implementation and monitoring of national strategies for disaster risk reduction by 2020, as called for by Target e of the Sendai Framework.

The briefing is expected to come up with strong recommendations that will support further improvement of the guidelines for National Platforms and will inform the discussions of the 2017 Global Platform’ Plenary session on “National and Local Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies Pave the Way for Action by All”.

Background and Rationale

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 emphasizes that disaster risk reduction requires an all-of-society engagement and partnership. It also highlights that the implementation of the framework will largely depend on coordination mechanisms within and across sectors and with relevant stakeholders at all levels. It requires the full engagement of all State institutions of an executive and legislative nature at national and local levels and a clear articulation of responsibilities across public and private stakeholders, including business and academia, to ensure mutual outreach, partnership, complementarity in roles and accountability and follow-up. The framework also calls upon Governments to establish and strengthen coordination forums composed of relevant stakeholders at national and local levels, such as national and local platforms for disaster risk reduction.

The Sendai Framework for the first time endorsed a set of seven global targets to support the assessment of progress in achieving its outcome and goal. Target (e) calls on all governments to ‘Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020’. The revision and/or development of national strategies for disaster risk reduction will require a concerted effort of all development sectors and multiple stakeholders at national and local level. This will in turn require a multi
sectoral and multi stakeholder platform that can support coordination and collaboration towards development, implementation and monitoring of the national strategy.

From the lessons of implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-15, it was evident that a strong national coordination mechanism is a pre-requisite to govern and implement risk reduction efforts. Over the past 12 years, the focus has been on governing arrangements at the national level. This has resulted in around 90 National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction that have officially been designated by their national governments and acknowledged by UNISDR.

A Review of National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction 2012-2013 was undertaken by a core group of National Platforms in a collaborative and voluntary self-review process undertaken by 50 counties, that provided key recommendations to strengthen National Platforms’ capacity in disaster risk reduction. Countries also met at the World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai (March 2015) and discussed National Platforms’ key requirements and recommended modalities of work. The need and importance of a National Coordination / National Platform forum was well established in both the above processes as well as in the Sendai Framework.

To date the effectiveness as well as the role and responsibility of national coordination mechanisms for disaster risk reduction, including National Platforms, has recorded varied results and successes. Some have been very successful and given strong mandates, recognition, legitimacy and budget at national level to effectively perform at the national level. Others are facing more challenges and issues to contend with.

The first two years following the adoption of the Sendai Framework and its priorities of actions towards the achievement of its seven targets and the sustainable development goals, have highlighted the need for national platform mechanisms to evolve and their modalities of work to be revisited. The Sendai Framework provides opportunities to build stronger and more fit-for-purpose National Platforms and disaster risk reduction coordination mechanisms. In particular, a new model of interaction is required with local disaster risk reduction platforms, and increased efforts have to be made to include or link to new actors from the climate change, sustainable development arena, as well as the private sector and science and technology representatives to build scientific evidence for disaster risk reduction that will inform the decision-making process at the national and local levels. This will foster an inclusive implementation of the Sendai Framework while ensuring its appropriate integration with the broader climate change and sustainable development agenda.

With the above background and rationale, a preparatory session involving key actors form existing and emerging National Platforms will be organized at the Global Platform on the 23 May 2017 in Cancun, Mexico. Participants will deliberate on the learning from national platforms so far. They will also chart the way forward towards more strengthened National Platforms that will enable a more effective, coherent, people-centered and inclusive implementation of the Sendai Framework at the national and local levels.
### Session’s objectives

1. Share experiences in establishing and fostering an innovative approach to national platforms, with clear recommendations to address the key challenges and opportunities to support an effective, coherent and inclusive implementation of the Sendai Framework and scale up existing National Platforms guidelines;
2. To agree on key requirements and opportunities for National Platforms to effectively support Governments in implementing and monitoring the Sendai Framework, with particular focus on their role in supporting and influencing national governance systems and the design, development, implementation and monitoring of national disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020;
3. To provide comments to the Words Into Action Guide on National and Local Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction.

### Session’s structure

#### Co-Chairs:
- Mr. Kamal Kishore, Government of India (tbc)
- Ms. Shoko Arakaki, Chief, Regional Coordination and National Implementation Support Section, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

#### Panellist:
- Mr Davit Tonoyan, Minister of Emergency Situations, Armenia
- Mr. Carlos Picado, Jefe de Desarrollo Estratégico del Sistema Nacional de Gestión del Riesgo Comisión Nacional de Prevención de Riesgos y Atención de Emergencias, Costa Rica
- Col (Rtd) Charles Owino, Director National Disaster Operations Centre, Kenya
- Ms. Sayanaa Lkhagvasuren, Adviser to Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia

#### Discussants from the private sector, science and technology, civil society

#### Proposed Agenda

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>13:30-13:35</td>
<td>Opening remarks and introduction by the co-chairs</td>
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<td>13:35 – 14:30</td>
<td><strong>Panel on Enhancing National Platforms’ capacity in influencing national governance system</strong></td>
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<td>Intervention from the panellists (10 min each) sharing their experience and recommendations on strengthening national platforms / national coordination mechanism along the following guiding questions:</td>
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<td><em>How the national platform effectively implemented disaster risk reduction in their country context? Which actors have been particularly engaged in the coordination process?</em></td>
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<td>ii)</td>
<td><em>What have been the key challenges faced and what opportunities</em></td>
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<td>exist to improve national platforms’ capacity to influence the national governance process?</td>
<td>iii) How can National Platforms be better engaged in supporting the implementation of the Sendai Framework and particularly the design and development of national DRR strategies by 2020 with multi sectoral and multi stakeholder approach?</td>
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<td>iv) What can National Platforms do better to support and scale up coherence at the national level and related integration of DRR, CC and SDGs?</td>
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14:30 - 15:20 Moderated discussion with the audience: Questions and inputs from the floor followed by final observations by the panellists

15:20 – 15:30 Summary and closing remarks by the Chair

**Recommended reading**


For more information, please approach the Session’s focal points:

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