



Terms of Reference of National or Regional Committees

1. Background

The Integrated Research on Disaster Risk programme (hereafter referred to as IRDR) is an international and interdisciplinary research initiative created to address the major challenges of natural and human-induced environmental hazards. The IRDR programme is co-sponsored by the International Council for Science, the International Social Science Council, and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and is directed by the Science Committee of the IRDR (SC-IRDR).

2. Purpose

The establishment of National or Regional Committees for IRDR is encouraged as a mechanism to promote and support IRDR-related research initiatives of relevant countries, and to enhance the links between national and international disaster risk research programmes and activities. Each National or Regional Committee is expected to include, in its make-up, researchers from the natural, social, health and engineering sciences, along with policy makers and practitioners concerned with the reduction and management of disaster risks, and to maintain a close relationship with the National Platform(s) for Disaster Risk Reduction where such a body (bodies) exist(s).

Regional Committee is defined for the purposes of IRDR as a grouping of spatially contiguous countries which search to promote common and complementary advance in the disaster risk reduction research field.

3. Governance

Each IRDR National Committee will be governed in accordance with their respective national laws. IRDR Regional Committee will be governed in accordance with the laws of the countries involved or as defined in their individual organization documents.

4. Tasks and Activities

In support of the IRDR Science Plan and the IRDR Scientific Committee, IRDR National and Regional Committee will undertake the following activities:

- Foster and support participation in IRDR on the part of institutions and individual scientists.
- Serve as the national or regional focal point for IRDR.
- Foster networking and collaboration among domestic, regional and international disaster risk reduction science and technology activities.
- Improve science and technology knowledge and considerations of disaster risk reduction science technology in planning, policies and programmes domestically, regionally and internationally.

- Support efforts to update and report on national and international disaster risk reduction activities aligned with the Hyogo Framework of Action's strategic priorities, with emphasis on the science and technology activities.
- Provide science and technology advice to policy-makers, taking into consideration national, regional and international disaster risk reduction initiatives.
- Assist in fundraising for IRDR activities and projects.

5. Reporting

The National or Regional Committee will provide regular, quarterly reports to the SC-IRDR and its supporting International Programme Office. At a minimum the National or Regional Committee will submit to the IRDR International Programme Office an Annual Report. This Report will include a summary of activities, partners, governance, funding, future plans and other appropriate information.