

## **BRIEF NOTE ON THE ROLES OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT AS NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION (NDMO)**

### **National Disaster Profile**

1. Malaysia is geographically located just outside the “Pacific Rim of Fire” and is generally free from severe natural disasters such as earthquake, volcanic eruption and typhoon. Although Malaysia is spared from the threats of severe natural disasters and calamities, Malaysia is nonetheless not spared from other disasters such as flood, man-made disaster, landslide and severe haze.
2. In the past few years, Malaysia has experienced several extreme weather and climatic events, ranging from freak thunderstorms to monsoonal floods which have caused havoc in the country. Monsoonal floods are an annual occurrence which varies in terms of severity, place and time of occurrences. The most recent flood, which happened back in 2010 in Kedah and Perlis, was among the worst flood ever experienced by the country. The total economic loss and the financial burden on the government were enormous. Other than flooding, the country also from time to time, experienced some man-made disasters, which caused considerable damage to properties and loss of lives.
3. In Malaysia, the National Security Council (NSC) is the principal policy making and coordinating body for disaster management. The NSC coordinates and plans all activities related to preparedness, prevention, response/relief operations and recovery/rehabilitation of disaster management.
4. The National Security council Directive No. 20 (NSC No. 20): *The Policy and Mechanism for National Disaster and Relief Management* is the main guideline for disaster management in Malaysia. The directive prescribes the mechanism on the management of disasters including the responsibilities and functions of related agencies under an integrated emergency management system. This is achieved through the establishment of the Disaster Management and Relief Committee at three different levels (federal, state and district levels) pending the severity of the disaster. At the Federal level, this committee is chaired by the Minister appointed by the Prime Minister. The directive is supported by other Standard Operating Procedures which outline the mechanism as well as roles and responsibility of various agencies for specific disasters, i.e. flood; open burning, forest fire, haze, industrial disasters etc.
5. The Land Conservation Act; Environmental Protection Act; Town and Country Planning Act; Irrigation and Drainage Act; and Uniform Building

by Law complement one another to form a comprehensive disaster mitigation framework.

### **Prevention and Mitigation**

6. Flood is the most significant natural hazard in Malaysia. Yearly, an estimated 29,800 sq kilometers are flooded, affecting 4.82 million people and causing physical damages amounting up to RM915 million. Rapid development, unplanned urbanization, climate change and environmental degradation have caused worse and more frequent occurrence of flash floods especially in urban areas. Since 1972, the Government spent billions under the “Five Year Malaysian Plan” for Flood Mitigation Projects to reduce such risks. From 2001 to 2005 (5 years) a total of RM1.790 billion was spent for structural flood mitigation measures. Under the Ninth Malaysia Plan (2006-2010) the allocation for structural flood control works has tremendously increased to RM5.81 billion.
7. Apart from conventional Flood Mitigation Projects, the Stormwater Management and Road Tunnel (SMART) was constructed as an innovative solution to alleviate the problem of flash flood in the Kuala Lumpur city centre. The 9.7 km tunnel integrates both stormwater management and motorway with the same infrastructure. The SMART system diverts large volumes of flood water from entering this critical stretch of traffic at the city centre via a holding pond, bypass tunnel and storage preventing spillover during heavy downpours.

### **Preparedness**

8. The Department of Irrigation and Drainage and Federal Department of Town and Country Planning produced several guidelines for development projects namely the *Urban Stormwater Management Manual* (MSMA) in 2000 and *Land Use Planning Appraisal for Risk Areas* (LUPAR) in 2005. These guidelines are implemented by local authorities in the feasibility assessment and execution of physical developments.
9. The Public Works Department has completed a study to develop the National Slope Master Plan with the aim of providing a comprehensive documentation for slope management and disaster risk reduction strategy for landslides. At the First World Landslide Forum in Japan in November 2008, the Department was chosen as one of ten World Centres of Excellence in Disaster Risk Reduction by the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR).

## **Early Warning Systems and Information and Communication Technology (ICT)**

10. Flood forecasting and early warning system are put in place to disseminate early warning to the public. This integrated system comprised of hundreds of rainfall and water level stations, manual sticks gauges, boards and sirens installed at strategic locations all over the country.
11. A National Tsunami Early Warning System has been developed by the Meteorological Department after 26 December 2004 to provide early warning on tsunami threat that may affect the country. With this system, the Government is able to forewarn the public of the possible occurrence of tsunami over the Indian Ocean, South China Sea or the Pacific Ocean.
12. Early warnings are disseminated through sirens, short messaging system (SMS), telephone, telefax, webpage, mass media broadcasting system and public announcements. The dissemination of information in a timely manner is crucial to ensure that the vulnerable communities and responders are promptly informed to enable them to take necessary actions.
13. The ICT is also utilized to promote awareness and disseminate early warnings to the public via a Fixed-Line Disaster Alert System (FLAS). A separate system known as the Government Integrated Radio Network (GIRN) provides radio communication between responders during emergency or disaster. Disaster reporting is now more efficient with the centralized Malaysia Emergency Response System (MERS) emergency hotline: "999".
14. The mass media is an effective platform to disaster preparedness among the public. To fully realize this potential, the Ministry of Information, Communication and Culture has established a Disaster unit in the Department of Broadcasting Malaysia. This is coordinated at the regional level by the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU).

## **Financial Aid**

15. The Government has also established the National Disaster Relief Fund to provide financial assistance to disaster victims. The types of financial assistance provided are for eventualities, such as, loss of income, damaged/ demolished house; agricultural damage; livestock and aquaculture damage; and burial cost for fatalities due to disasters.
16. Building on the experience of the widespread monsoon flood in 2006, the Government through the Central Bank of Malaysia has allocated RM500 million worth of special relief guarantee facility (SRGF) to be administered by all commercial banks, Bank Perusahaan Kecil & Sederhana Malaysia

Berhad, Bank Kerjasama Rakyat Malaysia Berhad and Agro Bank (formerly known as Bank Pertanian Malaysia) aimed at recovering businesses and rebuilding damaged infrastructure in areas affected by disasters. The response to the facility was very encouraging with 4,641 applications approved, amounting to approximately RM472 million. This facility is an example of public-private-partnership in which the commercial banks provide the financing with 2.5% interest to the borrower whilst the Central Bank covers an additional 2.45% of interest and 80% guarantee of the financing obtained.

17. The establishment of a cooperative in the form of *Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia* (The Endeavor Trust of Malaysia) in 1987 has improved the resilience of communities previously vulnerable to disasters. Currently, the trust fund provides service to more than 180,000 families in Malaysia. Provided services include micro-financing, compulsory savings and welfare funds for the poor and marginalized.

### **Awareness**

18. As the lead agency in disaster management, the National Security Council (NSC) has been organizing Community-Based Disaster Management programmes in collaboration with other agencies such as the Malaysian Meteorological Department (MMD), the Department of Town and Country Planning Peninsular Malaysia, the Ministry of Health and the Department of Irrigation and Drainage throughout the country. The program is aligned with the slogan: "Community Resilience through Disaster Awareness". For the year 2010, 8 series of the program were done at various locations of Malaysia involving about 2,000 communities. The program will continue the year 2011.
19. Other related awareness programs on landslides, tsunami, and floods have also been organized by the Public Works Department, the Malaysian Meteorological Department, the Ministry of Education and the Southeast Asia Disaster Prevention Institute of the National University of Malaysia (UKM) on their own initiatives with the supervision of the NSC.
20. Bordering with countries that sits on active tectonic plates like Indonesia and the Philippines, increases the chances for Malaysia to be inflicted with earthquake related disasters and the 2004 tsunami incident bears testimony to this. As such, the NSC and the Malaysian Meteorological Department (MMD) has been proactive in conducting drill exercises in tsunami prone areas involving the local communities to instill awareness and equip them with knowledge on how to properly react during disasters. Past exercises have been done in Tawau, Kuala Kedah and Langkawi (Pantai Chenang). For 2011, exercises have been planned for communities living in Kedah (Langkawi and Kuala Muda), Pulau Pinang (Tg. Bungah) as well as Sabah (Kudat and Lahad Datu).

21. Malaysia declared 26 December as the disaster awareness day since 2005. The 2011 National Disaster Awareness Day was held in Melaka from 18-19 February 2011. The main objective for this year's event is to integrate the strength and effort of Government agencies at the national, state, and district levels as well as the local authorities to come together and be seriously involved in disaster management especially in preparing for and mitigating the impacts of disaster.
22. Unlike the previous years, this year's event is highlighted by the national launching of the UNISDR World Disaster Reduction Campaign and the 'ASEA Knowledge Sharing Workshop on Mainstreaming Disaster Reduction in Education'. This is in line with the global effort to address the fact that half of the world's population today are city dwellers and are constantly facing the risk of disaster due to unplanned urbanization which contributes to risk factors such as structural failures, environmental degradation and overpopulation.
23. Among the activities conducted under the World Disaster Reduction Campaign are the 'One Million Safe Schools and Hospitals' campaign and 'Making cities Resilient – My city is Getting Ready' campaign. Malaysia's participation in both campaigns portrays the Government's commitment towards the safety of its people, in line with efforts to achieve the goals set out in the National Key Result Areas. It will also help to improve the nation's preparedness in facing disasters especially in the context of increasing public awareness and involvement at all levels in disaster risk reduction. The launching of these campaigns at the national level as well as recognition to leaders at the state and local authority level is seen as an incentive to ensure that elements of disaster risk reduction is widely applied at the state and local authority level throughout the country.
24. Safety Guidelines in Disaster and Crisis Situation has also been developed and distributed to schools and community leaders (*Jawatankuasa Kemajuan dan Keselamatan Kampung – JKKK*) to enable the public to respond accordingly to disasters and crises.

## **Participating ASEA**

### **1. The ASEA Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM)**

25. The ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) was established in early 2003 for coordinating regional cooperation in disaster management to minimize the adverse impact of disasters on the economic and social development of Member countries. The ACDM continues to function as a significant platform to foster mutual support and assistance in disaster management among Member Countries through capacity building programs, coordination and multilateral cooperation.

26. Among the accomplishments of the ACDM in 2010 include the launch of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme for 2010-2015 as well as the progress on the establishment of the AHA centre. The work programme also provides a timeline for the implementation of AADMER by ASEAN countries until the year 2015.
27. The 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ACDM was held on 23-25 February 2011 in Tagaytay City, Philippines. The meeting agreed that the key focus of the ACDM for 2011 will include:
- 27.1 Establishment and operationalisation of the AHA Centre, including development of a more detailed concept of operations, as well as determining added values of AHA Centre to the national disaster management systems and existing international humanitarian system;
  - 27.2 Strengthening of the ASEAN-ERAT, including the capacity of the ERAT members in assessment methodology as well as development of the concept of operations of ERAT vis-à-vis other international mechanisms such as the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team; and
  - 27.3 Continued implementation of flagship projects that have been identified earlier by the ACDM for implementation during the period 2010-2012, and other new activities that was agreed.

**ii. The ASEAN Agreement in Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER)**

28. The ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) was signed by Foreign Ministers of ASEAN on 26 July 2005 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The agreement is further testament of ASEAN's commitment to systematically address and develop formal legal and logistical arrangements to respond to disasters in the region. The agreement entered into force on 24 December 2009, following the deposit of the instrument of ratification by the Philippines on 26 Oct 2009.
29. During the 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summits which was held in Cha-am Hua Hin Thailand on 25 October 2009, the Heads of Government of ASEAN Member States instruct ACDM to ensure effective and timely implementation of the ASEAN Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations (SASOP) and full operation of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre). In order to ensure effective early warning

networks and timely response, the ASEAN Leaders also encouraged closer cooperation among the military, civilians and the civil society organizations.

30. ACDM had expanded their collaboration with the People's Republic of China, Japan and Republic of Korea with the establishment of ACDM Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting. The 1<sup>st</sup> Session was held in Vientiane, Lao PDR in 15 March 2007, followed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia and 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting in May Phi Taw, Myanmar. The meeting discusses possible area of cooperation and collaboration between ACDM and the Plus Three Countries. These include cooperation in training and capacity building programs, the establishment of AHA Centre, disaster response mechanism and exchange of ideas on related areas.
31. The AADMER Work Programme for 2010-2015 was endorsed during the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ACDM on 12 March 2010.
32. Pursuant to the 16<sup>th</sup> ACDM Meeting (18-19 May 2010), on 1 September 2010, the Malaysian cabinet has agreed to appoint Y.B. Dato' Seri Mohd Nazri Tan Sri Aziz, the Chairman of the National Disaster Management and Relief Committee as national focal point for disaster management in the ASEAN, Asia and international levels. In supporting the implementation of AADMER, Y>B. Dato' Seri Nazri was also appointed as the national focal point for the Conference of Parties (COP) for AADMER.

### **iii. ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre)**

33. The establishment of ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) is stated under Article 20 of the AADMER and mentioned in the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Blueprint under Article B.7: Building Disaster Resilient Nations and Safer Communities.
34. During the 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summits which was held in Cha-am Hua Hin Thailand on 25 October 2009, the Heads of Government of ASEAN Member States instructed ACDM to ensure effective and timely implementation of the ASEAN Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations (SASOP) and full operation of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre). In order to ensure effective early warning networks and timely response, the ASEAN leaders also encouraged closer cooperation among the military, civilians, and civil society organizations.
35. The AADMER Work Programme for 2010-2015 was endorsed during the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ACDM on 12 March 2010. The Work Programme provides

a timeline for the implementation of AADMER by ASEAN countries until the year 2015.

36. Pursuant to the 16<sup>th</sup> ACDM Meeting (18-19 May 2010), on 1 September 2010, the Malaysian Cabinet has agreed to appoint Y.B. Dato' Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz, the Chairman of the National Disaster Management and Relief Committee as a member of the Conference of Parties (COP) for the AADMER. In supporting the implementation of AADMER, the National Security Council through its Disaster Management Division was also appointed as the National Focal Point (NFP) for disaster management in the ASEAN, Asian and International levels (beyond Asia).
37. On the establishment of ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre), Malaysia has been consistent with its position during the 16<sup>th</sup> ACDM Meeting as indicated below:
  - 37.1. ASEAN should accelerate the establishment of AHA Centre;
  - 37.2 In addition to the AADMER Fund, a separate fund must be established for the establishment and operations of the AHA Centre;
  - 37.3 The AHA Centre fund should be managed on the principle of equal and annual contribution from all member states to ensure the sustainability of operations for the centre;
  - 37.4 After the informal ACDM Meeting held in Bangkok on 31 August 2010, Lao P.D.R. voiced out their reservation on the proposed establishment of the AHA Centre Fund and opined that the AHA Centre could be financed by the AADMER fund on the basis of voluntary contribution. Myanmar has been silent about their position while Vietnam registered that it has received Cabinet approval based on the decision of the 16<sup>th</sup> ACDM;
  - 37.5 Indonesia as the host country for the interim AHA Centre is seeking to push the establishment of the permanent AHA Centre by November 2010 during which it is hoped that the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP) to AADMER could be convened at the sidelines of the Regional Summit on Disaster Management in Jakarta;
  - 37.6 Malaysia is willing to explore different alternatives for the funding of AHA Centre but insists that it must be based on the principal of equal-annual Contribution; and
  - 37.7 Malaysia will only ratify the Agreement for the Establishment of AHA Centre once the abovementioned issues have been resolved through consensus among all member states.



## Latest Development

38. The 17<sup>th</sup> ACDM Meeting held from 3-25 February 2011 concluded the final draft of the ASEAN Agreement on the Establishment of the AHA Centre to be endorsed by respective Government of the ASEAN Member States. Lao D.P.R. voiced out their reservation on the financial commitment for the AHA Centre Fund as it could only contribute up to USD30,000 for the said fund. It was also agreed that Member States could provide additional voluntary financial contribution, such as through the ASEAN Disaster Management and Emergency Relief (ADMER) Fund or by providing other forms of contribution such as through secondment of experts to the AHA Centre. This is to compensate for the deficit in operational budget with the accumulated annual contribution of USD300,000. Under this arrangement, the AHA Centre could only afford to hire seven (7) personnel, i.e. one Executive Director (international position), four Technical Officers (local positions), one Secretary and one Driver. It is expected that vacancies within the initial structure of the AHA Centre (i.e. 13 posts agreed in 2010) could be filled up through secondment/attachment of experts by Member States and partners.
39. The meeting also agreed that the agreement to be signed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of ASEAN Member States on the sideline of the 18<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit on 8-9 May 2011. However, this decision is postponed as agreed during the 8<sup>th</sup> SPCA Meeting on 26 April 2011 following Thailand's concern on substantive as well as procedural issues relating to the signing of the agreement.
40. On 19 April 2011, the Thai National Focal Point communicated to ACDM that after its internal process in seeking approval for the draft agreement, there is a strong suggestion from its internal discussion to amend Article 13 Para (1) of the AHA Centre Agreement from "*The AHA Centre shall have the following legal capacities under the Parties' domestic laws...*" To "*The AHA Centre shall have the following legal capacities under the **Host Country's laws...***"
41. Malaysia is of the view that the AHA Centre, which was established in the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), should have a legal personality, recognized and allowed to conduct its operation in all ASEAN Member States and not only in the host country:
- 41.1 This is quite significant in order to support the operationalization of AHA Centre especially in conducting its role in the respective Member States (for example in exploring the possibility of establishing the ASEAN Relief Items Stockpile at the UN Humanitarian Response Depot in Subang);
- 41.2 In legal terms, it also acts as a safeguard for both the AHA Centre

and the corresponding ASEAN Member State in specific areas of cooperation/interaction; and

- 41.3 Most of the terms pertaining to the relationship between the AHA Centre and its host country (Indonesia) have already been properly defined under the Host Country Agreement.

### **iii. ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (ARDEX)**

42. The ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (ARDEX) act as a training ground for the operationalisation of the ASEAN Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations (SASOP) under the AADMER.
43. The first simulation exercise (ARDEX-05) was conducted in Selangor, Malaysia in September 2005 followed by the second (ARDEX-06) in Kein Svay District and Takhmau City, Kandal Province, Cambodia in September 2006. The third exercise (ARDEX-07) was organized in Singapore in October 2007 and fourth exercise (ARDEX-08) was held in Map Ta Phut Industrial Estate (MTP-IE), Rayong Province, Thailand in August 2008. During the 13<sup>th</sup> ACDM Meeting in Myanmar, 5<sup>th</sup> ARDEX exercise (ARDEX-09) is expected to be held at the Philippines in October 2009, but has been cancelled due to the Philippines has to pull out their resources for the response and rehabilitation of Disastrous Tropical Storm Ketsana and Typhoon Parma. Subsequently, Indonesia also had to cancel the 5<sup>th</sup> ARDEX scheduled for October 2010 due to the earthquake which led to devastating tsunami at Mentawai island on 25 October 2010. ASEAN Member States have agreed that ARDEX will not be convened in 2011. Offer has been made by Viet Nam to host ARDEX in 2012.
44. Malaysia supports the international community in extending humanitarian assistance to countries affected by disasters especially within the ASEAN region. Attached is list of international humanitarian assistance provided by the Malaysian Government since 1997.

### **iv. ASEAN-UN Strategic Plan on Disaster Management**

45. The 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEA-UN Summit in October 2010 in Viet Nam adopted the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-UN Collaboration in Disaster Management. The ACDM and relevant UN bodies is expected to jointly prepare the ASEAN-UN Strategic Plan of Cooperation on Disaster Management (2011-2015). Currently, the ASEAN Secretariat is still working on the said draft.

## Regional Participation

46. The Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) was successfully organized on 2-4 December 2008 in Kuala Lumpur in collaboration with United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and other partners. The main outcome of the Conference, the Kuala Lumpur Declaration highlighted the importance of Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction with special emphasis on public-private-partnership for disaster risk reduction and community-based disaster risk reduction actions. The Conference was attended by Ministers and government officials from 43 countries as well as representatives from relevant international and regional organizations.
47. The meeting was an important follow-up to the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) held in January 2005 in Hyogo, Japan. The Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 – 2015 (HFA): *Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters* was adopted by 168 countries. Pursuant to the global initiative, two Asian Conferences on Disaster Risk Reduction were held respective on September 2005 in Beijing and November 2007 in New Delhi. Malaysia participated in both conferences as well as the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR), First Session in June 2007 followed by the Second Session on 16-19 June 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland.
48. Malaysia also participated in the Fourth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (4<sup>th</sup> AMCDRR) which took place in Incheon, Republic of Korea from 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> October 2010 with the main theme “Climate Change Adaptation through Disaster Risk Reduction”.
49. Earlier in 2009, Malaysia was chosen to chair the United Nations Economic and Social Commission (UNESCAP) Subsidiary Committee on disaster Risk Reduction (CDRR). The committee complements other agencies including the ISDR regional office and regional organizations in the implementation of disaster risk reduction plans and programs.
50. Malaysia is also member of the intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/IOTWS), a primary subsidiary body of the United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organization’s Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO-IOC) to coordinate the effort to develop an integrated and cohesive warning and mitigation system in the Indian Ocean.
51. Malaysia actively participates in regional platforms including the Asian Disaster Reduction Centre (ADRC); Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

(ADPC) as well as Typhoon Committee (TC). As the focal point for disaster management, the National Security Council also works closely with international organizations such as United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), and its subsidiary bodies, the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC), International Search and rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Task Force on Emergency Preparedness.

### **Malaysia's National Progress Report on the Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2009-2011)**

52. In January 2005, 168 Governments including Malaysia adopted a 10 year plan to make the world safer from natural hazards at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan. The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) is the key instrument for implementing disaster risk reduction. Its overarching goal is to build resilience of nations and communities to disasters, by achieving substantive reduction of disaster losses by 20105 – in lives, and in the social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries.
53. The framework offers guiding principles, priorities for action, and practical means for achieving disaster resilience for vulnerable communities. Priorities for action include:
- i. Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation;
  - ii. Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning;
  - iii. Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels;
  - iv. Reduce the underlying risk factors; and
  - v. Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.
54. The HFA Mid-Term Review's main objective is to provide critical analysis of HFA implementation over the first five years of its existence with a view to inform its continued implementation through 2015 as well as to provide initial thinking about any future international framework on disaster risk reduction that follow beyond 2015. Apart from analyzing the extent of which HFA implementation has progressed the report also aimed at helping countries and their institutional partners to identify practical measures to increase commitment, resourcing and efforts in its further implementation.
55. The Mid-term Review of the HFA was coordinated by the UNISDR Secretariat through a participatory approach involving stakeholders at international, regional and national levels. The information collected, primarily of a qualitative nature, based on self assessments and perceptions

of the stakeholders involved, was complemented by that provided by Governments through the HFA monitor reporting mechanism.

56. Malaysia had submitted its national progress report on the implementation of the HFA on 5 May 2011. The National Security Council of Malaysia is the National Focal Point for the HFA and it coordinates implementation within the country.
57. The need for a national platform for disaster management was adopted during the recent Disaster Awareness Day 2011 and it has been recognized in the Melaka Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Malaysia in February 2011. The benefits of establishing a national platform are manifold and these include: advocating disaster risk reduction at different levels; increasing levels of knowledge and skills related to disaster risk reduction, acting as a catalyst for national consultants and consensus building; and coordinating analyzing, and advising on areas that requires concerted action, among others. Furthermore, the establishment of a national platform would facilitate the effort of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into policies, planning, and development programmes at various levels.
58. The Government of Malaysia is indeed committed to disaster risk reduction and will continue its efforts towards implementing the priority areas of the HFA both at national and international levels and acknowledge the ongoing effort by UNISDR to promote and accelerate the implementation of the HFA.

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