



CHARTER
of the
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DISASTER REDUCTION
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND SUSTAINABILITY
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

A. Official Designation

The Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction (SDR) is hereby reestablished by action of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainability (CENRS).

B. Purpose and Scope

The purpose of the SDR is to advise and assist the CENRS and the NSTC on policies, procedures, plans, issues, scientific developments, and research needs to facilitate and promote disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The SDR provides a senior-level interagency forum to leverage expertise, inform policymakers, promote technology applications, coordinate activities, and promote excellence in research. The SDR mission encompasses catastrophic and non-catastrophic hazards, whether domestic or foreign, natural or technological in origin.

C. Functions

The functions of the SDR include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Establish clear national goals for Federal science and technology programs aimed at disaster reduction.
2. Coordinate Federal research and policy related to natural and technological hazards and disasters, including with other NSTC committees and subcommittees where appropriate.
3. Create working groups to improve interagency collaboration in addressing Federal disaster risk reduction and resilience issues.
4. As permitted by law, identify and coordinate opportunities for the U.S. Government to collaborate with state, local, and foreign governments; international organizations; and private/academic/industry groups in the science and technology of disaster reduction.
5. Provide information to senior policymakers that summarizes relevant resources and scientific work within the member departments and agencies of the SDR.
6. Provide scientific and technical information to senior policymakers in response to current disaster situations.
7. As permitted by law, communicate with Administration officials, Congress, nongovernmental organizations, and other policy development bodies as appropriate about the science and technology of disaster reduction.

8. Promote disaster reduction preparedness and practices.
9. Facilitate the fusion of classified and unclassified data streams and research for disaster reduction applications.

Through its Co-chairs, the SDR will recommend action on policy and R&D issues to the CENRS for approval.

D. Membership

The following NSTC departments and agencies are represented on the SDR:

Department of Agriculture;
Department of Commerce;
Department of Defense;
Department of Energy;
Department of Health and Human Services;
Department of Homeland Security;
Department of Housing and Urban Development;
Department of the Interior;
Department of State;
Department of Transportation;
Environmental Protection Agency;
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission;
National Aeronautics and Space Administration;
National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency; and
National Science Foundation.

The following organizations in the Executive Office of the President shall also be represented on the SDR:

Council on Environmental Quality;
National Security Council;
Office of Management and Budget; and
Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Hazard-specific Federal coordination bodies shall also be represented on the SDR, including but not limited to:

Joint Fire Science Program;
National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program;
National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program; and
National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program.

Cooperating departments and agencies shall include such other Executive branch organizations, departments, and agencies as the SDR Co-chairs may designate, including but not limited to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The SDR is jointly led by Agency Co-chairs and an OSTP Co-chair. The Chair or Co-chairs of the CENRS will select and appoint the Agency Co-chairs from among the agency representatives.

E. Private-Sector Interface

The SDR may seek advice from the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST), and will recommend to the CENRS and/or the Assistant to the President for Science and Technology the nature of any additional private-sector¹ advice needed to accomplish its mission. The SDR may also interact with and receive *ad hoc* advice from various private-sector groups as consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

F. Termination Date

Unless renewed by the Co-chairs of the CENRS prior to its expiration, the SDR shall terminate no later than March 15, 2017.

G. Determination

I hereby determine that the reestablishment of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Executive Branch by law, and that such duties can best be performed through the advice and counsel of such a group.

¹ The Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., as amended, does not explicitly define “private-sector,” but the phrase is generally understood to include individuals or entities outside the Federal government such as, but not limited to, the following: non-Federal sources, academia, State, local or Tribal governments, individual citizens, the public, non-governmental organizations, industry associations, and international bodies.