

NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DISASTER REDUCTION
CHARTER

Vision

A disaster resistant America.

Mission and Objectives

The Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction (SDR) is charged with facilitating and promoting natural and technological disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The SDR provides a senior-level interagency forum to leverage expertise, inform policy-makers, 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.

The SDR facilitates US Government and private/academic activities to reduce vulnerability to natural and technological hazards through:

- Coordinating national research goals and activities for Federal research related to natural and technological hazards and disasters;
- Identifying and coordinating opportunities for the US Government to coordinate and collaborate with state, local, and foreign governments, international organizations and private/academic/industry groups;
- Facilitating the identification and assessment of risks;
 - Providing information to the President and Congress to summarize relevant resources and work within SDR agencies;
- Providing information to the Administration and Congress in response to current disaster situations;
- Serving as liaison to the Administration, Congress, NGO's, and other policy development bodies;
- Promoting disaster reduction practices;
- Facilitating the exploitation of dual-use systems and fusion of classified and unclassified data streams and research for disaster reduction applications.

Membership

The SDR is constituted under the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) and membership in the SDR is by NSTC invitation. Nominations for SDR leadership positions are submitted by the Secretary or Administrator of selected Federal agencies whom the NSTC invites to participate in the nomination process. The Chair, the Vice-Chair for Policy, and the Vice-Chair for Science and Technology are each selected by the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and serve a three-year term. Lead agency representatives to the SDR are renewed annually at the Secretary or Administrator level.

Administration

The SDR functions through monthly meetings of the full membership; interim meetings of the working groups; on-going communication via briefings and other mechanisms; development of an annual operating plan and associated activities; development of white papers; hosting of, and participation in, workshops and other fora; and liaison with key Administration, Congressional, and private sector/academic representatives.