

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

**A. Official Designation**

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

**B. Purpose and Scope**

The purpose of the Subcommittee is to advise and assist the Committee and the NSTC on policies, procedures, plans, issues, scientific developments, and research needs to facilitate and promote 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.

**C. Functions**

To advance its goal, the Subcommittee will carry out the following functions:

1. Establish clear national goals for Federal science and technology investments for disaster reduction;
2. Coordinate national research goals and activities for Federal research related to natural and technological hazards and disasters;
3. 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;
4. Provide information to the President and the Administration to summarize relevant resources and scientific work within SDR agencies;
5. Provide scientific and technical information to the President and the Administration in response to current disaster situations;
6. Communicate with Administration officials, Congress, NGO's, and other policy development bodies about the science and technology of disaster reduction;
7. Promote disaster reduction preparedness and practices;
8. Facilitate the exploitation of dual-use systems and fusion of classified and unclassified data streams and research for disaster reduction applications.

**D. 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-

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Chair for Policy, and the Vice-Chair for Science and Technology are each selected by the Co-chairs of the NSTC Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources and serve a three-year term. Lead agency representatives to the SDR are renewed annually at the Secretary or Administrator level. Member agencies include:

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
- National Guard Bureau
- National Science Foundation
- U.S. Agency for International Development
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
  - U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Department of Commerce
  - National Institute of Standards and Technology
  - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- U.S. Department of Defense
  - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Department of Energy
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
  - Centers for Disease Control
  - National Institutes of Health
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
  - Federal Emergency Management Agency
  - United States Coast Guard
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- U.S. Department of Interior
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - U.S. Geological Survey
- U.S. Department of State
- U.S. Department of Transportation
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Public Health Services Commissioned Corps
- Executive Office of the President

**E. Private Sector Interface**

The Subcommittee may seek advice from the President’s Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) and will seek additional private-sector advice needed to accomplish its mission. The Subcommittee may also interact with and receive *ad hoc* advice from various private-sector groups as consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The Subcommittee will work to promote partnerships with private industry, academia and non-government organizations in the interest of reducing the number of lives lost, property damaged and dollars spent due to disasters. The Subcommittee may also interact with and receive *ad hoc* advice from various private-sector groups as consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

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**F. Termination Date**

Unless renewed by the Co-chairs of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources prior to its expiration, the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources shall terminate no later than December 31, 2010.

**G. Determination**

I hereby determine that the formation 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.

Approved:

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Sharon Hays, OSTP (Co-Chair, CENR)

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Date

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George Gray, EPA (Co-Chair, CENR)

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Date

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Conrad Lautenbacher, NOAA (Co-Chair, CENR)

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Date

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