

Africa Consultative Meeting

Developing an Africa Position for the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

• Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi • 25 – 26 November 2013 •

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Delegates from countries, intergovernmental regional organizations, development partners including donors, United Nations, Non-Governmental Organisations, academic institutions, and other international organisations came together for the Africa Consultative Meeting to develop a draft Africa Position on a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA-2). The meeting took place 25-26 November 2013, Nairobi, Kenya.

1. The Summary Statement builds on deliberations by participants over two days on a shared continental vision for HFA-2, which also includes multi-stakeholder consultations conducted at regional, sub-regional, national and thematic levels. Participants reviewed progress made and challenges faced continent-wide during the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 and the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and its associated Extended Programme of Action 2006-2015. Based on these analyses, recommendations were made for Africa's proposed priorities for HFA-2.
2. The recommendations put forward in this Summary Statement aim to guide ensuing consultations in firming-up the continental position on HFA-2, namely at the Africa Working Group on DRR, scheduled for 11-12 March, Abuja, Nigeria and the Africa Regional Platform with a high level segment, 5-8 May 2014, Abuja, Nigeria.
3. Participants identify the following **achievements** of the implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 and Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction:

- 3.1 African countries have seen a gradual shift in focus from reactive emergency response to proactive risk reduction. Environmental concerns, as critical to sustainable development, are increasingly embraced in risk reduction concepts and practices.
 - 3.2 Stakeholders have an enhanced awareness about disaster risk reduction as a more effective way of preventing and mitigating disasters as demonstrated through growing political commitment.
 - 3.3 There has been an appreciable awareness and progress in risk identification and early warning especially with the meteorological services.
 - 3.4 With the rapid economic growth of African economies there is also a growing market for disaster risk reduction evident from the increasing number of academic and professional research institutions and curricula on disaster risk reduction.
 - 3.5 The level of coordination has increased with multiple stakeholder platforms facilitating multi-sectorial risk dialogues.
4. The participants also identify the following **gaps and challenges** in the implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action and Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction:
 - 4.1 Despite increased availability of early warning systems and information, its translation into early action and information dissemination from source to end-user has been inadequate. There is much still to be done in strengthening national and regional meteorological and climate services to ensure coordination with the decision support systems in disaster risk reduction and the user at community level.
 - 4.2 Countries have made progress in disaster risk reduction policies and legislation, but the legalization process and its implementation have been slow. Progress in policy and institutional development at local level has been slow and requires national support and proportional resources.
 - 4.3 Limited progress has been made in addressing the underlying causes of risk (Priority for Action 4), including its relation to environment and development.

- 4.4 Effective monitoring of priorities for action has been weak due to inadequate accountability frameworks.
 - 4.5 Integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation at policy, institution and implementation levels has been weak.
 - 4.6 Disaster risk reduction is still perceived as part of humanitarian action, as a result its integration into development and environment sectors has been insufficient.
 - 4.7 Underlining all factors is the low capacity levels, particularly at regional and sub-regional levels, for disaster risk reduction policy and coordination.
5. Based on the analyses of progress and gaps, participants make recommendations for HFA-2 centred around three broad areas:
 - 5.1 Governance: Policy and Institutions
 - 5.2 Risk information
 - 5.3 Disaster Risk Reduction Integration

Participants assert that progress in implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action has remained varied in Africa, putting countries at different levels of disaster risk reduction gains. Hence, the new framework (HFA-2) should be a process contiguous to the Hyogo Framework for Action, leveraging lessons from the Hyogo Framework for Action to address gaps and scaling up achievements. Further, renewed attention needs to be given to preventing economic losses, besides saving lives. Finally HFA-2 needs to be integrated within the post-2015 development framework, the climate change agreements, and within the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

5.1 Governance: Policies and Institutions

- a. **Political commitment to have suitable policies, laws and institutions in place for effective disaster risk reduction.** Existing and new institutions having direct and indirect interfaces with disaster risk reduction should be harmonised so as to enhance outreach to higher political levels. Enacted laws should define clear roles and responsibilities. National economic and planning

frameworks should integrate disaster risk reduction. **Strengthen coordination through regional, national and sub-national DRR platforms for multi-sectorial risk dialogues.** Disaster risk reduction platforms should be supported by adequate policies and be as inclusive as possible (including women, children, youth, civil society and private sector). Such platforms should be located at the highest political level to ensure effective multi-sector coordination. Inter-governmental organisations should enhance coordination among Member States. Institutional coordination should be strengthened among agencies monitoring and developing risk information for disasters along with the decision support systems in disaster risk reduction, risk financing and insurance markets.

- b. From early warning to early action:** Outreach of early warning should be advanced to community level. Early warning should be time-and culture-sensitive. Co-production of early warning information should be promoted equitably between scientific and local communities via a two-way communication process.
- c. Capacity development at all levels.** Government and stakeholder capacity should be enhanced to act early and effectively. Change in behaviour and attitude are needed for capacity development at local level as well as promoting the importance of coordination and support across national and local levels. Inter-Governmental Organisations should strengthen their roles as regional leaders and provide capacity enhancement of member states.

Step-up investment in disaster risk: Proportionate funding for disaster risk reduction (including contingency funds) and strengthened human resources – particularly for local governments, is essential for effective capacity development. Governments should allocate a specific proportion of their development budget allocation for disaster risk reduction. Disaster risk reduction funding can be further secured by coordinating it with climate change adaptation and resilience funds in particular, and by better understanding donor’s funding policies

- d. **Enhance accountability:** There is a need to develop monitoring and evaluation frameworks and baseline information to enable progress measurement. Voluntary peer review mechanism should be encouraged at regional and sub-regional levels for effective performance measurement.

5.2 Risk Information

- a. **Disaster risk and climate information integration for comprehensive risk analyses and community-based early warning.** Funding mechanisms need to be aligned and information made relevant and understandable at the community-level, including through community capacity building and identification of community champions. Disaggregation of information by gender and age is essential to address specific vulnerabilities.
- b. **Integrate traditional and scientific information, science and local knowledge.** National investments in developing hazard/risk information are required to support risk-based decision-making across and within development sectors. Documentation of community knowledge and its validation through the lens of science is vital for integration. Local and traditional institutions should be leveraged for effective integration and information dissemination. Investments in climate information and services should be made to ensure that such information are developed and integrated in risk analysis.
- c. **Economic loss analyses for development planning and investments.** Quantification of risk and disaster losses are essential for designing future risk reduction and development strategies. Cost benefit and economic loss analyses, together with losses of environmental assets, should be leveraged to enhance political commitment and influence strategic and macro-economic development planning.
- d. **Information management and dissemination for effective communication.** Communication strategies and protocols should

be developed for effective communication and early warning. As appropriate stakeholder environment should be built and media should be actively engaged. Information should be simple, practical and comprehensible to bridge the gap between technical understanding and political commitment. Information should be tailored to stakeholder needs taking into account specific vulnerabilities.

- e. HFA Priority 4 highlights the fact that environmental degradation and exploitation is an underlying risk factor. So it is important to further establish and understand the reasons why throughout the full disaster risk management cycle (using processes such as the Red List of Ecosystems).

5.3 Disaster Risk Reduction Integration

- a. **Integrated approaches for community resilience.** Given the continued impact of disasters, particularly on agricultural systems and livelihoods, renewed focus should be given to managing risks rather than managing disasters. Good practices, from within the region as well as at the global level (e.g. south-south cooperation), should be scaled up and replicated across the continent for community-based disaster risk reduction, including through traditional and local institutions and community participation. Ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction and integrated social protection approaches should be promoted as a comprehensive framework for resilience building, which is also a co-benefit solution for disaster risk reduction and Climate Change Adaptation
- b. **Disasters affect different people differently.** It is important to identify specific vulnerabilities associated with gender, age and disabilities. Social vulnerabilities, particularly in the context of gender equity, should be addressed.
- c. **Resilience through promotion of awareness and education.** School safety and risk-sensitive infrastructure should be promoted. There is a need to ensure a systemic integration of disaster risk reduction into curricula at primary, secondary and tertiary levels. A

network of higher educational institutions should be promoted and linked with disaster risk reduction professionals for capacity development. Community leaders and media should be engaged for decentralized awareness.

- d. Infrastructure, urban risk and risk transfers.** Urban risk assessments should be strengthened leading to building codes and enforcement, through strengthened cooperation of the scientific and technical community and urban planners and development sectors, with appropriate understanding of the wider urban catchment environment. Conversely, infrastructure requirements of rural communities should be identified. There needs to be a commitment to allocate a certain proportion of infrastructure investment on disaster risk reduction.
- e. Private sector has a high stake in disaster risk reduction** and should be involved as a vital partner in implementation of disaster risk reduction, including through working closely with the chambers of commerce, industries and private sector associations.

6. Participants jointly endorse these recommendations as the first set of proposals for the Africa Position on a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and agree that these would be further elaborated at the Africa Working Group Meeting, March 2014 to be endorsed at the Fifth Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction scheduled for 5-8 May 2014 in Abuja, Nigeria.

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