**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 draft Africa Position on post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA-2), held in Nairobi on 25 and 26 November 2013.

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 progresses made and challenges faced in the continent during the implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 and 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 the ensuing consultations and firming-up the continental position on HFA-2.
3. Participants identify the following **achievements** of the implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 and Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction:
   1. African countries have seen a paradigm shift in focus from reactive emergency response to proactive risk reduction.
   2. Stakeholders have an enhanced awareness about disaster risk reduction and consequent growing political commitment.
   3. There has been an appreciable progress in risk identification and early warning especially with the meteorological services.
   4. With 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 on disaster risk reduction.
   5. The level of coordination has seen an increase with multi-stakeholder platforms facilitating multi-sectorial risk dialogues.
4. The participants also identify following **gaps and challenges** in the implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action and Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction:
   1. Despite availability of early warning systems and information its translation into early action has been found to be inadequate. Further, information dissemination from source to end-user has been inadequate.
   2. Countries have made progress in disaster risk reduction policies and legislations, but the legalization process and its implementation has been slow.
   3. Limited progress has been made in addressing underlying causes of risk (Priority for Action 4).
   4. Effective monitoring of priorities for action has been weak due to inadequate accountability framework.
   5. Integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation at policy, institution and implementation levels has been weak.
   6. Disaster risk reduction is still perceived as part of humanitarian community and actions and its integration into development sectors has been insufficient.
   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:
   1. Governance: Policy and Institutions
   2. Risk information
   3. Disaster Risk Reduction Integration

Participants assert that the progresses in implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action has remained varied across space in Africa, putting countries at different levels of disaster risk reduction gains. Hence, the new framework (HFA-2) should be a process contiguous to Hyogo Framework for Action, leveraging lessons from 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 and climate change agreements including United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

***5.1 Governance: Policies and Institutions***

* 1. **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 for enhancing outreach to higher political agenda. Enacted laws should define clear roles and responsibilities. National economic frameworks should integrate disaster risk reduction.
  2. **Strengthen coordination through regional, national and sub-national DRR platforms for multi-sectorial risk dialogues.** Disaster risk reduction platforms should be backed by adequate policies and be as inclusive as possible (including women, children, youth, civil society). 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.
  3. **From early warning to early action:** Outreach of early warning should be enhanced to community level. Early warning should be time- and culture-sensitive. Co-production of early warning information should be promoted between scientific and local communities with a two-way dissemination process. Risk transfer mechanisms should be strengthened as an effective tool for risk reduction.
  4. **Capacity development at all levels.** Government and stakeholder capacity should be enhanced to act early and effectively. Change in behaviour and attitude should be promoted for capacity development at local level. Inter-Governmental Organisations should enhance role as regional leaders and provide capacity enhancement of member states.
  5. **Enhance investment in disaster risk:** Enhanced 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 development budgetary allocation for disaster risk reduction.
  6. **Enhance accountability:** There is a need to develop monitoring and evaluation framework and baseline information and indicators to enable progress measurement. Voluntary peer review mechanism should be encouraged at regional and sub-regional level for effective performance measurement.

***5.2 Risk Information***

1. **Disaster risk and climate information integration for comprehensive risk analyses and community-based early warning.** Funding mechanisms need to be aligned and information be made relevant for community-level understanding, including through community capacity building and identification of community champions. Disaggregation of information by gender and age is essential to address specific vulnerabilities.
2. **Integrate traditional and scientific information, science and local knowledge.** 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.
3. **Economic loss analyses for development planning and investments.** Quantification of risk and disaster losses is essential for designing future risk reduction and development strategies. Cost benefit and economic loss analyses should be leveraged to enhance political commitment and influence strategic and macro-economic development planning.
4. **Information management and dissemination for effective communication.**  Communication strategies and protocols should be developed for effective communication and early warning. Appropriate stakeholder environment should be built and media should be actively engaged. Information should be simple, practical and comprehendible to bridge the gap between technical understanding and political commitment. Information should be tailored to stakeholder needs taking into account specific vulnerabilities.

***5.3 Disaster Risk Reduction Integration***

1. **Integrated approaches for community resilience.** Renewed focus should be given on managing risks rather than managing disasters. Good practices, from with the region as well as from 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. Ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction and integrated social protection approaches should be promoted as a comprehensive framework for resilience building.
2. **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.
3. **Resilience through promotion of awareness and education.** School safety and risk-sensitive infrastructure should be developed. There is a need to ensure mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into curricula at primary, secondary and tertiary levels. Network of higher education institutions should be promoted which in turn should be linked with disaster risk reduction professionals for their capacity development. Community leaders and media should be engaged for decentralized awareness.
4. **Infrastructure, urban risk and risk transfers.** Urban risk assessments should be strengthened leading to building codes and enforcement. Conversely, infrastructure requirements of rural communities should be identified. There needs to be a commitment to allocate certain proportion of infrastructure investment on disaster risk reduction.
5. **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 and industries.
6. Participants jointly endorse these recommendations as the first set of proposals for the Africa Position on post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and agree that these would be refined at the Africa Working Group Meeting in 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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