

DECLARATION OF THE FOURTH HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION HELD IN YAOUNDÉ, CAMEROON ON 23 JULY 2015

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Yaoundé Declaration on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations responsible for Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa having met in Yaoundé, Cameroon, 23 July 2015 on the occasion of the Fourth High Level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction, concurrent with the Seventh Session of the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction (Extended), 21 – 22 July 2015, Yaoundé, Cameroon.

Recalling the decision of the African Union Executive Council at its 24th session, January 2015 [EX.CL/Dec.858 (XXVI)], requesting the African Union Commission to facilitate the review of the Extended Programme of Action for the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction in line with the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction;

Recalling the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 at the 3rd United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, 14-18 March 2015, Sendai, Japan and its subsequent endorsement by the United Nations General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session [Resolution A/69/L.67];

Hereby:

1. *Endorse* the recommendations of the Seventh Session of the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction;
2. *Request* the African Union Commission to lead and coordinate the alignment of the Programme of Action for Implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, with support from the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR);
3. *Call* for African Union Member States and Regional Economic Communities to align their strategies, programmes and actions with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030;
4. *Call* for States to include and integrate disaster risk reduction in their economic development policies and programmes as the most important tool for resilience, sustainability and human and capital development;
5. *Stress* the need for the African Union to set up a follow up mechanism at the highest possible level with a direct and institutional commitment of political leadership;
6. *Recommend*, in the interim period, at minimum, the establishment of a sub-committee responsible for disaster risk reduction within the African Union Specialised Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment;
7. *Call* for a wide dissemination at regional, sub-regional, national and sub-national levels of the Sendai Framework, Africa Regional Strategy and Programme of Action on disaster risk reduction;
8. *Recognise* the support provided by the European Union as part of cooperation with the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States and call for all development partners to prioritize support for the implementation of the regional, sub-regional and national strategies for disaster risk reduction;
9. *Submit* the present Declaration to the African Union policy organs.