

7<sup>th</sup> June 2007

**AFRICA REGION PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HYOGO  
FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE FIRST  
SESSION OF THE GLOBAL PLATFORM**

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished delegates,

Africa has developed a Regional Strategy and Programme of Action with objectives aligned to the Hyogo Framework for action.

Regional Economic Commissions in Africa are also in the process of either reviewing their strategies and policies or developing them in line with the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Some countries are in the process of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into their development plans and many have established national platforms for coordination of disaster risk reduction activities.

To further enhance progress in disaster risk reduction in Africa, the Africa Regional Platform held its first consultation from 26 to 27 April 2007 in Nairobi, Kenya.

The recommendations from the consultative meeting were endorsed by an informal meeting of Ministers present at this Global Platform.

I hereby, on behalf of Africa, present those recommendations to this First Session of the Global Platform.

1. Strengthen capacities of Governments and national platforms to identify, assess and monitor disaster risks at national and sub-national levels for effective development planning including strengthening of people-centered early warning systems and preparedness;

2. Step-up advocacy efforts in order to secure increased commitment of all stakeholders, particularly political leaders, to further enhance DRR globally with special attention to Africa;
3. Support development and utilization of capacities within institutions at regional, sub-regional and national levels such as the African Union (AU), Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and National Platforms and specialized institutions for implementation of DRR and Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) programmes;
4. Support development and use of indigenous capacities to enhance preparedness for effective response by regional and sub-regional institutions, national Governments and local communities;
5. Strengthen capacities of Governments and local authorities, civil society, media and private sector institutions to promote partnerships for public awareness of the importance of DRR in development;
6. Increase awareness of and participation by Africa in the operations of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) for increased focus on Africa, including financial and technical support to National Platforms;
7. Accelerate support for addressing risks arising from hazards of particular significance for Africa, especially epidemics, droughts and floods and other hydro-meteorological hazards which are projected to increase as a result of global climate change and variability;
8. Encourage international partners to strengthen and utilize existing regional, sub-regional and national mechanisms (public and private) in channeling their support to Africa's own efforts to promote DRR for sustainable development;
9. Encourage integration of DRR in planning and implementation of humanitarian relief, recovery,

environmental and development programs, particularly by international partners;

10. Strengthen involvement of Africa in the implementation of the Global Early Warning System including promoting synergies amongst existing institutions for early warning, climate applications in development and risk monitoring;
11. Develop, where necessary, new networks and partnerships and strengthen existing ones for increased collaboration and sharing of information and experiences amongst African institutions and between Africa and other regions;
12. Promote and support decentralized and participatory approaches to DRR taking into account the strengths and knowledge base as well as the needs of the vulnerable communities at risk, particularly women, children and people with disabilities;
13. Encourage positive contributions and interventions of the private sector and civil society in DRR in Africa that augment and comply with international best practices.

It is our sincerely hope that these recommendations will be taken into consideration during the development of the Global integrated programme of action for the coming years.

On behalf of the African delegations, I express our gratitude to the UN/ISDR Secretariate for the excellent organization and facilitation of the first session of the Global platform.

Thank you.

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Minister,  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Kingdom of Lesotho.



(Chairman, Africa Ministers meeting on recommendations to the Global Platform)