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Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA P. O. Box 3243 Telephone (251) 11 551 7700  
Cables: OAU, ADDIS ABABA

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## THE SECOND MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR) IN AFRICA

*(Parallel to the First Ministerial Conference of Ministers Responsible for Meteorology in Africa being organized from 12 to 15 April 2010 by the World Meteorological Organization, the Government of Kenya, under the aegis of the African Union Commission)*

**Kenyatta International Conference Centre, Nairobi  
14-16 April 2010**

**DRAFT**  
*(version 17 February 2010)*

**BACKGROUND PAPER**



United Nations  
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

## **BACKGROUND PAPER**

### **1. BACKGROUND**

In 2005, the global community, at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) agreed on *The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters* to expand and strengthen actions at all levels to reduce disaster risks and build the resilience of nations and communities to disasters. Prior to the HFA, regional actions were initiated to strengthen national capacities for disaster risk reduction (DRR) in Africa.

Under the leadership of the African Union and the Secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) with the support of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and in partnership with UNDP, UNEP and African Development Bank (AfDB), an Africa Working Group for DRR, developed the African Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, produced Guidelines for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Assessment into Development and prepared in 2004 the Programme of Action 2005-2010 for the Implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for DRR.

The Africa Programme of Action 2005-2010 was discussed and adopted at the **First Africa Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction** in Addis Ababa in December 2005, attended by 42 countries, the AfDB, several UN and international agencies and bilateral donors. The Programme of Action was subsequently endorsed by a Decision of the Eight Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union in Khartoum, Sudan in January 2006 (EX.CL/Dec.250 (VIII)).

In line with both the HFA and the Africa Regional Strategy for DRR, the African Union, in collaboration with the UNISDR secretariat, launched the **Africa Regional Platform for DRR** as a forum of National Platforms and Focal Points. The first session of the Africa Regional Platform took place in Nairobi 2007. The **second session of the Africa Regional Platform for DRR** took place also in Nairobi in May 2009, with the following objectives:

- to guide the implementation of the Africa Strategy and Programme of Action, share experiences, lessons learned and tools, and monitor progress;
- to promote regional cooperation, strengthen further coordination mechanisms, understanding, commitment and approaches for DRR in Africa; and
- to prepare African participation at Global Platform meetings, and
- to define an extended Programme of Action for the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy until 2015 in line with the HFA.

The Regional Platform is an institutional mechanism to also ensure linkages between the Global Platform and the National Platforms. It provides a common forum for coordinated national participation in the Global Platform. The Africa Regional Platform submitted reports on its 2007 and 2009 consultation meetings with recommendations to the Global Platform held in Geneva in June 2007 and in June 2009.

Under the aegis of the African Union Commission, the second session of the Africa Regional Platform for DRR also discussed and agreed on an **extended Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for DRR for the period 2006-2015 to align with the HFA**. This Programme of Action meets the HFA strategic goals and priorities, establishes links with Climate Change Adaptation, and defines major areas of activities, expected results and measurable indicators to facilitate its implementation and to monitor progress. In addition, the sixth priority of the Programme of Action calls for overall coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the Strategy.

The recommendations from the Global Platform, as captured in the Chair's Summary in June 2009, places special priorities in the following areas for the coming years:

- to accelerate the application of risk reduction as a tool to adapt to climate change;
- to increase investments in risk reduction, using development, humanitarian and recovery opportunities;
- to secure safe schools and hospitals, and work with local authorities towards resilient cities.

Currently, the Africa Programme of Action for 2006-2015 needs to be reviewed further to link with the outcomes of the Fifteenth Conference of the Parties (COP15) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Copenhagen and with the progress of other related conventions such as the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and to strengthen a mechanism/unit of the African Union Commission (AUC) for coordination and monitoring of the Programme.

The **extended Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for DRR for the period 2006-2015** then needs to be discussed and adopted at a Ministerial level, in order for it to be endorsed by the African Union Summit before subsequent official promotion and application.

## 2. THE SECOND MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON DRR IN AFRICA, NAIROBI, KENYA, 14-16 APRIL 2010

The Second Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa is planned to be held in parallel to the First Conference of Ministers Responsible for Meteorology in Africa to be organized for April 2010 by the World Meteorological Organization and the Government of Kenya, under the aegis of the African Union Commission.

***The main Objectives of the Second Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa and its technical segment are:***

- i) *to discuss and adopt the extended Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for DRR, period 2006-2015. [with special emphasis on investment and tracking, education and safer schools, hospitals and resilient cities]*
- ii) *to define a regional mechanism and resources to coordinate, support and monitor the implementation of the Africa Strategy and Programme of Action for DRR, period 2006-2010, and*
- iii) *to link the outcomes of the COP 15 to the extended Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for DRR, period 2006-2015.*

The Second Ministerial Conference is therefore planned in two Segments under the following purposes:

***Purposes of the Technical Segment:*** To strengthen regional technical mechanism for coordinated policies, define regional programmes for DRR and guide the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for DRR in line with the HFA and the priorities set at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

***Expected deliverables:***

- Sustained regional mechanism with strengthened institutional, human and financial resources of the African Union Commission and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs).
- Revision and definition of the Africa Programme of Action for the period of 2006-2015, as the tool for the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for DRR and the HFA

***Purposes of the Ministerial Segment:*** To achieve greater recognition of and commitment to DRR and the Africa Regional Strategy and Programme of Action for DRR in line with the HFA.

***Expected deliverables:***

- Adoption of the extended Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for DRR, period 2006-2015.
- Nairobi Ministerial Declaration on DRR.

### **3. PROVISIONAL SUMMARY AGENDA OF THE SECOND MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON DRR IN AFRICA, NAIROBI, KENYA, 14-16 APRIL 2010**

The Conference structure is proposed as follows:

#### **Technical Segment:**

##### **Wednesday 14 April 2010:**

###### **Morning sessions**

- Opening Ceremony
- Key Note Speakers:
  - Concept and promotion of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Africa and linkages with Climate Change Adaptation
  - Towards safer cities, schools and hospitals.
  - Financing mechanisms for DRR, focus in Africa.

###### **Afternoon sessions**

- Review of development process, major components of the extended Programme of Action for the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for DRR (2006-2015).
- Additions and Recommendations for adoption of the extended Africa Programme of Action for DRR (2006-2015).
- Discussion and definition of a regional mechanism, modus-operandi and resources for coordination, supporting and monitoring the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy, and the Programme of Action (2006-2015).

##### **Thursday 15 April 2010:**

- Preparation of a report on outcomes of and recommendations from the Technical Segment.
- Drafting of the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration on DRR, and translations.
- Briefing to Ministers by respective Government Officials, National Platform or Focal Points.

###### *In Parallel:*

- Training of National Platform representatives to monitor the implementation of the Africa. Strategy and Programme of Action in line with the HFA.
- HFA Mid-Term review and reporting tools.

#### **Ministerial Segment (Friday 16 April):**

- Opening Ceremony
- Presentation and adoption of the extended Programme of Action for the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for DRR (2006-2015), based on the report and recommendations from the Technical Segment.
- Presentation and adoption of a regional mechanism, modus-operandi and resources for coordination, supporting and monitoring the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy and the Programme of Action for DRR (2006-2015).
- Ministerial Declaration and Closing Ceremony.