AFRICA AGREES ON A COMMON POSITION FOR DURBAN

Over 50 African Ministers of the Environment attending the Fourth Special Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) adopted a declaration endorsing an ‘African Common Position’ as the basis for negotiations by African States at the next round of UN Climate Change negotiations (COP17) to be held in Durban, South Africa starting 17 November. The development of the Africa Common Position is being guided by agreement that a legally binding pact on emissions reduction is required under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); that the Kyoto Protocol needs leadership; and that developed countries should provide this leadership by ensuring that there is no gap between the first (2008-2012) and second commitment periods (2012-2016) of the Kyoto Protocol.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION

Countries across Africa including Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda marked the International Disaster Reduction Day on the 13 October by putting children and youth at the centre of their observance of as the young are the group most affected by disasters on the continent.

SEYCHELLES

In Seychelles, the departments of Environment, Education, Youth, Social and National Council for Children signed the Children’s Charter. Ian Dine, an 11 year old school boy gave a speech highlighting the role played children and schools in disaster reduction.

KENYA

Several Children in Nairobi were quizzed on disaster reduction issues. during a public event by a renown Kenyan comedian, Eric Omondi. The event attracted about 20 agencies, government, civil society organizations and UN agencies to participate in an exhibition during the International Day. The day was marked by UNISDR, UNDP, Ministries of Special Programmes and Immigration, UNOCHA and IOM who conducted satellite events focused on the ongoing campaign ‘Ending drought emergencies’ in Kenya.

SOUTHAFRICA

South Africa’s Western Cape Provincial Government announced that it was increasing the budget allocation for safe schools from Rand 19 million to Rand 21 million and is taking steps to incorporate DRR into the school curriculum.
SOUTHERN AFRICA LAUNCHES DRR PLATFORM

Gaborone, 26 October 2011 – When unexpectedly heavy floods displaced more than a million people in southern Africa in 2007, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) began to meet annually to prepare for future occurrences, culminating in the creation of the SADC Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction this month.

Read more...

SARCOF-15: BRIDGING GAPS BETWEEN CLIMATOLOGISTS AND DRR EXPERTS

Windhoek (Namibia), 27 August 2011 – The Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Disaster Risk Reduction Unit in partnership with the World Bank’s Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) and UNISDR conducted a disaster risk reduction (DRR) stakeholders training workshop from 27-28 August 2011. The workshop was held alongside the Fifteenth Southern Africa Region Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF-15) from 29-30 August 2011.

Read more...

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY SEEKS COMMON STRATEGY TO ADDRESS DRR

Arusha, 12 July 2011 - The Africa Union Commission held a regional workshop for the East Africa region in collaboration with the EAC and the UNISDR Africa. The Workshop was held to accelerate action in the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy on disaster risk reduction and its Programme of Action.

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29TH GREATER HORN OF AFRICA CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM

Entebbe (Uganda), 2 September 2011- The Minister of State for Environment, Hon. Flavia Munaaba, launched a special joint session on disaster risk reduction during the Twenty-Ninth Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF29). The aim of the special session is to move towards a “paradigm” shift when addressing climate change and risks for sustainable development in the Region.

Read more...
CORE GROUP OF THE AFRICA WORKING GROUP ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

The first formal meeting of the Core Group of the African Working Group on DRR (AWGDRR) concluded with participants deliberating on the strategic areas of work to implement the Africa Programme of Action for DRR. An online tool to monitor progress of the Africa Programme of Action was also presented. The representatives from regional economic communities (RECs) informed on the ongoing DRR activities in their respective regions as well as gaps in the DRR implementation. The Group also looked into sustainable solutions for Drought Risk Reduction against the background of the Horn of Africa Drought Situation. The rationale for two categories of membership is to have a small core group that meets regularly to transact business while at the same time providing opportunities for participation of all relevant stakeholders for wider a consultation. The meeting was held jointly by the AUC, UNISDR with the support of the World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR).

NATIONAL PLATFORMS

National Platforms are nationally owned and led multi-stakeholder forums or committees working on disaster risk reduction. They reflect the commitment of its government to implement national and local disaster risk reduction activities while linking up to international efforts.

GABON PLATFORM LAUNCH DRR ACTIVITIES

Libreville, Gabon 25-27 July 2011 – A three-day workshop took place in Libreville from 25-27 July to officially launch the activities of Gabon’s National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. There was a clear vision from the participants of the workshop that humanitarian response could not solve the problem of disasters.

Related article...
This issue of Africa Informs covers disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities in Sub-Saharan Africa at regional, sub regional and national level. It is intended to provide an advocacy platform, targeting regional and sub-regional fora, in order to increase the understanding and knowledge of DRR.

**MAKING CITIES RESILIENT: “MY CITY IS GETTING READY”**

Cities and local governments need to get ready, reduce the risks and become resilient to disasters. For the next two years and beyond, the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) will campaign together with its partners for this to happen. The 2010-2015 World Disaster Reduction Campaign “Making Cities Resilient” addresses issues of local governance and urban risk while drawing upon previous ISDR Campaigns on safer schools and hospitals, as well as on the sustainable urbanization principles developed in the UN-Habitat World Urban Campaign 2009-2013.

[www.unisdr.org/campaign](http://www.unisdr.org/campaign)

**CAPE TOWN: WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A ROLE MODEL CITY**

*Cape Town (South Africa) 12 October—*During its observation of the 2011 International Day for Disaster Reduction, Cape Town launched its Disaster Risk Management Centre (DRMC). On 11 May this year Cape Town joined 17 other cities around the world who have been awarded ‘Role Model City’ status by UNISDR, the UN office for disaster risk reduction. [Read more...](Read more...)

**WEST AFRICA MAYORS LOOK TO DURBAN FOR CLIMATE CHANGE BREAKTHROUGH**

*Lagos (Nigeria) 23 September -* In a further sign that Africa is mobilizing for its voice to be heard at the COP17 negotiations in Durban, the Mayors of major cities and chairmen of local governments across West Africa met this week in Lagos, Nigeria, to endorse and sign the African Mayors Climate Change Declaration. [Read more...](Read more...)

**THREE EAST AFRICAN CITIES JOIN**

The East African cities, Arusha, Moshi (Tanzania) and Bujumbura (Burundi), became signatories of the campaign in the wake of severe drought warnings and threats of famine across large parts of east Africa. The signing up session was held in 13 June during a meeting of experts and policy makers who were engaged with finding a common strategy within the overall framework of the Africa Regional Strategy to tackle disaster prevention through strengthening of national and regional risk reduction platforms in the East African region. [Read more](Read more)

**STATUS REPORT ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN AFRICA**

The exercise of the development of the Status Report on Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa in which the assessments on individual countries will be published has kicked off. The Status Report is an initiative to contribute to the Implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy and Programme of Action for DRR in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action. Two such reports already exist for 2007 and 2009. The status report makes use of the information presented in the National HFA assessment reporting tool as well as additional information from other credible sources. As part of this process, an appeal for the validation of the information presented in the country profile reports was placed in July 2011 with a 3 weeks deadline for the same.

We are reminding the countries that have yet to send in their validated copies to kindly to elizabeth.mukora@unep.org and pedro.basabe@unep.org.

**20 COUNTRIES HAVE SUBMITTED**

Algeria, Cameroon, The Congo Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Guinea Conakry, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania Republic, Togo and Zimbabwe.
Drought is a slow-onset hazard, which provides time to consider and address its complex root causes, such as understanding people’s vulnerabilities and identifying unsafe conditions related to poverty, fragile local economy, livelihoods at risk, lack of strategies and plans, limited institutional capacities and resources. Understanding these issues allows government authorities and the public to undertake effective drought mitigation and preparedness measures. Drought Risk Reduction Framework and Practices.