

Africa Regional Platform
13-15 February 2013
Arusha, Tanzania

Recommendations on DRR by African Youth Representatives

African youth are vulnerable to disasters as they face poverty, lack of information & training and dependency. They are marginalized and lack social cooperation. There is lack of motivation by youth to get involved in disaster risk reduction as youth feel disempowered. There is a general lack of economic empowerment, lack of capacity at local level and weak government structures which do not consider gender and age sensitive policies and programmes.

Youth brings added value to disaster risk reduction, which is not really recognized. I would like to point out that in this important meeting youth have been bought in at the last minute to make a statement of 5 minutes. Youth could have been involved throughout the conference and have been part of the expert panels as well.

- Youth can help in identification of vulnerabilities and capacities at community level

- Youth can promote sensitization and education, both modern and traditional
- Youth can help communities to use new technologies for DRR
- Youth have huge capacities to volunteer for DRR and CCA
- Youth have dynamic ways of thinking and are creative and innovative

We therefore advocate for all stakeholders in the room, to recognize the capacities of the African Youth and consider our ideas and visions, and to support us to play our role in reducing disaster risk and building resilience.

Priorities from a Youth point of view for post 2015 disaster risk reduction agenda

- Access to relevant information & knowledge
- Access to economic empowerment
- Meaningful engagement platforms for Youth at all levels
- Need for age and gender disaggregated disaster data
- Empower Youth engagement for environmental protection and climate change adaptation