

AFRICA POSITION FOR THE 4TH GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Geneva May 19-23, 2013

Excellency's

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen

2013 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Organisation of African Unity and the 10th year since birth of the African Union. The theme to celebrate this occasion is Pan-Africanism and the African Renaissance. We take this celebratory moment to deepen our resolve to advance the disaster risk reduction agenda in the continent.

The Africa position statement is a result of an intensive and participatory consultation process, including the 4th Africa Regional Platform organized in February this year together with the 5th Africa Drought Adaptation Forum, meetings of the Africa Working Group on DRR and a series of HFA-2 consultations.

MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE FOURTH GLOBAL PLATFORM

Recognizing the need for higher integration of DRR into MDG and poverty reduction for enhanced resilience, we:

- Emphasize the need to address emerging challenges like growing **urbanization** in a changing climate, and increased socio-economic vulnerability of communities, by ensuring easily accessible and user-friendly climate information.
- Take note of ratification of the **Kampala Convention** for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa that acknowledges the responsibilities of governments to protect people displaced by natural disasters and climate change and take measures to mitigate such displacement.
- Note the ongoing efforts to strengthen the **monitoring, evaluation and reporting** system for the Africa Regional Strategy and importance of verifiable reporting of disaster losses.

- Call for increased funding for local governments as well as commended **IGAD**, one of the Regional Economic Communities, for establishing a **Disaster Response Fund** and developing **Hazard Maps** for the sub-region.
- Recognise the need to address risks as relevant to specific sectors, particularly in context of the **Small Island Developing States**.
- Emphasize the need to mobilize growing capacities of academic and research institutions in Africa for building resilience.
- Call upon the **private sector** to build on the sustainable development agenda and strongly reorient itself to evolving green economies.

Africa has developed an **Africa Status Report** for DRR, which is a detailed analysis of the state of disaster risk reduction in the region, based on national and sub-regional reports, summarizing achievements as well as emerging trends and challenges. Further, as part of the process for proactive risk reduction, the African Union Commission has established a specialized agency, the **African Risk Capacity**, to address DRR through risk insurance.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON A POST-2015 FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (HFA2)

Ladies and Gentlemen

Re-affirming that the HFA has proved its value as a nodal framework for DRR in Africa, alongside the Africa Regional Strategy and Programme of Action; the Platform and consultation have agreed on the following main recommendations for HFA2:

- The HFA should be reinforced post-2015 with continued improvements related to mechanisms for **coordination** and dialogue, definition of **indicators** and ways to monitor and report.
- There is need for increased **accountability and transparency** in implementing disaster risk reduction, including through strengthening **anti-corruption institutions** for building effective and resilient economies.
- There is a need to focus on national and international **information systems** on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, including strong early warning systems and national disaster loss databases.

- Some government line ministries are not aware of the Hyogo Framework for Action, therefore strong **dissemination** and guidance through media or other means is important on the current and future benefits of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.
- All **actors and stakeholders**, including parliamentarians, academic and research institutions, private sector and communities, including women, children and youth, need to be strongly involved in disaster risk reduction planning, to establish trust and confidence with disaster risk reduction practitioners.
- A congenial DRR planning system that takes into account issues concerning **migration and land regulations**.
- There is need to address the **conflict dimension**, as there is strong evidence that natural disasters can increase the risk of conflict and that conditions of conflict can increase the vulnerability to natural disasters, hence undermining resilience.
- There is a need to develop strong regional and national cooperation of stakeholders among development and humanitarian actors, to achieve long-term resilience, hence enabling an environment in which **early warning leads to early action**.

Ladies and Gentlemen

I would conclude by asserting that a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction needs to ensure that disaster risk reduction is fully recognized as a development issue; including the possibility for development funding to support disaster risk reduction activities.

I Thank You.