



FIFTH AFRICA REGIONAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

• 13 – 16 MAY 2014 • ABUJA, NIGERIA •

DECLARATION

THIRD AFRICAN MINISTERIAL MEETING FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

PREAMBLE

The Third African Ministerial Meeting for Disaster Risk Reduction was held within the framework of the Fifth Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction from 13 to 16 May 2014, Abuja, Nigeria. The Ministerial meeting was held at a time when the world was expressing its deep solidarity with the families of the abducted schoolgirls and the people of Nigeria and calling for the abducted schoolgirls to be brought back to their families. This meeting joined the global call for solidarity and compassion with the people of Nigeria.

The meeting was hosted and chaired by the Federal Republic of Nigeria and convened by the African Union Commission with support from the Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). The host organisations recognise the kind support provided by partner organisations¹.

Over 900 participants from African governments, Regional Economic Communities, development partners including donors, United Nations, Non-Governmental Organisations, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, academic, scientific and technological institutions, and other international organisations, came together with mayors and local governments, parliamentarians, community practitioners, persons with disabilities, youth, women's groups, private sector, and media actively deliberated on Africa's contribution to the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

¹ African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET) and World Meteorological Organisation (WMO); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA); the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery through the ACP-EU Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Program; World Bank; United States Agency for International Development (USAID); United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS); United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

DECLARATION

We the African Ministers and Heads of Delegations, present at the Ministerial Meeting 16 May 2014:

- I.** *Take note* of the consultations on Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction conducted at national, sub-regional and continental level, outcomes of the 4th Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (13-15 February 2013, Arusha, Tanzania), Africa Position presented by the African Union at the 4th Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (19 – 23 May 2013, Geneva, Switzerland), Consultative Meeting on the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (25 – 26 November 2013, Nairobi, Kenya) and consequent summary statement.
- II.** *Further take note* of the Summary Statement of the Africa Working Group (Extended) meeting (11-12 March 2014, Abuja, Nigeria) that includes recommendations for Africa's Contribution to the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction – as the basis for discussion at the 5th Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, 13-16 May 2014, Abuja, Nigeria.
- III.** *Recall* global and regional frameworks on disaster risk reduction, particularly the *Africa Regional Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction (2004)* and *Hyogo Declaration* and the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters* and acknowledge the achievements and gaps therein.
- IV.** *Further recall* the Declaration of the 2nd African Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 14 to 16 April 2010 that adopted the Extended Programme of Action (2006 – 2015) and stress the need for continuation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Hyogo Framework for Action as valid frameworks for disaster risk reduction with the need to reinforce their implementation.
- V.** *Take cognizance of* the report of the 5th Special Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) held in Gaborone, Botswana, from 15 – 18 October 2013 that refers to disaster risk reduction in context of sustainable development.
- VI.** *Acknowledge* the continued efforts of African countries, especially the contribution of Regional Economic Communities, local governments, community practitioners and civil society, on disaster risk reduction and its integration with climate change adaptation for sustainable development and enhanced resilience.

- VII.** *Further acknowledge* ongoing efforts at regional and national levels to enhance resilience of nations and communities against disasters, including the Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative in the IGAD region and Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative (AGIR) in the Sahel and west Africa region and applaud the collaboration between IGAD and Comité permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel (CILSS) as an exemplary South-South Cooperation.
- VIII.** *Appreciate* the role of regional platforms on disaster risk reduction as an effective coordination forum that brings governments, inter-governmental organisations and stakeholders together and call for its continuity on a regular basis.
- IX.** *Express* deep concern at the magnitude and intensity of disasters, aggravated by terrorism and armed conflicts, and their increasing impact in recent years in Africa, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic, environmental and humanitarian consequences for vulnerable societies which hamper the achievement of sustainable development.
- X.** *Advocate* for the inclusion of additional elements to take into account emerging risks and their prevention through anticipatory risk management for risk-sensitive development.
- XI.** *Recognise* disaster risk reduction as an effective means to achieve resilience through prevention, mitigation and preparedness to enable nations and communities absorb loss and damage, minimise impacts and bounce forward.

Hereby:

- 1.** *Adopt* the Summary Statement on Africa's Contribution to the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Stakeholder Voluntary Commitments.
- 2.** *Express commitment* of our governments to the African position on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.
- 3.** *Urge* the African Union Commission to submit this Declaration to the African Union Summit for endorsement.
- 4.** *Further express commitment* to promoting a coordinated and mutually reinforcing approach to the three international agreements in 2015 – the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, the sustainable development goals and the climate change agreements.

5. **Further urge** the African Union Commission and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, as the Secretariat of the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (14 – 18 March 2015, Sendai, Japan), to ensure incorporation of Africa's contribution into the global Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, following the formal process adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, through Resolution A/RES/68/211 on 20 December 2013.
6. **Call upon** national and local governments and community practitioners, parliamentarians and regional economic communities, under the auspices of the African Union Commission, to ensure implementation of the recommendations of the Declaration and constituent elements.
7. **Further call upon** UNISDR to continue providing its institutional support for regional coordination and monitoring of disaster risk reduction implementation under the leadership of the African Union Commission and in cooperation with Regional Economic Communities.
8. **Encourage** development partners including donors, United Nations, Non-Governmental Organisations, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, academic, scientific and technological institutions, and other international organisations, community practitioners, persons with disabilities, youth, women's groups, private sector, and media to enhance and strengthen their active and joint collaboration with governments, parliamentarians and Regional Economic Communities for implementation of the recommendations.

Done on this 16th day of May 2014 at Abuja, Nigeria