



UNISDR

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

6TH AFRICA WORKING GROUP MEETING ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION [CORE]

• ARUSHA (UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA) • 1 – 2 OCTOBER 2014 •

Concept Note

Background

Governments around the world committed to reduction of disaster losses through *Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters*. African leaders had already demonstrated their commitment to disaster risk reduction through the adoption of the African Regional Strategy of Disaster Risk Reduction (2004) and associated Extended Programme of Action 2006-2015.

As the Hyogo Framework for Action nears its conclusion in 2015, global processes have been gaining momentum in shaping a Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Africa became the first region to officially adopt its contribution to the Post-2015 DRR Framework at the 5th Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, 13 – 16 May 2014, Abuja, Nigeria (<http://goo.gl/5GvbSV>). Other regions have developed similar contributions which, together with statements by member states and contributions by major groups, at the 1st Preparatory Committee meeting, 14-15 July, 2014, Geneva, Switzerland (<http://goo.gl/HhcQ0R>), will be consolidated in a report by the Bureau to the PrepCom¹. The report of the PrepComI is scheduled to be online by September (tbc) presented by the Co-Chairs Finland and Thailand. The 2nd Preparatory Committee meeting will take place 17 – 18 November 2014,

Geneva, Switzerland. The final Post-2015 DRR Framework will be adopted at the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, 14-18 March 2015, Sendai, Japan (<http://wcdrr.org/conference>).

The Africa Working Group

The need for an Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction was first proposed by the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on DRR at its 8th meeting held in Geneva, November 2003. The First African Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (Addis Ababa, December 2005) called for the establishment of the Working Group, while the Second African Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (Nairobi, April 2010) called on the African Union Commission to ‘reconstitute the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction to provide coordination and technical support to Member States for the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and its Programme of Action’.

The Africa Working Group provides coordination and technical support to AUC, RECs, Member States and partners for the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and its Programme of Action, in line with HFA. The Africa Working Group meets biannually wherein the Core Group and Extended Group meet alternatively².

¹ The UN General Assembly, through Resolution A/RES/68/211 established a Bureau consisting of two members of each regional group (Africa: Egypt and South Sudan; Asia-Pacific: Bangladesh and Thailand; Eastern Europe: Czech Republic and Russian Federation; Latin America and Caribbean: Ecuador and Jamaica; Western Europe and Other Groups: Finland and Switzerland) with Japan serving as an ex officio member.

² The Core Group membership is constituted by AUC/NPCA (Chair), Regional Economic Communities (Vice-Chair) and one Member State per region, UNISDR (Secretariat), AfDB, World Bank, Regional Specialised Institution, Civil Society and Academic and Research Institutes. The Extended Group includes, additional to the Core Group, relevant UN agencies, sub-regional inter-agency working groups, UN Regional Coordination mechanism, all Regional Specialised Institutions, Civil Society/IFRC, Pan-

Objectives & Outputs of 6th AWG

The 6th AWG will continue strengthening coordination and collaboration among AUC, RECs, Member States and Partners. The meeting will provide members with the opportunity to comment on the outcomes of the 1st PrepCom and plan for effective African participation in the 2nd PrepCom (17 – 18 November 2014, Geneva, Switzerland) and the WCDRR. The discussion will also focus on the Extended Programme of Action for the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (2006-2015) (<http://goo.gl/LFeTg3>) and its successor arrangements.

Some of the components of the Post-2015 DRR Framework, particularly the monitoring system, have already been discussed extensively at PrepCom I and will form part of the discussion at the AWG meeting (See <http://goo.gl/9Tosd8>).

Further, the new proposed structure of regional coordination, viz. the Specialised Technical Committees steered by the African Union (See Decision 227, 12th Ordinary Session of Assembly of the African Union, <http://goo.gl/tzPSqZ>), will be a point of discussion in terms of locating regional DRR coordination in the new structure.

Finally, the European Commission-African, Caribbean and Pacific (EC-ACP) funded ‘Building Disaster Resilience to Natural Hazards in Sub-Saharan Africa Regions, Countries and Communities’ regional programme is expected to be operational soon and the AWG will provide an opportunity to discuss its implementation.

Key expected outputs from the meeting are:

- Africa’s contribution to the Post-2015 DRR Framework and participation in the PrepCom2 and WCDRR.
- Guidelines for monitoring and periodic reviewing of DRR, including Extended Programme of Action and successor arrangements.

- Clarity on the new STC structure of African Union in relation to DRR
- Revised TORs for AWG
- Coordination among implementation partners to implement the EU-ACP programme.

Administrative Information

The meeting will be hosted by the East African Community Secretariat (www.eac.int), Arusha, Tanzania on 1 – 2 October 2014. The invitation letters are being issued by African Union Commission (Chair) and UNISDR (Secretariat). For any information, please contact: Animesh.Kumar@unisdr.unon.org and WanambwaL@afrika-union.org. A detailed administrative note will be shared with confirmed participants.

The East African Community

The East African Community (EAC) is a regional intergovernmental organisation with its headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania. Established through a treaty signed in 1999, the EAC is among the smallest regional economic communities of the African Union, with membership from Republics of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania, and the Republic of Uganda.

Since the adoption of the Africa Regional Strategy and the Hyogo Framework for Action, the EAC has made considerable progress in the field of disaster risk reduction. These include adoption of a Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Strategy, 2012-2016. Public hearing of the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Bill has also been completed in all five member states. Once approved by the East African Legislative Assembly, EAC will become the first IGO to have a DRR/M Law in place.

Further the EAC DRR Working Group has been constituted and TOR for a sub-regional DRR platform has been adopted. A climate change strategy, policy and master plan working hand in hand with DRR/M Strategy have also been approved.