



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

REPORT OF THE FIRST EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY SUB- REGIONAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

NAIROBI, KENYA

5TH - 7TH NOVEMBER, 2015

**EAC SECRETARIAT
ARUSHA, TANZANIA
NOVEMBER, 2015**

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THE FIRST EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY SUB-REGIONAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the EAC Calendar of activities for the period July-December 2015, the 1st Meeting of the East African Community Sub-regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction was held from 5th to 7th November in the UN Complex, Nairobi.

The objective of the meeting was to agree on set of actions and commitments to ensure effective implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR in EAC region, and develop a road map for implementation of the EAC DRR&M strategy in line with the Sendai Framework (2015-2030).

The Meeting was attended by Partner States DRR institutions, Non-Governmental actors, Specialized DRRM Institutions, Civil Society and Private sectors responsible with Disasters and Risks Management. EAC Organs and Institutions were also in attendance. The list of participants are indicated in **Annex I**.

1.1 Constitution of the Bureau

Brig. Gen. Mbazi A. Msuya, Director, Disaster Management Department, Prime Minister's Office of the United Republic of Tanzania was chair while Ms. Rose Bwenvu, Assistant Commissioner, Disaster Management Department, Office of Prime Minister, Republic of Uganda was rapporteur.

1.2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with amendments and is hereto attached as **Annex II**.

1.3. Opening Remarks

Remarks by the Chair

The Chairman welcomed the delegates and thanked them for finding some time out of their busy schedule to attend this important meeting which marks the inauguration of the EAC Sub-regional DRR Platform. He informed the meeting about the wide range of disasters faced in the EAC that require us to work together as a region to mitigate their impact. He highlighted on the objectives the meeting is expected to deliver and urged the delegates to be keen in their endeavour to achieve the meeting goals. In conclusion he thanked the EAC Secretariat and UNISDR for organizing and facilitating this important meeting and wished the delegates fruitful deliberations.



Remarks by the Host Country

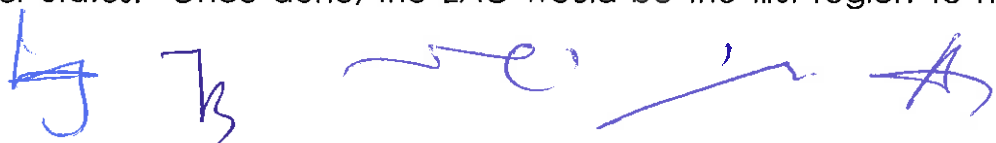
Col (Rtd) Nathan M. Kigotho, Director, National Disaster Operations Centre, Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government on behalf of the host Country welcomed all participants to Kenya, and expressed that he was delighted that Kenya was chosen to host the meeting and thanked all who had taken part in organizing this meeting. He pointed out the fact that this meeting has happened in Kenya, when the country is preparing for a major disaster, i.e. El-Nino, just like other Partner States in the region. He wished the delegates a nice meeting and fruitful deliberations.

Remarks from EAC Secretariat

Ms. Wivine Ntamubano, Principal Environment and Natural Resource Officer on behalf of Hon. Jesca Eriyo, Deputy Secretary General, Productive and Social Sector, noted the importance of the EAC Sub-regional DRR Platform meeting in the implementation of the EAC DRR&M Strategy in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. She was glad that this platform is taking place since its establishment in 2012 and appreciated support given by UNISDR to the EAC Secretariat in DRR. She informed delegates that before UNISDR support, DRR was on paper but since its partnership with UNISDR a lot has been done. She also noted that EAC Region is prone to disasters that compromise development in the region, with drought and floods being the most frequent. She noted the various initiatives and efforts of EAC Secretariat and Partner States to address challenges posed by disaster DRR, but pointed out the lack of capacity by Partner States to adequately address disaster risk management and complex emergencies. She thanked UNISDR for supporting this first EAC Sub-regional DRR Platform and request other Partners present in the meeting not to tire in their quest to support the EAC Secretariat and Partner States in address challenges posed by disaster in the region so as to advance the sustainable development agenda. She wished the meeting fruitful deliberations and insisted the meeting to come up with mechanism that will strengthen the regional capacity in the implementation of DRRM agenda.

Remarks by UNISDR

The Head UNISDR Africa Regional Office, Ms. Sharon Rusu, welcomed members to UN Complex in Gigiri. She noted that this meeting of inauguration of the EAC Platform, that is taking place after the Sendai Framework in March 2015 and the Yaoundé Declaration in September, 2015. The Sendai Framework (2015-2030) has 7 targets and 4 priorities to guide DRR actions and UNISDR is monitoring its implementation. She informed delegates that the Sendai Framework for DRR recognizes the importance of International Cooperation, means of implementation of the agreed upon priorities and how to do this clearly at regional, sub-regional, national and local level. It guides on roles of all players, i.e. Governments & partners like the private sector and the youth. She was hopeful that the Draft EAC Legislation will be adopted by the EAC Member States. Once done, the EAC would be the first region to have the



DRRM Bill. She urged Partner States to domesticate the Sendai priorities, beginning with the easy ones to implement, while the Sub-regional platform will be instrumental in coordination of the same. She assured the delegates that UNISDR will continue to support EAC DRRM agenda and wished delegates fruitful deliberation.

2.0 THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (2015 – 2030)

The UNISDR Programme Officer, made a presentation to provide the delegates an overview of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and its implementation in Africa. The presentation highlighted on the global trends and impacts of disasters, global actions on DRR, the key achievement of 10 years of implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and challenges.

He informed delegates that Africa has shown leadership in promoting and championing DRR and was highly represented at the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction which adopted the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk reduction. Its leadership and interest in DRR has made it the only continent with specific mention in the framework.

From the presentation it was observed that:

- i) There is a considerable paradigm shift from reactive crisis management to proactive risk management as a result of 10 years of implementation of HFA;
- ii) Increased DRR awareness, including the integration of DRR into education and health sectors;
- iii) Increase in establishment of national legal, policy and institutional framework for better coordination of DRR;
- iv) The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction puts the focus on prevention of new risks in the course of development – '*Risk-informed development*';
- v) The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction calls for coherence in policies and programmes across sustainable development, environment and climate change to ensure the reduction of disaster risk; and
- vi) Disaster Risk Reduction is a primary responsibility of States and a shared responsibility with stakeholders.

3.0 STATUS OF DRR ACTIVITIES IN EAC PARTNER STATES, INSTITUTIONS AND STAKEHOLDERS

Heads of delegations from EAC Partner States and Institutions highlighted on the country disaster profiles, key achievement in the implementation of DRR agenda, challenges faced and future priority areas while representatives from



Civil Society/NGOs gave brief statement on their DRR programmes in the region. The country presentations are hereto attached as **Annex III**.

4.0 STATUS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EAC DRRM FRAMEWORK

The EAC Climate Change Coordinator gave a presentation on status of the implementation of EAC DRRM framework. The presentation highlighted on the existing legal instruments, policies and strategies under the EAC Secretariat. i.e. EAC Treaty (1999), the EAC Protocol on Environment & Natural Resources management.

He informed delegates EAC regional key achievements in implementation of DRRM framework including; establishment of the DRR working group and EAC Sub-regional DRR Platform, Signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UNISDR to provide technical assistance to the EAC Secretariat, formulation of the EAC DRR & M Bill in accordance with article 59 of the EAC Treaty, undertake capacity building and training to national and regional experts, development of the EAC Strategic/implementation Action Plan (2015-2019), and Proposal development for DRRM resource mobilization. Challenges faced by EAC Secretariat in implementation were given as inadequate funding to facilitate implementation of concrete DRR activities, and inadequate policy and legal framework and institutional structures.

5.0 STRUCTURE OF THE SUB-REGIONAL DRR PLATFORM

This being the inaugural meeting to operationalize the EAC Sub-regional DRR platform since its establishment in 2012, the UNISDR Programme Analyst made a presentation on what ought to be key issues for consideration for the successful EAC Sub-regional DRR platform. He informed the delegates on how the institutional set-up, participation, mandate and responsibility of this sub-regional DRR platform should be defined.

Participants observed the need to:

- a) Clearly re-define the institutional set-up, participation, mandate and responsibilities of the EAC Sub-regional platform;
- b) Establish priorities of the platform and access to other existing networks and linkages;
- c) Set criteria to guide the operations of the platform; and
- d) Mobilize resources for implementation of the platform activities.

6.0 IDENTIFICATION OF EAC REGIONAL DRR PRIORITY ACTIONS

The delegates were informed that the EAC Secretariat has developed a three year DRRM Action Plan (2016 – 2018), aiming at guiding and strengthening the capacity of the EAC Secretariat in implementation of the DRRM activities. The Action Plan have been developed around four priority actions based on the four priorities of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015 – 2030)



and recommendations of the 7th African Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction, held on 21st – 23rd July, 2015 in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

The delegates undertook an exercise to identify more priority actions to enrich the developed Action Plan, and provide guidance on implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction at the regional level. The identified and agreed priority actions for implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in the EAC region are as shown below:

Priority 1: Understanding disaster risk

Action 1: Conducting comprehensive surveys on multi- hazard disaster risks and development of Regional disaster risk assessment and maps including climate change scenarios.

Action 2: Enhance the development and dissemination of science based methodologies and tools to record and share disaster losses and relevant disaggregated data and statistics as well as to strengthen disaster risk modeling, assessment, mapping, monitoring and multi- hazard early warning systems.

Action 3: Building the knowledge of Government Officials at all levels; civil societies, communities, volunteers, as well as the private sector, through sharing experiences, lessons learned, good practices and training and education on DRR including the use existing training and education mechanisms and peer learning.

Priority 2: Strengthening DRR Governance to manage disaster risk

Action 1: Enhance policy and legal framework for DRR and Management.

Action 2: Mainstreaming DRR in Development Strategic Plans.

Priority 3: Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience

Action 1: Mobilize and allocate resources at national and regional level for the development and implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies, policies, plans, laws and regulations in all sectors.

Action 2: Set-up mechanism to support the protection of cultural and collecting institutions and other sites of historical, cultural heritage and religious interest.

Action 3: Promote the mainstreaming of disaster risk assessment, mapping and management into rural development planning and management of inter alia, mountains, rivers, coastal flood plain areas, drylands, wetlands and other different prone areas.



Action 4: Set-up mechanism for coordination between regional financial institutions with a view to assessing and anticipating the potential economic and social impacts of disasters.

Priority 4: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction

Action 1: Develop and strengthen as appropriate, coordinated regional approaches and operational mechanisms to prepare for and ensure rapid and effective disaster response in situations that exceed national coping capacities.

Action 2: Promote the further development and dissemination of instruments, such as standards, codes, operational guides and other guidance instruments, to support coordinated action in disaster preparedness and response and facilitate information sharing on lessons learned and best practices for policy practice and post-disaster reconstruction programmes.

Action 3: Promote the further development and investment in effective, nationally compatible, regional multi-hazard early warning mechanisms, where relevant, in line with the Global Framework for Climate Services, and facilitate the sharing and exchange of information across all countries.

Action 4: Enhance international mechanisms, such as the International Recovery Platform, for the sharing of experience and learning among countries and all relevant stakeholders.

Action 5: To support regional cooperation to deal with disaster preparedness, including through common exercises and drills;

Action 6: Promote regional protocols to facilitate the sharing of response capacities and resources during and after disasters.

Action 7: Undertake training and capacity building to the existing workforce and volunteers in disaster response.

The detailed outcome of the group works are hereto attached as **Annex IV**.

7.0 THE OUTCOME OF THE NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE ROUNDTABLE

The EAC Climate Change Adaptation Specialist updated delegates on the outcome of the National Climate Change roundtables concluded in the EAC Partner States. The presentation highlighted the genesis of the Convention, its ultimate objective and commitments.

Delegates were informed that the national climate change multi-sectoral consultative meeting were held in Partner States to identify national climate change priorities with a view of developing national and regional position to



guide negotiation at the forthcoming 21st UNFCCC's COP 21/ CMP11. From this national climate change roundtable it has been observed that:

- All Partner States developed the INDCs in participatory manner and submitted to UNFCCC Secretariat as agreed during COP20/CMP10;
- There is a need for the new agreement to abide to the principles of the Convention;
- There is a need to focus on the implementation of policies, practices and technologies that are substantial, can be scaled up and replicated;
- There is a need for establishment of functional monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for climate change to facilitate knowledge management and information sharing;
- There are still gaps in terms of the implementation of existing commitments of the developed country Parties under the climate change Convention on mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology and capacity building;
- The 2015 Agreement should treat equally mitigation and adaptation;
- The new Agreement should universal, legally binding and continue to be guided by the vision, objectives and principles of the 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change;
- Developed Countries should allocate more resources to support developing countries in the implementation of the INDCs; and
- Developed countries should honour their obligations and commitment under the Convention of supporting developing countries in meeting the costs of climate change.

8.0 STATUS OF THE EAC DRR&M BILL, 2013 AND THE PROPOSAL ON AN APPROPRIATE DRR&M INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT

Delegates were informed on the status of the EAC DRRM Bill. The draft EAC DRRM Bill calls for the establishment of EAC DRRM Mechanism to coordinate and provide regional leadership on matters pertaining to DRRM in the region. Part III of the draft EAC DRRM Bill proposes the following institution arrangement for DRRM to be established; the EAC DRRM Authority, the EAC DRRM Board, the EAC DRRM Unit and the EAC DRRM Fund. It was reported that the 4th Meeting of the Second Session of the East African Legislative Assembly in Kampala (19th-31st January 2014), noted the need for technical review and analysis of part three of the Bill vis a vis relevant provisions of the Treaty and the EAC Protocol on Peace and Security which was signed on 16th February 2013. Based on that background the EAC Secretariat has taken initiatives to review the section and proposed a new DRRM mechanism which constitutes the DRRM Unit and other existing Technical groups (EAC DRRM Platform and DRRM Working Group) for consideration.

Delegates were informed in order to ensure that the EAC DRRM mechanism plays its role of coordinating DRRM activities in a timely, cost effective and efficient manner, EAC Secretariat have proposed the DRRM mechanism to



operate under the following institutional arrangement; Multispectral Council, Disaster Risk Reduction Coordination Committee, and DRR Unit which will be working and coordinating the DRR Working Group, DRR Platform and DRR Committee.

Delegates deliberated on the proposed and made some observations as follow:

- i) The DRR Working Group, DRR Sub-regional Platform and DRR Technical Committee should support the DRR Unit in implementation of its mandate.
- ii) There is a need to develop the Terms of Reference for the proposed Institutional arrangement
- iii) Need to spearhead the ratification of the Peace and Security Protocol as it will be one of the key tools for implementation of DRR framework proposed
- iv) Need to ensure there is a horizontal linkage of the proposed institutional arrangement with other existing institution.
- v) Need to accelerate the re-draft the proposed Institutions arrangement taking into consideration of the observation given by delegates.
- vi) Bill has given more focus on natural disasters, there need for expanded the Bill to include other types of disasters in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

9.0 ROAD MAP AND WAY FORWARD ON THE DRAFT EAC DRRM BILL

The deliberated and agreed on the road map and way forward for finalization of the DRRM Bill, 2015 as follow:

- i) Consideration of the proposed institutional arrangement with clear Term of Reference for each institution while re-draft the bill.
- ii) Consideration of the revised EAC DRRM Bill by the Sectoral Council on Environment and Natural Resources.
- iii) Consideration of the revised EAC DRRM Bill by the Sectoral Council on Legal and Judicial Affairs.
- iv) Consideration and submission of the Bill to the East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA).
- v) Submission of the Bill to Partner States for signature.

A detailed proposed on the roadmap for finalization of DRRM Bill is attached as **Annex V**.

10.0 KEY ISSUES OF THE MEETING

The EAC Sub-regional DRR Platform made observations of the following key issues:

- i. EAC Partner States have made steady progress in embracing DRRM agenda and putting in place mechanisms for Disaster Risk

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Management and response, the region as whole lacks the capacity to adequately respond to complex emergencies.

- ii. There is need to set clear indicators to measure progress in the implementation of the priority actions and agreed key activities.
- iii. Need for establishing the time line for implementation of regional DRRM priority actions and reporting on the progress.
- iv. Need to map and establish platform for championing on disaster risk awareness in the region.
- v. Need to prioritize key regional actions that will facilitate the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk reduction.
- vi. The need to adequately integrate DRRM and climate change initiatives at national and regional level.
- vii. Need for accelerating the process for establishment of a formalized EAC DRRM Institutional framework for implementation of DRRM in the region.
- viii. Need for EAC Secretariat to spearhead the process of finalization of EAC DRRM Bill according to the proposed roadmap.
- ix. Need for developing the EAC Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Policy

11.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the of the implementation of the DRRM framework in the EAC region in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in the EAC regional the Sub-region DRR Platform made the following recommendations:

- i) ***EAC Secretariat to mobilise resources for implementation of the DRRM Strategy in line with Sendai Framework including supporting the meetings of the EAC Sub-regional Platform;***
- ii) ***EAC Secretariat to fast track the establishment of a clear mechanism that will allow Partner States to work together on cross-border DRRM issues and facilitate information dissemination and sharing in the region;***
- iii) ***EAC Secretariat should fast track the development of a regional multi-hazard early warning mechanism in line with Global Framework for Climate Services;***
- iv) ***EAC Secretariat should develop an operational guideline for the EAC Sub-regional DRR Platform elaborating on the functions, composition/ membership, periodicity of meetings, chairmanship and secretariat; and***
- v) ***EAC Secretariat should accelerate the finalization and enact the EAC DRRM Bill 2015 to guide the implementation of the DRRM framework in the region, taking into account the observations made on the proposed DRR institutional arrangement; and***
- vi) ***The DRR Working Group, DRR Sub-regional Platform and DRR Technical Committee should support the DRR Unit in implementation of its mandate.***



12.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Sub-regional platform was updated on the existing of Regional Disaster Management Centre of Excellence under the Golden Spear Initiatives as response to the bomb blast in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam. However the centre faced challenges for its operations as some Member States did not rectify the Memorandum of Understanding and stopped their contribution to support the operation of the centre. Delegates emphasized on the need and importance to align the centre with the proposed DRRM institution in the region.

Delegates request the EAC Secretariat to share with Partner States the entire key document that has been developed and approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 12.30 hrs and the report of the meeting was signed by Partner States representatives accordingly.


Signed by the Respective Heads of Delegation on this 7th day of November 2015.



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C.P Antoine NTEMAKO

Director General, Civil
Protection, and President
of Burundi DRR Platform,
Ministry of Public
Security.


REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI



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**Col (Rtd) Nathan M.
KIGOTHO**

Director, National
Disaster Operations
Centre, Ministry of
Interior and Coordination
of National Government

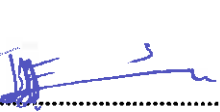
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Director of Risk
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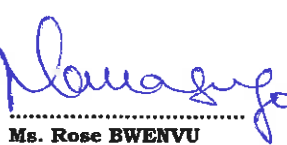
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