

## 8TH SESSION OF AFRICA WORKING GROUP ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION [CORE]

• 16 – 17 FEBRUARY 2016 • ADDIS ABABA (ETHIOPIA) •

### Concept Note

#### BACKGROUND

The year 2015 provided a unique opportunity for the global community with a series of international agreements being discussed and adopted that will determine the global post-2015 development agenda. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was the first of the series of these agreements, adopted at the 3<sup>rd</sup> UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, March 2015, Sendai, Japan.

The Sendai Framework is the basis for a new paradigm in the field of disaster risk reduction. The lessons learnt from the 10-year implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action acknowledged that risks are not extraneous to development but are also driven by and result from development processes. Thus, sustainable development requires risk-sensitive planning, budget and implementation. The Sendai Framework aims to achieve this by preventing new and reducing existing disaster risks through the implementation of measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery, thus strengthening resilience.

The post-2015 processes have demonstrated African leadership. Africa was the first region globally to adopt a continental position on post-2015 framework on disaster risk reduction (at the 3<sup>rd</sup> High Level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction, May 2014, Abuja, Nigeria), and also the first region to convene a meeting to discuss how to implement the Sendai Framework in Africa (at the 4<sup>th</sup> High Level Meeting, July 2015, Yaoundé, Cameroon). The *Yaoundé Declaration* provides strategic direction for the implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa.

#### THE AFRICA WORKING GROUP

The need for an Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction (AWG) 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 AWG provides technical support to the African Union Commission, Regional Economic Communities, Member States and partners for coordination and implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and its Programme of Action. The AWG meets biannually wherein the Core Group and Extended Group meet alternatively. Seven such sessions of the AWG have been convened so far.

#### OBJECTIVES OF 8<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF AWG

The 7<sup>th</sup> Session of AWG (21-22 July 2015, Yaoundé, Cameroon) proposed a set of recommendations for the implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa. These recommendations, structured around the four Priorities for Action<sup>1</sup> of the Sendai

<sup>1</sup> (1) Understanding disaster risk; (2) Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk; (3) Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience; (4) Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Framework, were endorsed by ministers and their designated representatives at the 4<sup>th</sup> High Level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction (23 July 2015, held back-to-back with the 7<sup>th</sup> AWG Session) in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

The Yaoundé Declaration, while endorsing these recommendations, also adopted two key action points:

- Align the Programme of Action for Implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction with the Sendai Framework
- Set up a follow-up mechanism at the highest possible level in the African Union and, in the interim period, establish a sub-committee on disaster risk reduction within the African Union Specialised Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the AWG is scheduled to take place 16-17 February 2016 at African Union Commission, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The meeting will focus on the implementation of the Yaoundé Declaration, particularly the two key action points as outlined above.

Key objectives of the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of AWG are:

1. Based on recommendations of the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the AWG, endorse a structured approach to the alignment of the Africa Programme of Action with the Sendai Framework.
2. Agree on the Terms of Reference for developing the revised Programme of Action.

3. Update AWG Members on the progress of the EU-ACP Programme on 'Building Disaster Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa'
4. Agree on follow-up steps, including:
  - a. Submission of the Yaoundé Declaration and other key DRR outcomes to the African Union Summit
  - b. Host and venue for 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the AWG (Extended) meeting
  - c. Host and venue for the 6<sup>th</sup> Africa Regional Platform

### **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the AWG is hosted by the African Union Commission (venue TBC). The Secretariat of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD is Vice-Chair.

AUC will provide additional logistic information and travel arrangements for sponsored delegates of the Core AWG membership. UNISDR, as secretariat to the AWG, will provide documentation support and other information in liaison with AUC and IGAD.

For any additional information, please contact AUC (Mr. Almami Dampha<Damphaa@africa-union.org>) or UNISDR (Mr. Mathewos Hunde Tulu <mathewos.tulu@unisdr.unon.org>, CC hundemathewos@gmail.com).