Extended Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (2006 - 2015) and Declaration of the 2nd African Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2010
Foreword

Disasters in Africa are increasing in frequency and adversity of impact, compounding the challenges to sustainable development and undermining Africa’s prospect of achieving the Millennium Development Goals. On average, almost two disasters of significant proportions are recorded every week in the Africa region since 2000. Few of these ever hit the global headlines but they silently erode the capacities of Africans to survive or prosper. Climatic and hydrological hazards, in particular drought, floods, cyclones and landslides dominate the disaster profile of the Africa region, affecting, on average, around 12.5 million people per year. Africa is also ravaged by other natural and man-made disasters such as volcanic eruptions, epidemics and conflicts.

Multiple and inter-dependent forms of vulnerability have the potential to transform even minor hazard events into human disasters. Around 400 million people in the Africa region live below the poverty line, and 200 million are considered to be under-nourished. Income poverty and food insecurity play a major role in land degradation, as the poor and hungry are forced to over-exploit natural resources to meet their immediate needs for survival. Climate change is increasing the risk and exacerbating existing vulnerability on the continent by increasing the likelihood of frequency and severity of extreme weather events.

Given the potential increase in negative impacts of disasters on social, economic and environmental development in Africa, and recognizing the threat that
disasters pose to Africa’s ability to meet the Millennium Development Goals, the African continent, with the leadership provided by the Commission of the African Union, developed an Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, which was adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on Environment in June 2004 and endorsed by the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in July of the same year, with a call to develop a Programme for its implementation. With continued leadership of African Union Commission and support of the United Nations Inter-agency Secretariat for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the African Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (2005-2010) was developed and adopted at the First African Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Addis Ababa in December 2005.

The Second Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Nairobi in April 2010, which was jointly organized by AUC and UNISDR Office for Africa Region, adopted a substantive revision of the POA reflecting current gaps, extending the time-frame to 2015 and aligning it with the globally mandated Hyogo Framework of Action. The Decision (EX.CL/Dec.607 (XVIII)of the Executive Council of the African Union at the 16th Session of the AU Assembly in January 2011, endorsed the Extended Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (2006-2015) together with recommendations contained in the Ministerial Declaration.

The aim of the Strategy and the Extended Programme of Action for the implementation of the Strategy is to contribute to the attainment of sustainable development and poverty eradication through substantial reduction of
social, economic and environmental impacts of disasters. The Extended Programme of Action provides broad objectives and intervention areas together with processes and activities to achieve them. These objectives are: the mainstreaming of risk reduction management and climate change adaptation as an integral part of sustainable development programmes; strengthening capacities of regional, sub-regional and national institutions to contribute to building resilience to disasters; develop and maintain sustainable mechanisms of coordination at regional and sub-regional levels and; strengthening national-level institutions and capacities for mainstreaming and implementing disaster risk reduction activities and programmes.

The Extended Programme of Implementation for the Africa Regional Strategy is a culmination of extensive collaborative efforts of the Commission of the African Union, the UNISDR, the World Bank and the African Development Bank, which started with the development of the Africa Strategy. Support for revision of the development of the Programme was also received from United Nations Agencies, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), international non-governmental organizations and donors. The Commission of the African Union is profoundly grateful for the support of all the Partners and, in particular, the consistent assistance provided by the UNISDR, and the World Bank which continues throughout the implementation of the Programme. The Commission is also appreciative of the commitment made by many of the other partners and regional training institutions, to assist in the process of capacity building in disaster risk reduction at regional, sub-regional and national levels.

The Programme provides strategic guidance for disaster risk reduction intervention of Member States, Regional
Economic Communities and their respective development Partners. The Institutional mechanisms and legislative frameworks are now in place in majority of Member States and the RECs. The Commission of the African Union has taken an important step to strengthen coordination and technical support at regional level through the establishment of the African Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction.

With increased political will by Member States and continued commitment and support by Partners, the Commission of the African Union is confident that together we can now accelerate concrete actions that translate into strengthening the resilience of our economies and communities confronted with disasters.

Tumusiime Rhoda Peace
Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture
African Union Commission
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Eighteenth Ordinary Session
24 - 28 January 2011
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

EX.CL/Dec.600-643(XVIII)
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DECISSIONS

Extract of the Decision on the Report on the Second Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
EX.CL/Dec.607 (XVIII)
DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE SECOND MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
EX.CL/Dec.607 (XVIII)

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Second Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 14 to 16 April 2010, and **ENDORSES** the recommendations contained therein;

2. **FURTHER ENDORSES** the Extended Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (2006-2015);

3. **URGES** all Member States and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to take the necessary measures to implement the Extended Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (2006-2015);

4. **FURTHER URGES** Member States, considering other related African Ministerial resolutions, to increase their investments in disaster risk reduction through the allocation of a certain percentage of their national budgets and other revenues dedicated to disaster risk reduction;

5. **REQUESTS** the Commission and the NPCA to facilitate and coordinate the implementation of the Decision consistent with the recommendation of the
Second Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction;

6. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to accelerate action on the feasibility study to create an AU-led, African owned Pan-African Disaster Risk Pool that would allow Member States to share risk across regions, and to put in place, the necessary administrative arrangements, pending the completion of the feasibility study;

7. **CALLS UPON** the relevant development partners, including the relevant United Nations Agencies, regional and global financial institutions, bilateral and multilateral agencies, to provide the required technical and financial support to Member States, the Commission and RECs to ensure the effective implementation of this Decision;

8. **REQUESTS** the Commission to report at the next Ordinary Session of the Council in June 2011 on the implementation of this Decision.
REPORT OF THE SECOND MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

NAIROBI, KENYA, 14-16 APRIL 2010
I. Background
1. The Second African Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction was held on 16 April 2010 at the Jomo Kenyatta International Conference Centre in Nairobi, Kenya. It was preceded by a meeting of experts held on 14 and 15 April 2010 to prepare for the Ministerial Conference.

II. Organization and Participation
2. The Conference was organised by the African Union Commission (AUC) with the support and collaboration of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and the Government of Kenya: the Ministry of State of Special Programme (MOSSP).

3. The Conference was attended by over 280 delegates; the following 47 Member States of the African Union participated in the Conference:

4. The following inter-governmental organisations, donors, international, regional, sub-regional and national based organisations, agencies, and institutions were represented at the Conference: African Continental Institutions: African Union Commission (AUC) and the African Development Bank.

Regional Economic Communities (RECs): the Common Market for Eastern and Southern African (COMESA), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), Donors / Development Partners: World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (WB GFDRR), European Commission, Rockefeller Foundation, and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Embassies in Nairobi: Germany and Morocco.

UN and international organisations, agencies and programmes: FAO, IMO, UNDP, Global Risk Identification Program (GRIP), UNECA, INEP, UNESCO, UN-HABITAT, UNICEF, UNISDR, UNOCHA, UNOOSA/UNSPIDER, WFP, WHO, WMO.

NGOs and academia: World Vision, ActionAid, German Red Cross, Rockefeller Foundation, Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, Oxfam GB, Art of the Living Foundation, North-West University, Renaissance Institute for Environmental Research and Development, the SEMAC.

### III. Opening Ceremony

5. Welcome Remarks were made by Hon. Dr. Naomi Shaban, Minister of State for Special Programmes, Office of the President, Republic of Kenya. Statements were made by Mr. Michel Jarraud, Secretary General of the World Meteorological Organization and H.E. Ms. Margareta Wahlstrom, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction while H.E. Mrs. Tumusiime Rhoda Peace, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission delivered and opening statement.

6. The Ministerial Conference was officially opened by the Honourable Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance on behalf of Honourable Raila Odinga, Prime Minister of the Republic of Kenya. In his speech the guest of honour expressed the need for the African governments to take up the challenge of increasing investments for DRR to mitigate impacts of economic loss from disasters.

### IV. Election of Bureau

7. The election of the Bureau was facilitated by Ms Olushola Olayide of the African Union Commission. The Conference elected the following Bureau:
Chair: Ghana
1st Vice Chair: Egypt
2nd Vice Chair: Kenya
3rd Vice Chair: Republic of Congo
Rapporteur: South Africa

8. The African Union Commission and NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency presented the progress made on the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy and Programme of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction from 2006 to 2010.

VI. Consideration of the Report of Experts’ meeting and Adoption of Ministerial Declaration
9. The Chairman of the Experts’ meeting, Mr. Koffi Portuphy of Ghana presented the outcomes of the discussions including the recommendations of the experts for ministerial consideration and read the proposed draft Ministerial Declaration.

10. The Ministers made slight amendments on the draft declaration after which, Mr. Yunus Carrim, Deputy Minister for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs of South Africa being the Rapporteur read out the Ministerial Declaration, in Annex 1.

VII. Adoption of the Extended Programme of Action
11. After considering the draft Extended Programme of Action presented by the Experts’ Meeting, the

**VIII. Adoption of Draft decision of the African Union Executive Council**

12. After considering the Draft decision of the African Union Executive Council on the Second African Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction presented by the Experts’ Meeting, the Conference of Ministers adopted the said draft decision for submission to the AU Executive Council through the AU Commission.

**IX. Adoption of Minister’s Report**

13. The Conference of Ministers responsible for DRR then adopted this report and the Chairperson closed the Conference.
DECLARATION OF THE SECOND AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

HELD IN NAIROBI, KENYA, FROM 14 TO 16 APRIL 2010
DECLARATION OF THE SECOND AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
HELD IN NAIROBI, KENYA,
FROM 14 TO 16 APRIL 2010

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations responsible for Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa having met in Nairobi, Kenya on 16 April 2010 at the Second African Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, concurrently with the First Conference of Ministers Responsible for Meteorology in Africa held from 15 – 16 April 2010 in Nairobi, Kenya.

We express our sincere condolences and solidarity with the people and communities seriously affected by disasters in all its manifestations across Africa and other parts of the world and commend the efforts made by them, their governments and the international community to respond to and overcome those tragedies.

We are convinced that disasters seriously undermine the results of development and poverty eradication and prosperity.

Development efforts that fail to appropriately consider disaster risk could seriously increase vulnerability of people and their livelihoods. We therefore believe that coping with and reducing disaster risk to build resilience for sustainable development is a most critical challenge facing governments, communities and the international community.

African countries, cognisant of our joint endeavours to build our disaster risk reduction efforts, believe it is our collective responsibility to support each other.
I. *Take note* of the proceedings of the Second Africa Regional Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction consultative meeting held in Nairobi from 5-7 May 2009, at which Governments, Regional Economic Communities (REC), the African Union Commission (AUC), and United Nations (UN) and non-UN partners, discussed and proposed a draft extended Programme of Action (2006-2015) for the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: ‘Building the Resilience of Communities and Nations to Disasters’;

II. *Endorse* the Executive Summary of the Proceedings of the Second Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction Consultative Meeting, which includes the recommendations of the Africa Platform to the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction held in Geneva from 16-19 June 2009;

III. *Endorse* the Proceedings of the Second Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction “Creating Linkages for a Safer Tomorrow” which contains the Chair’s Summary;

IV. *Recall* the African Union Assembly Decision on the Revised 1968 African Convention (Algiers Convention) on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and the Action Plan of the
Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) at the Second Ordinary Session, held in July 2003, in Maputo, Mozambique;


VII. Recall all previous decisions on climate change.

VIII. Recall the decision of African Ministers of Finance in Lilongwe, Malawi (29-30 March 2010), to “support efforts towards enhancing national and regional capacities to mitigate exposure to disaster risk through institutionalising effective financial and other instruments such as strategic grain reserves, budgeted contingency funds as well as through sharing risk across [sub]regions”.


IX. **Acknowledge** the positive efforts that many national governments in Africa have made in integrating disaster and climate risk reduction in their development policies and planning processes, as well as into emergency response and recovery activities and recognise the difficulties of many States to institutionalize, enact and decentralize these efforts and turn them into action;

X. **Stress** the need for the Africa Regional Platform to continue to advocate and provide technical advice and support mechanisms by Regional Economic Communities, national governments and partners, for the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and its Programme of Action (2006-2015);

XI. **Stress** the fact that there is a need for assessing the progress made by the African Union Commission, Regional Economic Communities and Member States in order to accelerate the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for DRR through its Programme of Action (2006-2015);

XII. **Call the attention** of African leadership to the urgent need to strengthen sub-regional mechanisms in order to achieve the objectives of the HFA and the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, through the
XIII. Emphasize the need for Member States, to promote the creation of partnerships with institutions dealing with disaster risk reduction, such as National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), the health and financial sector institutions, academia, specialised centres, research and scientific institutions, NGOs and civil society organisations, for purposes of achieving the objectives of the Africa Regional Strategy and Programme (2006-2015) and form part of a multi-sectoral National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction;

XIV. Recognise the negative impacts of climate variability and change, including the increase in the occurrence and severity of disasters and increased competition over natural resources;

XV. Stress the special needs of most vulnerable countries and Small Island Developing States and recognise their aspirations for sustainable development and need for cooperation;

XVI. Recognise also that poorly planned urbanisation increases vulnerabilities which call for concerted actions by local governments and communities.
XVII. *Stress* the need for Member States to leverage new entry points for disaster risk reduction by taking advantage of new developments since the inception of the Africa Regional Strategy for DRR, and integrate them into existing mechanisms.

*Hereby recommend to the African Union Summit:*

1. To request the African Union Commission to continue mobilising political support, and to advocate for international community, institutions and development partners to support Member States to institutionalise multi-sectoral National Platforms for disaster risk reduction, or similar coordinating mechanisms, that integrate disaster and climate risk management, emphasising the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in planning and finance, the health, education, urban development, infrastructure, energy, water and sanitation, industry, agriculture and food security sectors, among other national priorities;

2. To call 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;
3. To call upon the African Union Commission and Member States to create a network of capacity development institutions for training, research, and information management and exchange at country, sub-regional and regional levels in collaboration with international and regional partners;

4. To request African Union Commission, regional and sub-regional organisations and Member States to continuously monitor the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and its Programme of Action in line with the HFA and to assess and report biennially on the progress made;

5. To request Member States to decentralize and implement local and community-based disaster risk reduction strategies and programmes, supported by adequate, realistic and predictable funding mechanisms, with an enhanced role for local governments and empower local and regional NGOs, including volunteers;

6. To strongly call upon Member States to incorporate gender equity and empowerment considerations in implementing the Programme of Action;
7. To strongly urge Member States to increase their investments in disaster risk reduction through the allocation of a certain percentage of their national budgets and other revenue dedicated to disaster risk reduction and report to the next Ministerial Conference, considering other related African Ministerial resolutions;

8. To call upon development and humanitarian partners to ensure that disbursement of one percent (1%) of development assistance and ten percent (10%) of humanitarian assistance, in line with the Chair’s Summary of the Second Session of the Global Platform, supports disaster risk reduction, preparedness and recovery, including from violent conflicts and/or severe economic difficulties;

9. To call upon Member States, under the auspices of the African Union Commission, to explore the feasibility of continental financial risk pooling in working towards the creation of an African-owned Pan-African disaster risk pool, building on existing and emerging tools and mechanisms for financing disaster risk reduction;

10. To call for a study into the establishment of a regional funding mechanism for disaster risk reduction which allows Member States to access existing, and future, regional and global funds for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction;
11. To make disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation a national education priority, through their integration into the educational system, including the development of curricula, and the training of teachers;

12. To call upon Member States to undertake vulnerability assessments of schools, health facilities and urban centres, and develop and implement plans to ensure their safety and resilience;

13. To encourage the development of capacities of, and partnerships among, Member States to access and utilise existing traditional knowledge, space-based and other technologies for disaster risk reduction;

14. To call on the African Union Commission and the Regional Economic Communities to establish and/or strengthen, within their organisational structures, functional, sustainable, affordable and dedicated disaster risk reduction units for coordination and monitoring;

15. To call on the Regional Economic Communities to enhance the implementation of their roles and responsibilities as stated in the Africa Strategy and Programme of Action;

16. To call upon the Member States to adopt the revised Programme of Action for the Implementation of the African Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (2006-2015) and to monitor progress;
17. To invite the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and partners to engage with African Union Commission, Regional Economic Communities and African countries to support the implementation of this Declaration, as appropriate; and

18. To request the African Union Commission to take note of this Ministerial Declaration, and to submit to the African Union Summit.

Adopted at the Second African Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Nairobi, Kenya, 14-16 April 2010

1. Context

Africa is one of the continents where the regional share of reported disasters in the world total has increased over the last decade. The occurrence of disasters triggered by natural hazards, and the social and economic losses caused as a result, are rising in Africa, posing a great threat to Africa’s ability to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and sustainable development. In addition to the socio-economic losses, a substantial amount of financial and other resources for development has been diverted to relief and rehabilitation assistance to disaster-affected people each year.

Disaster risk reduction (DRR) policies and institutional mechanisms do exist at various degrees of completeness in African countries. However, their effectiveness is limited. Hence a strategic approach to improving & enhancing their effectiveness & efficiency by emphasizing disaster risk reduction is needed. To address the issue of disasters comprehensively, the African Union Commission (AUC), African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) Africa have been working together since the beginning of 2003 to seek ways to provide strategic guidance and direction to mainstream disaster risk reduction in sustainable development planning and process.
The process for formulating a continental disaster risk reduction strategy started with a NEPAD Workshop on Disaster Management in April 2003. The Workshop called for interventions to address issues of food security and disaster management in Africa. The outputs of the Workshop were two-fold: (a) the need to develop a regional strategy for disaster risk reduction; and (b) the need to develop a programme of action on disaster risk reduction.

At a follow-on “African Consultative Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa” in June 2003, a decision was made to develop a Regional Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction in two phases: (1) undertaking a baseline study to establish the status of disaster risk reduction in Africa; and (2) drafting the Regional Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction.

A baseline study was carried out to establish the status of disaster risk reduction in Africa. It emerged from the study that development was at risk from disasters mainly because of gaps in the following areas: institutional frameworks, risk identification, knowledge management, governance and emergency response.

In the light of all the above concerns, an Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction was proposed to contribute to the attainment of sustainable development and poverty eradication by facilitating the integration of disaster risk reduction into development.
The Strategy’s objectives were to: (1) increase political commitment to disaster risk reduction; (2) improve identification and assessment of disaster risks; (3) enhance knowledge management for disaster risk reduction; (4) increase public awareness of disaster risk reduction; (5) improve governance of disaster risk reduction institutions; and (6) integrate disaster risk reduction into emergency response management. The Strategy includes broad directions to achieve these objectives.

An outline of the Strategy and key areas of focus were reviewed at a preliminary meeting of the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction in April 2004. A draft Strategy was reviewed at three separate fora in May/June 2004, namely (1) a Meeting of Experts to discuss the Strategy, (2) an African Regional Consultation on the January 2005 World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR), and (3) the First Meeting of the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction. A revised Strategy was adopted by the Ministers at the 10th Meeting of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and subsequently, the strategy was officially acknowledged at the AU Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July 2004, with an official call for a programme of action to implement the strategy through the joint effort of AU Commission/NEPAD, with continuous support from the UNISDR, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). In 2004, “Guidelines for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Assessment in Development” were also developed.
The Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction was developed in 2005. In early 2005, Africa Advisory Group on DRR was established, and in December 2005, the First African Ministerial Conference on DRR held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, adopted the Programme of Action. The Programme of Action was subsequently endorsed by a Decision of the Eight Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union in Khartoum, Sudan in January 2006 (EX.CL/Dec.250(VIII)).

As mentioned above, the joint initiatives among the AU Commission, NEPAD, AfDB and UNISDR Africa have resulted in the following strategic documents, with support from experts, government officials, the UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) and UNEP:

1. Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction
3. Guidelines for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into sustainable development
4. Periodic regional review report on disaster reduction

At the global level, in the meantime, the World Conference for Disaster Reduction held in Kobe, Japan in 2005, adopted a comprehensive outcome document on the priorities for action for the next decade, the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the
Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (HFA). This was negotiated and endorsed by 168 UN Member States.

In 2007, a regional multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder forum on disaster risk reduction, namely the Africa Regional Platform for DRR, was established under the facilitation of the UNISDR Africa. The First Consultative Meeting of the Africa Regional Platform took place in Nairobi, Kenya in the same year to review the progress of the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy and the HFA. It was also reiterated that much needed to be done to strengthen regional and sub-regional capacity on the implementation of the Regional Strategy and the HFA.

In December 2008, the African Union Commission, UNISDR Africa and the World Bank organised a preparatory meeting to convene the Second Africa Regional Platform and the Second African Ministerial Conference. This preparatory meeting took place in Nairobi in December 2008 with participation of representatives of Regional Economic Communities (RECs1), National Platforms, donors, UN agencies and international non-governmental organisations. The meeting recommended to organise the Second Africa Regional Platform and the Second African Ministerial Conference, to update the Africa’s status report to monitor progress made, identity gaps and needs, and to

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1 RECs include: Economic Community of Central Africa States (ECCAS), Southern African Development Community (SADC), Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS), Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), East Africa Community (EAC), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), and the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD).
propose a revised version of the Africa Regional Programme of Action, considering the HFA and its extension until 2015.

Subsequently, the Second Africa Regional Platform Consultative Meeting was convened in Nairobi in May 2009. The present version of the Programme of Action 2006-2015 was one of the agreed outcome documents of the Second Africa Regional Platform to reflect its discussions and recommendations.

2. **Goal and Objectives**

The overall goal of the extended Programme of Action from 2006 to 2015 is a substantial reduction of social, economic and environmental impacts of disasters on African people and economies, thereby facilitating the achievement of the MDGs and other development aims in Africa. In line with the Africa Regional Strategy and the HFA, the specific objectives of the programme are to:

- Mainstream risk reduction management and climate change adaptation as an integral part of sustainable development, and related programmes.

- Strengthen long term capacities at regional and sub-regional levels to systematically contribute to building resilience to natural hazards.

- Develop and maintain sustainable mechanisms of coordination at regional and sub-regional levels to support the implementation of the
Africa Strategy and the Programme of Action for DRR.

- Strengthen national mechanisms, legislative frameworks and capacities at national levels for mainstreaming and implementing disaster risk reduction strategies and programmes.

- Translate policies and strategies into practical tools for decision makers and practitioners to facilitate the implementation of the Africa Strategy, the Programme of Action and the HFA.

- Develop and mobilise resources to contribute to the implementation of programmes and projects on DRR.

- Embed a holistic approach to systematically incorporate risk reduction measures into design and implementation of disaster preparedness, response and recovery programmes.

3. **Operational Mechanisms**

Based on the decisions of the First African Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, the following operational mechanisms were proposed at the Second Africa Regional Platform for DRR Consultative Meeting held in Nairobi in May 2009, and reiterated at the Second African Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Nairobi from 14 – 16 April 2010:

A) **Regional level** implementation and coordination
• AU Commission will facilitate and coordinate the implementation of the Regional Strategy, the Programme of Action and the HFA.

• The Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, which is facilitated by UNISDR, will function as the primary regional mechanism to support the implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies and programmes at regional, sub-regional and national levels, to monitor their progress and to facilitate coordination and information-sharing between governments, sub-regional organisations and UN agencies.

• Periodic high-level meetings such as the African Ministerial Conference on DRR and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment will ensure regional consensus on key issues on DRR.

• The AU Commission will reconstitute the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction to provide coordination and technical support to Member States.

• Joint planning and programming of the activities to implement the approved Programme Action will be undertaken by AU Member States, RECs, NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NCPA), UN Agencies, development partners, civil society organisations and other relevant institutions.
B) **Sub-Regional level** implementation and coordination

- RECs will focus on providing strategic guidance to their Member States, facilitating the implementation of the sub-regional strategies and programmes in line with the Africa Regional Strategy, the Programme of Action and the HFA within their sub-regions, and coordination, particularly in respect of inter-state initiatives.

- RECs will promote the implementation of the above through establishing sub-regional disaster risk reduction platforms and focal points, and through preparation of programmes for resource mobilisation to support national and sub-regional efforts.

- RECs will facilitate, with support from the AU Commission, the ISDR system, specialized agencies and civil society, the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development initiatives.

C) **National level** implementation and coordination

- AU Member States will have the primary responsibility to operationalise the Africa Regional Strategy, the Programme of Action for DRR and the HFA
Multi-stakeholder national platforms or national committees, including Ministries dealing with disaster risk reduction such as Interior, Health, Education, Urban Development, Environment, Finance and Planning, civil society organisations, media, private sector, scientific and educational institutions, will contribute skills and knowledge to mainstream disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into multi-sectoral development planning and implementation processes.

Programmes or activities deriving from the Africa Regional Strategy and the HFA will be implemented with clear linkage to, or within the scope of, existing national development planning process and other development assistance frameworks and strategies such as United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

D) Monitoring and Reporting

For the purpose of assessing progress of the implementation of the Africa Strategy, the Programme of Action and the HFA, a biennial HFA national report will be submitted by each national government by using standard formats and tools developed by UNISDR. UNISDR will provide technical support for compiling and analysing the collected information and data.

RECs, UN agencies, civil society organisations and development partners will also be
encouraged to report on their relevant programmes and activities on DRR as part of the above-mentioned biennial reporting process through UNISDR.

- Generic indicators are incorporated in the extended Programme of Action (2006 to 2015) and will be used to measure achievements.

4. **Priority Programme Components**

The programme components described in Sections 4.1 to 4.3 are prioritised, given the main gaps in political commitment, public awareness and capacity development.

In addition, the following areas of intervention are also elaborated in the matrix at the end of this document:

- Improved governance of disaster risk reduction institutions, and integration of DRR and climate change adaptation into sustainable development planning and programmes.

- Improved disaster risk identification, including hazards and sector wide vulnerability analysis, monitoring and early warning systems.

- Identification of priority sectors and development of integrated programs for greater results. Like inclusion of education, health specially focusing safer health facilities, environment as priority along with infrastructure and governance.

- Development of disaster risk reduction and preparedness planning, implementation of related measures, and integration of disaster
risk reduction concepts in disaster management, rehabilitation and recovery.

4.1. Advocacy and Public Awareness

Under this component, AU Commission, AfDB and UNISDR Africa, working together with RECs, will help create an enabling environment for the implementation of the regional strategy and for the application of guidelines for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction at sub-regional, national and local levels.

Advocacy at the sub-regional level will be carried out through regional and sub-regional fora, with support of information materials which aim to help increase the understanding and knowledge of disaster risk reduction. It will be designed to sensitize high-level policy makers to the fact that Africa’s vulnerability to disasters has increasingly hindered social and economic development in Africa and that implementation of the strategy and application of the guidelines on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in development, rehabilitation and reconstruction will contribute significantly to poverty reduction efforts and socio-economic development in Africa.

At the national level, the RECs, with support from AU Commission, AfDB and UNISDR Africa, will lead the advocacy activities in their member countries. Given that creating understanding and knowledge within national governments is crucial for the success of disaster risk reduction, the advocacy will focus on building understanding of the complexity of disaster issues, the disaster risk reduction framework and the
social, economic and environmental benefits from implementing the Strategy and applying the guidelines for mainstreaming. Such advocacy activities will be carried out through sub-regional and national fora on disaster reduction and sustainable development and through technical assistance for establishing and developing national platforms for disaster risk reduction in Africa.

National governments will take a leading role in raising public awareness on disaster risks and ways to reduce vulnerability and risks at a local level.

Emphasis will be placed on generating understanding of basic concepts of hazard, vulnerability, risk and disaster, which will help to form a favourable environment for the development of a culture of disaster prevention and the implementation of national and regional policies, strategies and guidelines for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction. Public awareness may be raised through educational materials, radio programmes and organisation of community-based or school-based public events on disaster risk reduction.

4.2. Knowledge Management and Capacity Development

Under this component, the AU Commission and AfDB will lead the process of developing the competences required for the implementation of the regional strategy and adoption of guidelines for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in Africa, in cooperation with RECs, national governments and civil society, with support of UNISDR Africa. To sustain the effort of knowledge
management, capacity development and research throughout the continent, and multiply training activities at different levels, to improve the expertise, promote best practices and contribute to mitigate disaster risks and build resilient communities.

At regional level, the AU Commission and AfDB will take a leading role, with support from training institutions, universities, UNDP and UNISDR and other development partners, as appropriate, in development of training-for-trainers resources that will be both user-friendly and sufficient to address the needs of RECs in their effort to promote the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in development planning and practices among their member countries. Training at regional levels will focus on increasing understanding, knowledge and competences of the personnel in these organisations so that the RECs will be in a position to facilitate disaster risk reduction and its mainstreaming in development in their member states.

To institutionalise this process of competence development, a network or coalition for knowledge management and capacity development will be promoted and maintained based on existing training centres and programmes. The possibility to establish an African Centre of excellence for capacity development will be discussed and defined, after undertaking an Africa-wide feasibility and planning study and a capacity assessment of existing training and educational centres. Support from partners, including the World Bank, the Islamic Development Bank and the AfDB will be made available.
At sub-regional level, the RECs will lead the process of capacity building by organising the knowledge-based training for national government officials in their member countries, to enable them to better understand disaster risks and vulnerability, to mainstream disaster risk reduction in development, and to replicate training for government officials at local level in their respective countries. They will be supported in this role by the AU Commission, AfDB, UNDP, UNISDR and other development partners.

The national platforms or national committees, with the support of trained trainers, would play a major role in coordinating the capacity building process within their respective countries, in cooperation with line ministries and specialized agencies. By doing so, the national platforms or national committees for disaster risk reduction will be able to tailor the training resources provided by sub-regional levels to the specific needs of local government officials.

### 4.3 Some Pilot/Demonstrative Projects

Under this component, the AU Commission and AfDB, working through the RECs, will encourage National Governments to mainstream disaster risk reduction in sustainable development while calling for small-scale pilot project proposals from national governments and civil societies in Africa. The projects should be community-based, aiming to demonstrate how disaster reduction, as a component of development projects and programmes, can contribute to their sustainability and effectiveness. The small-scale pilot projects could focus on the priority areas such as: governance, water and natural resources management, land-use planning.
environmental protection, infrastructure, health system including HIV/AIDS, and gender, and the project cycle should, as far as possible, not be longer than 12 months. The purpose of these small-scale pilot projects is to accumulate knowledge and experience in mainstreaming disaster reduction into development planning and programmes, to facilitate subsequent implementation a wider and larger scale.

5. **Expected Results**

1. Disaster risk reduction becomes a regional, sub-regional and national priority, with strong institutional frameworks, adequate resources and multi-stakeholder participation.

2. Vulnerabilities, hazards and disaster risks are identified, assessed and monitored, taking into account trans-boundary dimensions.

3. People-centred, user-friendly early warning systems are in place for major natural hazards.

4. Knowledge (including local and indigenous knowledge), innovation and education are applied to build a culture of safety and resilience.

5. Health and school facilities become resilient in terms of function and structure.

6. Disaster risk reduction institutions have the requisite authority and capacity to coordinate across relevant sectors and from national to local levels.
7. Underlying risk factors and disaster risk reduction measures are integrated into policies, plans and programmes, particularly in sustainable development planning and programmes.

8. Disaster risk reduction measures are integrated into post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes.

9. Comprehensive preparedness and contingency plans and processes are established, periodically tested and activated in a timely manner, from national to local levels.

**NB:** The expected results are presented in greater detail in the attached matrix.

**6. Partners**

The AU Commission and the RECs will guide the overall implementation of all the activities developed under advocacy, capacity building and pilot projects for the implementation of regional strategy and application of guidelines for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction, with support from regional specialized agencies, civil societies and UN organisations. UNISDR Africa will assist the AU Commission and the RECs mainly through partnership with the World Bank’s Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, and by collaboration with other supporting partners such as, UNECA, UNDP, UNEP, UN HABITAT, UNOCHA, WMO, WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO, FAO, WFP, UNOOSA, IFRC, AfDB, the EU, Islamic Development Bank, and regional
training institutions, will assist in the process of capacity building in disaster risk reduction at regional, sub-regional and national levels.

The RECs will facilitate, with support from the AU Commission, the ISDR system, specialized agencies and civil society, the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development initiatives.

7. **Proposed Activities for the Implementation of the Strategy**

In line with the principles mentioned above, the proposed activities will be carried out in two periods (2006-2010, and 2011-2015), in line with the HFA, under the joint coordination of the AU Commission and UNISDR Africa, working closely together with RECs, UN agencies and other development partners. The activities proposed in the matrix attached aim to achieve the objectives set by the Strategy.
## Matrix of the Programme of Action (2006-2015) to implement the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRATEGIC AREAS OF INTERVENTION</th>
<th>MAJOR AREAS OF ACTIVITY</th>
<th>EXPECTED RESULTS</th>
<th>MEASURABLE INDICATORS</th>
<th>INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Increase political commitment to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)</td>
<td>1. Enhancing and strengthening mobilization for political commitment, responsibility and accountability.</td>
<td>1. Increased awareness of commitments and strategies for DRR amongst policy- and decision-makers at all levels.</td>
<td>2&amp;3. Compared with the 2005 baseline, an increased number of countries have institutional, legal frameworks and allocation of resources for DRR in budget allocation by Member States, Development and Humanitarian Partners disbursement of one percent (1%) of development assistance and ten percent (10%) of Humanitarian assistance.</td>
<td>AU Commission/NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, RECs, National governments.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2. Strengthening institutional frameworks and defining the structures of disaster risk reduction.</td>
<td>2. Increased participation of politicians in institutional structures for DRR.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3. Incorporating disaster risk reduction into national legislation.</td>
<td>3. National laws enacted for DRR.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Civil Society (NGOs, CBOs)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4. Increasing resource allocation for disaster risk reduction.</td>
<td>4. Increased allocation of human and financial resources for DRR at regional-sub-regional and national levels.</td>
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<td>All relevant UN agencies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5. Strengthening capacities of the regional inter-government commission (AU Commission) / NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and Regional Economic Communities (RECs)) for implementation of this Strategy.</td>
<td>5. Sustained technical support provided to the AU Commission / NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and RECs.</td>
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<td>STRATEGIC AREAS OF INTERVENTION</td>
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</table>
| 2. Improve identification and assessment of disaster risks | 1. Improving the quality of information and data on disaster risks.  
2. Improving identification, assessment and monitoring of hazards, vulnerabilities and capacities.  
3. Strengthening capacities and resource base for institutions involved in early warning systems, risk mapping including observational and research sub-systems. | 1. Higher quality information and data on disaster risks.  
2. Risk identification and assessment.  
3. Early warning system enhanced at national and regional levels. | 2. Compared with 2005 baseline, an increased number of countries collect hazard risk data and have established systems to disseminate information on hazards.  
2. Compared with 2005 baseline, an increased number of countries have vulnerability assessment of health and school facilities identified and defined national plans for their safety.  
3-5. At least 2 RECs have sub-regional hazard risk early warning systems and protocols for sharing such early warning information with countries. | AU Commission/NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, AfDB RECs  
Specialized sub-regional organisations: ACMAD, AGHRYMET, SADC-DMC, ICPAC, RCMRD, RECTAS etc.  
National governments  
Civil Society |
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Compiling and standardising, as appropriate, statistical information and data on regional disaster risks and vulnerabilities, impacts and losses.</td>
<td>4. Databases established at national and regional levels to generate standardised statistical data on risks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Cooperating regionally and internationally to assess and monitor regional and transboundary hazards.</td>
<td>5. Transboundary risk assessments and monitoring are conducted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>To develop framework for action to reduce urban multi-dimensional vulnerability, with impact in different type of urban risks.</td>
<td>6. Framework for multi-dimensional urban risk is developed.</td>
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<td>6. Number of cities with policies and/or strategies on Safer Cities and multi-dimensional vulnerability reduction.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scientific institutions and research centres</td>
<td>All relevant UN agencies</td>
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<tr>
<td>STRATEGIC AREAS OF INTERVENTION</td>
<td>MAJOR AREAS OF ACTIVITY</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Increase public awareness of disaster risk reduction</td>
<td>1. Improving dissemination and communication of information.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2. Promoting integration of DRR in the formal and informal education systems and specifically the health sector.</td>
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<td>3. Expanding the role of the media.</td>
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<td>4. Strengthening the role and experience in DRR of traditional and local authorities and other opinion leaders.</td>
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<td>5. Strengthening the role of women, youth and other vulnerable groups in decision making in DRR issues.</td>
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<td>STRATEGIC AREAS OF INTERVENTION</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Improve governance of disaster risk reduction institutions and reduce the underlying risk factors</td>
<td>1. Assessing the existing capacities, specifically in the health and education sector. 2. Harmonizing DRR policies &amp; strategies at regional and national levels. 3. Developing and strengthening national platforms for DRR at required level. 4. Strengthening decentralization of DRR interventions. 5. Promoting public/private partnerships to advance DRR in practice. 6. Increasing gender sensitivity of DRR policies, legislation and programmes. 7. Operationalising guidelines for mainstreaming DRR into</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sector and cross-sector development policies and programmes, particularly in agriculture, health and climate change adaptation, and drought and desertification control.</td>
<td>Adaptation (CCA) programmes integrated at national level.</td>
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<td>8. Including DRR concerns in public regulation on land use, physical development and infrastructure development, emphasising the importance of safe schools and hospitals.</td>
<td>8. Relevant land-use policies enhanced by integrating DRR concerns.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Strengthening and expanding social protection mechanisms.</td>
<td>9. Social protection programmes designed to reduce vulnerability to hazards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRATEGIC AREAS OF INTERVENTION</td>
<td>MAJOR AREAS OF ACTIVITY</td>
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</table>
| 5. Integrate disaster risk reduction in emergency response management | 1. Advocating the inclusion of DRR in emergency risk management at local, national, sub-regional and regional levels.  
2. Preparing and disseminating guidelines for integrating disaster risk reduction in emergency response and management.  
3. Facilitating the orientation of emergency response management towards disaster risk reduction.  
4. Facilitating the strengthening of contingency planning and emergency response towards DRR.  
5. Strengthening and when | 1. DRR integrated into emergency response management.  
2. Advocacy material and tools developed to facilitate the integration of DRR into emergency response and management.  
3. Guidelines for integration of DRR into emergency response prepared in different languages.  
4. Training and accompaniment provided for integrating a DRR perspective into contingency planning and other emergency preparedness measures.  
5. Policies, mechanisms, plans | 1. Compared with 2005 baseline, an increased number of countries with preparedness and contingency plans that apply DRR principles.  
4. Compared with 2005 baseline, an increased number of countries with comprehensive preparedness and contingency plans which are periodically tested and activated in a timely manner. | AU Commission/NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency  
RECs  
National governments  
Civil Society  
All relevant UN agencies |
necessary developing coordinated regional approaches, and creating or upgrading regional policies, operational mechanisms, plans and communication systems to prepare for and ensure rapid and effective disaster response in situations that exceed national coping capacities.

6. Promoting the establishment of emergency funds, where and as appropriate, to support response, recovery and preparedness measures.

and systems and reviewed and enhanced to facilitate a regional response to disasters that exceed national capacities.

6. Funds are in place for emergency response, preparedness and recovery activities.
<table>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>6. Support Overall co-ordination and monitoring of the implementation of the Strategy</td>
<td>1. Providing secretariat support to AU Commission and NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) in their efforts to pursue the implementation of the Strategy and Programme of Action.</td>
<td>1. Secretariat support to AU Commission and NEPAD provided for effective implementation of the Strategy and Programme of Action</td>
<td>1 &amp; 5. Functional and sustainable units for DRR within AU Commission/NPCA and RECs</td>
<td>UNISDR Africa along with other specialized UN agencies and ISDR system.</td>
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<td>2. Co-ordinating the mapping of the priority needs in the region.</td>
<td>2. Priority needs in the region are mapped and agreed.</td>
<td>3. Biennial progress reporting on the implementation of the ARSDRR within the HFA.</td>
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<td>3. Leading the process of linking the implementation of the strategy with the outcomes of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR).</td>
<td>3. The strategy is aligned with the HFA and monitoring processes are designed and conducted accordingly</td>
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<td>4. Co-ordinating the collaboration with development partners for the integration of DRR into development programmes in Africa.</td>
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<td>5. Facilitating the development of sub-regional strategies and plans in order to harmonise with the Strategy and ISDR.</td>
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<td>4. Development programmes in Africa include DRR measures.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Sub-regional strategies developed in harmony with the Strategy and the HFA</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-5. The Africa Regional Platform is institutionalised with a secretariat and a programme</td>
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