

## 6<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF AFRICA REGIONAL PLATFORM 5<sup>TH</sup> HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

□ IMPLEMENTING SENDAI FRAMEWORK IN AFRICA □

● 22-25 November 2016 ● InterContinental Resort ● Mauritius

### Concept Note

#### BACKGROUND

The UN Member States have reaffirmed their continued commitment to reduce disaster risk and losses by adopting the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2015-2030* at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in March 2015, Sendai, Japan. Guided by *Africa's Contribution to the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*, adopted at the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the Africa Regional Platform and 3<sup>rd</sup> High-Level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction in Abuja, Nigeria in May 2014<sup>1</sup> and endorsed by the African Union Executive Council in January 2015 (EX.CL/Dec.858 (XXVI)), Africa was able to speak with one voice during the intergovernmental negotiations and consultations and have its priorities and concerns reflected in the Sendai Framework.

While endorsing Africa's contribution, the African Union Executive Council requested the African Union Commission to facilitate the review of the Programme of Action for the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction in line with the global post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (Sendai Framework). This is another indication of continued commitment of the African Heads of State and Government to disaster risk reduction.

Following the adoption of the Sendai Framework, the African Union Commission, Member States, Regional Economic Communities and other relevant stockholders, adopted the *Yaoundé Declaration on implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa* at the first continental meeting (7<sup>th</sup> Africa

Working Group and 4<sup>th</sup> High-Level Meeting, July 2015, Yaoundé, Cameroon).

This was followed by the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the African Working Group, held in February 2016<sup>2</sup> in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This meeting resulted in a Summary Statement with a roadmap to facilitate the alignment of the Africa Programme of Action with the Sendai Framework and thereby pave the way towards effective implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa as a key instrument contributing to the realization of the *Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want*.

The outcomes of these series of consultations will be consolidated at the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of Africa Working Group (Extended), scheduled to take place in October 2016 in Livingstone, Zambia.

#### REGIONAL PLATFORMS FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction are multi-stakeholder forums that were developed incrementally after the Kobe Conference 2005. While they have varying characteristics, they all share the same traits as dynamic forums for policy-makers, partners, experts and practitioners to announce initiatives, launch products, share information, promote campaigns, monitor progress and provide evidence about disaster risk reduction.

The Sendai Framework recognises the Global and Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction as key mediums for its implementation, building on the pivotal role that they have played in supporting the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. The Sendai Framework also

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/events/35308>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/events/47863>

underscores the need for the Global Platform and Regional Platforms to function as a coherent system of mechanisms in order to fully leverage the potential of collaboration across all stakeholders and sectors to provide guidance and support in implementation.

The function of the Global and Regional Platforms is identified in the Sendai Framework's paragraphs 28 (c) and 49. In particular, they are expected to serve as instruments to:

- Forge partnerships;
- Periodically assess progress on implementation,
- Share practice and knowledge on disaster risk-informed policies, programmes and investments, including on development and climate issues;
- Promote the integration of disaster risk management in other relevant sectors;
- Contribute to the integrated and coordinated follow-up processes to United Nations conferences and summits.

### AFRICA REGIONAL PLATFORM

The Africa Regional Platform is a biennial forum that brings together African Member States, intergovernmental organizations and development partners to review progress in the implementation of the continental and global disaster risk reduction frameworks. The Platform also enables the sharing of good practices and lessons learnt with a view to enhancing coordination, increasing awareness, and mobilizing commitments to disaster risk reduction across Africa. Five sessions of Africa Regional Platform have been convened so far.

### HIGH LEVEL MEETING

The High Level Meeting of African Ministers responsible for disaster risk reduction is responsible for agreeing and adopting the outcomes of the regional platform and Africa Working Group through a Declaration, which is later submitted to the African Union Summit for endorsement. Four sessions of the High Level Meeting have been convened so far.

### 6TH AFRP AND 5TH HIGH LEVEL MEETING

To review progress made in the domestication and implementation of the Sendai Framework and discuss and agree on follow-up actions to accelerate implementation, the African Union Commission, with support from UNISDR, will organise the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of Africa Regional Platform and the 5<sup>th</sup> High-Level Meeting in November 2016. The Platform and High Level Meeting will be hosted by the Government of Mauritius with support from the SADC Secretariat, in cooperation with the African Union Commission and UNISDR.

### THEME AND OUTCOMES

The 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the Africa Regional Platform will accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa, particularly through the alignment of the Programme of Action for implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy with the Sendai Framework, as requested by the African Union.

The agenda of the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the Africa Regional Platform will encompass a number of areas including: monitoring and reviewing progress in implementation (including intergovernmental outputs on Sendai indicators and terminology), opportunities for learning and exchange of experiences, successes, challenges and opportunities in applying disaster risk management across sectors, status of national policies and plans for disaster risk reduction, status of risk knowledge, progress on disaster risk reduction advocacy, progress on preparedness, recovery and reconstruction under the 'build-back-better' approach, and risk-informed development.

A special highlight of the 6<sup>th</sup> Africa Regional Platform will be the commemoration of the first-ever World Tsunami Awareness Day<sup>3</sup>.

#### Objectives

- i. To review progress in the implementation of Sendai Framework in Africa;
- ii. To discuss and agree on the Africa Programme of Action aligned with the Sendai Framework;

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.unisdr.org/archive/48424>

- iii. To discuss and agree on Africa's Position to be presented at the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, 22-26 May 2017, Cancun, Mexico<sup>4</sup>

### Outcomes

- i. Africa Programme of Action aligned with the Sendai Framework;
- ii. Ministerial declaration and recommendations on implementation of the Africa Programme of Action;
- iii. Draft Africa position for the Global Platform 2017.

The outcomes of the 5<sup>th</sup> High-Level Meeting will be submitted to the African Union Policy Organs for consideration and adoption during the African Union Summit in January 2017.

### PARTICIPATION

The Africa Regional Platform is the highest multi-stakeholder forum on disaster risk reduction in Africa. Participants include African Member State governments, Regional Economic Communities, mayors and local governments, parliamentarians, development partners including donors, United Nations, Non-Governmental Organisations, academic, scientific and technological institutions, community practitioners, persons with disabilities, youth, women's groups, private sector, media, and other international, national and local organisations.

The participants of High Level Meeting are the ministers responsible for disaster risk reduction in African Member States, besides all platform participants (participating as observers).

### CONFERENCE STRUCTURE

The Africa Regional Platform is structured around plenary and break-out sessions hosting panel discussions and roundtable discussions on topical issues. Such sessions have speakers relevant to the topic, including national disaster risk reduction focal points, parliamentarians, mayors, intergovernmental organisations, technical experts, and other development partners.

Interested partners also organise training workshops and working sessions. The Platform is preceded by preparatory consultations where the Regional Economic Communities and stakeholder groups consolidate their positions to be proposed to the platform. Training of media personnel is another pre-conference event.

The High Level Meeting is marked by governmental and intergovernmental positions submitted by ministers and senior representatives.

A bureau is appointed in the beginning of the platform to draft the official outcome documents of the Platform and the High Level Meeting.



<http://www.preventionweb.net/afrp/2016>

[ISDR.AfRP@unisdr.unon.org](mailto:ISDR.AfRP@unisdr.unon.org)



<sup>4</sup> <http://www.unisdr.org/conferences/2017/globalplatform>