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## *Ethiopia & the African Union Commission celebrate IDDR 2016*

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The 2016 International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) was celebrated on 13 October 2016 at a half day event jointly organized by the Ethiopian Government (National Disaster Risk Management Commission) and the African Union Commission (AUC) at Ghion Hotel in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The event was attended by over 350 participants drawn from Federal and Regional Government institutions, African Permanent Missions, AUC, Regional and country UN organizations, international and local NGOs, media, academia, private sector and other international organizations based in Addis Ababa.

The event was officially open by H.E. Ato Sileshi Getahun, Minister of Livestock and Fishery, who underscored, among other things, the importance of IDDR in raising awareness for reduction of disaster losses and strengthening disaster risk management. He highlighted actions taken in Ethiopia under the leadership of the government to advance the disaster risk reduction and management agenda in general and reduce disaster mortality including during 2015/2016 when the country experienced its worst drought in 50 years. Opening remarks were also delivered by representatives of the UN Country Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission, who commended the government for its demonstrated commitment and leadership to disaster risk reduction and management as well as for commemorating the IDDR every year over the last seven years. Following the opening remarks, the UNISDR press release was read out and IDDR related videos, specifically: a message from Mr. Robert Glasser, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction; Sendai Framework; and Sendai Framework and SDGs were shown. In addition, a documentary film 'DRR and Humanitarian Interventions in Ethiopia' featuring success stories of the government in reducing disaster mortality including those related to the 2015/2016 El-Nino phenomenon was shown.

The event was concluded with a panel discussion featuring speakers from the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) of the government of Ethiopia, AUC, UN Resident Coordinator's Office, UN Economic Commission for Africa (Africa Climate Policy Center), Christian Children Fund Canada (representing civil society organizations) and UNISDR (Africa Sub-Regional Office in Addis Ababa). The panel discussion was moderated by Mr. Olabisi Dare, head of Humanitarian Affairs, Refugees, and Displaced Persons Division at the African Union Commission (Department of Political Affairs). The panel discussion focused on steps taken so far and follow up actions towards domestication and implementation of Sendai Framework in general and its first target-**reducing disaster mortality**- the focus of the IDDR 2016- in particular across the African Continent including Ethiopia.

In addition, the event had an exhibition where a number of agencies, including the National Disaster Risk Management Commission and other relevant ministries, UNISDR, UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR, IOM, CRS, WVI, Save the Children, HelpAge International, DanChurchAid (DCA), and Plan International had the opportunity to showcase their work related to disaster risk reduction and management. Advocacy materials, t-shirts, caps, and bags as well as posters, banners, and leaflets, bearing the theme of the IDDR 2016 'Live to Tell' were distributed and displayed in strategic locations in Addis Ababa, headquarters of the NDRMC, AUC, and other places. The IDDR 2016 was adequately covered by the national media before, during and after the event.

The event was closed by Ato Muluneh, Director, NDRMC, who highlighted the government's follow-up actions to further advance the disaster risk reduction and management agenda in the country in the context of its National DRM Policy and Strategy and its implementation tool, Strategic Programme and Investment Framework, and expressed thanks to all that contributed to make the event a huge success.



## *Observance of International Day for Disaster Reduction in Ethiopia October 13/2016*



**Panelists from Right to Left: AUC, NDRMC, UNISDR, CCFC, UNRCO and UNECA**





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## *Snapshot of Participants of 2016 IDDR Celebration Events*

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## *Snapshot of UNISDR Exhibition on the celebration 2016 IDDR*

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Exhibition booth visited by H.E. Silesh and Head of the UN Resident Coordinator's Office



UNISDR EXHIBITION BOOTH





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*Snapshot of Opening and closing remarks and pictures*

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Opening Remark by Mr. Termo Heikkila, Coordination Specialist, Head of the UN Resident Coordinator's Office



Opening Remark by AUC Representative, Dr. Gift Wanda



Opening Remark by H.E. Sileshi Getahun, Minister for Livestock & Fishery



Closing Remark by Representative of NDRMC, Ato Muluneh





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*Snapshot Pictures: Master of Ceremonies, Moderator for Panel Discussion and Panelists*

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Master of Ceremony for IDDR Conference event was Mrs. Rahel Asfaw, Director, NDRMC



Mr. Olabisi Dare, the Head of the Humanitarian Affairs, Refugees and Displaced Persons Division in the Department of Political Affairs of the African Union Commission (AUC), Served as Moderator for Panel Discussion



Panelists from Right to Left: AUC, NDRMC, UNISDR, CCFC, UNRCO and UNECA





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*Snapshot Picture: Youth Volunteers of Addis Ababa University Attended the 2016 IDDR Commemoration*

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