



## TENTH SESSION OF THE AFRICA WORKING GROUP ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION [CORE]

• ADDIS ABABA (ETHIOPIA) • 7–8 MARCH 2017 •

### Concept Note [Draft]

#### BACKGROUND

Africa continues to make strides towards ensuring effective implementation of Sendai Framework<sup>1</sup> under the leadership of the African Union Commission and with support from the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction (AWG) and the active involvement and engagement of Member States, Regional Economic Communities and other relevant stakeholders.

A key achievement in this regard was the adoption of the *Mauritius Declaration* and the *Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa* at the Sixth Session of the Africa Regional Platform and Fifth High Level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction, convened from 22-25 November, 2016 in Mauritius<sup>2</sup>.

The African Union Heads of State and Government reiterated their continued political commitment for disaster risk reduction by endorsing the two outcomes of the High Level Meeting at the January 2017 African Union Summit. This landmark decision indicates the importance that the African Union Member States attach to the Sendai Framework as an instrument that contributes to the realization of the aspirations of *Agenda 2063-The Africa We Want*.

<sup>1</sup> Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030  
(<http://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/sendai-framework>)

<sup>2</sup> [www.unisdr.org/conferences/2016/afpr](http://www.unisdr.org/conferences/2016/afpr)

#### THE AFRICA WORKING GROUP ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Reconstituted following the request of the Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (Nairobi, April 2010), the AWG has been playing an important role in providing technical support to the African Union Commission, Regional Economic Communities, Member States and partners for the coordination and implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and its Programme of Action.

The Group meets biannually wherein the Core Group and Extended Group meet alternatively. Nine such sessions of the AWG have been convened so far.

While the last three sessions of the AWG concentrated on paving the way for effective implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa, including through the review of the Programme of Action in line with the Sendai Framework, the Tenth Session of the Group is expected to make key recommendations to facilitate the implementation of the Programme of Action at all levels. It will also develop the Africa Common Position to be presented at the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, 22-26 May 2017, Cancun, Mexico<sup>3</sup>, in line with the Decision of the January 2017 AU Summit.

## **OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOME OF 10<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF AWG**

The Tenth Session of the AWG will be the first Session of the Group after the endorsement of the Mauritius Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa at the AU Summit in January 2017. The Group will mainly focus on follow up actions to implement the Decision of the Summit.

More specifically, key objectives and expected outcomes of the Tenth session of the AWG are as follows:

### **OBJECTIVES**

1. Review progress in the implementation of agreed action points from the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of AWG, 26-27 October 2016, Livingstone, Zambia.
2. Review progress in disaster risk reduction in Africa in the context of the Sendai Framework;
3. Develop the Africa Common Position to be presented at the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction; and
4. Review the draft Terms of Reference of the AWG.

### **OUTCOMES**

1. Africa Common Position for the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
2. Revised TOR for the AWG

### **VENUE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

The 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the AWG (Extended) will be held on 7 and 8 March 2017 at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa,

Ethiopia. The meeting will be chaired by the African Union Commission and UNISDR will serve as the Secretariat.

The AUC will provide additional logistic information and manage travel arrangements for sponsored delegates. UNISDR, as secretariat to the AWG, will provide technical and documentation support and other information in liaison with AUC.

For any additional information, please contact AUC (Mr. Diane Aboubakar at [DianeA@africa-union.org](mailto:DianeA@africa-union.org)) or UNISDR (Mr. Mathewos Hunde Tulu at [mathewos.tulu@unisdr.unon.org](mailto:mathewos.tulu@unisdr.unon.org)).

### **REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

1. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030  
[www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/sendai-framework](http://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/sendai-framework)
2. Outcome documents from the Africa Regional Platform and High Level Meeting:
  - a. Mauritius Declaration
  - b. Programme of Action for the implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa
  - c. Conference Report  
[www.unisdr.org/conferences/2016/afrp](http://www.unisdr.org/conferences/2016/afrp)
3. Indicators and Terminology Relating to Disaster Risk Reduction (Final endorsed by UNGA, Feb 2017)  
<http://www.preventionweb.net/disaster-risk-reduction-framework/open-ended-working-group>