



Dedicated Fridays of the Commission
**'From Sendai to Cancun: with a renewed commitment to disaster risk
reduction for resilience'**
04 May 2017, AUC, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

CONCEPT NOTE

1. Background

Africa made significant achievements in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) as a result of implementation of global, continental as well as regional and national DRR frameworks and programmes. In particular, implementation of the ***Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters*** and its Africa Programme of Action (2006-2015) contributed to substantial reduction of disaster induced losses in human lives across the continent. Despite this achievement, Africa still remains the most vulnerable continent where the number of reported disasters associated with natural hazards has been increasing with losses reached close to US\$ 22 billion over the last 30 years, 1985-2015 (Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa- Status Report 2015). Poverty and inequality, climate change, poorly planned urbanization, environmental degradation, livelihood insecurity, and fragility and conflict are among the drivers of risk influencing the level of resilience of people, communities, countries, and assets and amplifying the impacts of disasters on the continent.

Recognizing the importance of disaster risk reduction in building resilience, and thereby contributing to sustainable development and the realization of the aspirations of Agenda 2063-The Africa We Want, the African Union Heads of State and Government reiterated their continued commitment to disaster risk reduction in the context of the Sendai Framework by endorsing the ***Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa*** at the January 2017 Assembly of the African Union. It is hoped that effective implementation of this Programme of Action will contribute to the implementation of the 2017 theme of the Year: 'Harnessing Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth' and its Roadmap.

While Africa continues to make strides to effectively deliver on its commitments to the Sendai Framework, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and the Government of Mexico are preparing for the third Global Platform on DRR to be held from 22-26 May 2017 in Cancun, Mexico. This Global Platform, which will be the first since the adoption of the Sendai Framework in March 2015, will

focus on taking stock of the progress made in implementing the Sendai Framework and provide an opportunity for Africa not only to showcase its achievements in implementing the Sendai Framework, but also to join the rest of the world in renewing commitments to accelerate its implementation. It is in this context that the Africa Common Position to the Global Platform is being developed under the leadership of the African Union Commission and in consultation with Member States and Regional Economic Communities in line with the Decision of the Executive Council in January 2017. The draft Africa Position is expected to pass through a series of consultations, including at the meeting of the African Delegates to the Global Platform to be organized on the margins of the Platform in Cancun.

This Dedicated Fridays of the Commission will therefore be the first series of consultations on the draft Africa Position, in addition to serving as a forum for reviewing the status of Africa's preparation for the Platform and mobilizing support and commitment to ensure broader and the highest possible level participation of Africa in the Platform.

2. Objective

The main objectives of this Dedicated Fridays of the Commission are to:

1. Provide updates on the status of Africa's preparation for the Platform;
2. Mobilize support and commitment to ensure Africa's broader and the highest possible level participation in the Platform; and
3. Gather feedback on the draft Africa Position for the 2017 Global Platform for DRR.

3. Organization

1. **Organizers:** The event will be organized jointly by the African Union Commission and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.
2. **Venue:** Headquarters of the African Union Commission, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
3. **Date/Time:** 04 May 2017 (10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)
4. **Co-Chairs/Cahir:** AUC and UNISDR
5. **Discussant:** H.E. Sidibe Fatoumata Kaba, Head, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Guinea, current Chair of the PRC (on the theme of the session: ***From Sendai to Cancun: with a renewed commitment to disaster risk reduction for resilience (tbc)***)
6. **Session Speakers:**
 - 6.1. Programme of Action for the Implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa: It's relevance to and role in implementing the 2017 theme of the Year: 'Harnessing Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth' **(AUC)**
 - 6.2. Coherence between the Programme of Action for the implementation of Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030 in Africa and AU Disaster Management Policy (DPA), the AU CAP on Humanitarian effectiveness, and WHS Commitments **(AUC)**
 - 6.3. Status of preparation for the 2017 Global Platform **(UNISDR)**
 - 6.4. Draft Africa Position for 2017 Global Platform for DRR **(AUC)**
7. **Participants:**

- 7.1. African Permanent Missions based in Addis Ababa
- 7.2. African Union Commission
- 7.3. Members of the UN Liaison Team to the African Union
- 7.4. International organizations working with the African Union
- 7.5. Representatives of the Youth organizations