

Disaster Risk Reduction Leadership Development Forum and Meeting of the EAC Disaster Risk Reduction Parliamentary Forum

Travellers Beach Hotel, 26 – 27 April 2017, Mombasa, Kenya

CONCEPT NOTE

Introduction

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, an all-inclusive, all-of the society framework recognizes the critical role played by all stakeholders, including the parliamentarians. While being adopted by the UN Member States in March, 2015, the parliamentarians committed to support an improved and fit-for-purpose institutional set-up for governing disaster risk reduction (DRR) in order to prevent generation of new risks in the course of development. Parliamentarians also committed to advocate for and support the review of current institutional arrangements and to initiate appropriate reforms including through national legal frameworks. Institutional improvements should include clear roles and responsibilities at all levels of government in support of DRR, strengthened coordination to ensure risk-sensitive investments and promotion of DRR investments.

Parliamentarians, by enhancing their legislative and oversight roles in the application of policies in the implementation of the Sendai Framework, can greatly reduce the impact and risk of disasters, including by engaging different parties involved in DRR, including the non-governmental sectors. They can also reinforce transparency and accountability by allocating adequate resources to support coordination forums -such as national and local platforms- development of laws, strategies, and plans as well as by conducting DRR related campaigns.

The Sendai Framework sets clear outcomes, goals and priorities for the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries that will help parliamentarians' actions towards risk-resilient societies. The Priority 2 on 'strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk' assigns a clear role to parliamentarians.

In addition, the legislators require an enhanced understanding of DRR principles and practices in order to strengthen their legislative and leadership capacities in DRR. This meeting will have a dedicated orientation session on these topics.

The EAC Parliamentarian Forum on DRR

During the first meeting of the East African Community (EAC) legislators in June 2015 in Uganda, parliamentarians formed the Regional Parliamentarian Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction to enhance regional cooperation and address legislative issues of a trans-boundary nature in the spirit of widening and deepening East African integration. This was in recognition that, to effectively tackle climate and disaster risks, there is need to improve governance structures at national and regional levels by demonstrating stronger leadership, enhanced advocacy and stakeholder engagement through the development of effective policies and effective implementation of these policies.

The EAC Parliamentarian Forum for DRR intends to build a joint forum through which East African countries can together build resilience of East Africans and systems to address both natural hazards and human induced disasters so as to achieve sustainable development and resilience. The forum will develop a road map; define roles and responsibilities of parliamentarians in supporting effective implementation of the Sendai Framework in the region.

EAC DRR Leadership Development Forum

The EAC region has experienced disasters resulting from both natural and human induced hazards including drought, floods, landslides, windstorms, lightning, hailstorms, fires, epidemics, conflict, road accidents, and terrorism, among others with hydro-climatological disasters having the greatest impact on socio-economic development. Hazards in the EAC Region also include risks emanating from climate change, environmental degradation, poverty, unplanned urbanization, population explosion and conflict. These can increase vulnerability of persons, systems and the economy, making it difficult for EAC region to progress towards achieving sustainable development goals. Therefore, there is a need to institute deliberate efforts and measures to ensure climate change adaptation (CCA) and DRR measures are put in place to prevent and reduce disaster risk. Such measures entail the formulation of legislation and policy frameworks, strengthened governance and a strong focus on implementable DRR and CCA programmes.

The proposed DRR leadership development forum will engage legislators and decision-makers capable of influencing policy frameworks in order to provide much needed interventions in DRR and CCA. The workshop will offer a great opportunity to parliamentarians in their day to day legislative work. It will also increase awareness of DRR through strengthened risk knowledge, advocacy, and by promoting coordinated approaches and understanding of the Sendai framework as a critical tool for sustainable development.

Justification

The Sendai Framework introduces seven global targets to assess global progress toward the expected outcome. The seven global targets represent means to quantify and qualify the "substantial reduction" indicated in the expected outcome of this framework. Target (e): "Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020" calls for even greater involvement of legislators in passing laws that will enhance community resilience to disasters across sectors. Based on this call, the two events will generate a better understanding of the Sendai Framework and its components thereby increasing the knowledge and decision making power of the legislators on DRR and climate change issues.

Participants

A total of 22 legislators drawn from the Partner States of the EAC are expected to participate in the leadership and the Parliamentary forum for DRR. UNISDR will facilitate the leadership development forum, while Hon. Alex Byarugaba (Uganda) and Hon. Tiya GaloGalo (Kenya) will facilitate the Parliamentary forum.

Why parliamentarians?

Members of Parliament are targeted as main beneficiaries of this workshop because of the following reasons:

- 1) Members of Parliament are representatives of the people and can present community concerns on disaster risk and climate change at the national level;

- 2) Members of Parliament can influence national budgets, spending, policies and laws to enhance DRR and CCA at the national level and hence at the regional level;
- 3) Parliamentarians have always sought stakeholders' feedback on development issues and this will allow different actors to share expectations on DRR and CCA;
- 4) Ensuring that the legislative arm of the government understands the underlying risk factors in the sub-region provides the best solution for amplifying the development and revision of old out-dated policies with current sectoral policies aligned to relevant frameworks; and
- 5) Members of Parliament will benefit from strengthened knowledge on how DRR and CCA can be used as a tool for achieving sustainable development.

Objective

The event aims to enhance DRR governance through the development of risk-sensitive policies, legal and legislative instruments among the EAC Partner States through increased awareness, strengthened capacity of legislators to influence disaster risk management policies and practices in the region.

The specific objectives include:

- 1) To improve level of understanding of basic concepts and principles of DRR in general and the Sendai Framework in particular for the parliamentarians;
- 2) Creating a platform for exchange and sharing of good DRR and climate change policies and practices across EAC Partner States; and
- 3) Enhance awareness and understanding of the role of parliamentarians in the implementation of the Sendai Framework and in realizing risk-informed development.

Workshop Activities

- 1) Basic principles of DRR
- 2) Understanding the Sendai Framework (principles and priorities)
- 3) Mainstreaming the Sendai Framework across sectors
- 4) Sharing experiences, good practices and models for Country-to-Country Learning, and capacity development models and programs
- 5) Ensuring greater impact of risk governance , and facilitating change process at national, regional and local level on DRR legislation

Expected Results

- 1) Trained legislators who can play an effective role in guiding the implementation of the Sendai Framework across sectors.
- 2) Better understanding of the basic principles and the philosophy of the Sendai Framework.
- 3) Agreement on future policy dialogues on DRR for parliamentarian to assess progress in the region.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Day 0: Tuesday 25th April 2017 : Arrival			
Day 1: Wednesday 26th April 2017 : DRR leadership development Workshop			
08:00	08:30	Registration	UNISDR/Pelgia
08:30	09:00	Opening	Hon. Tiya Galogalo, Hon. Sen. Kilonzo Hon. Alex Byarugaba Dir. EAC Secretariat Dir. Amjad (UNISDR)
09:00	09:30	Introduction, Expectations of this workshop and Forum	Participants, UNISDR, Tiya Galogalo
09:30	10:00	Introduction to Disaster Risk Reduction: Concepts and Practices	Julius (UNISDR)
10:00	10:30	TEA BREAK	
10:30	11:00	Understanding the Sendai Framework Priorities	Amjad (UNISDR)
11:00	12:00	Mainstream Sendai Framework into development sectors	Group Discussion/Exercise
12:00	12:30	Good practices and lessons from Uganda Parliamentary forum on DRR, CCA and SDGs	Hon. Alex Byarugaba
12:30	14:00	LUNCH & AFTERNOON BREAK	
14:00	14:45	Advancing Sendai Framework in EAC (DRM Act, 2016)	EAC Secretariat
14:45	15:15	DRR Governance issues (Examples from Kenya)	Hon. Tiya/Kilonzo
15:15	15:45	TEA BREAK	
15:45	16:15	Risk Informed Development: New & emerging risk in the EAC	Julius (UNISDR)
16:15	17:15	Discussion/Way forward/closure	All (Leading question/Matrix)
Day 2: Thursday 27th April 2017 : EAC Parliamentarian Forum on DRR			
09:00	09:00	Setting the scene and expectations	Hon. Alex Byarugaba
09:00	12:00	DRR Governance Framework (Country Presentations) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Burundi - Kenya - Rwanda - Tanzania - Uganda - South Sudan 	Hon. Parliamentarians
12:00	12:30	Summary/discussions	Hon. Parliamentarians
12:30	14:00	LUNCH BREAK	
14:00	15:30	EAC Parliamentarian Forum on DRR Work plan (Plenary)	Hon. Parliamentarians
15:30	16:00	Resources mobilization and Forum report	Hon. Parliamentarians
16:00	16:30	TEA/COFFEE BREAK	Hon. Parliamentarians
16:30	17:00	Way Forward and Official Closure	Hon. Tiya/UNISDR
Day 3: Friday 28th April 2017 : Departure			