

RESOLUTIONS FROM THE SECOND EAC PARLIAMENTARIAN FORUM ON DRR HELD IN MOMBASA, KENYA, 26 & 27 APRIL 2017

Preamble

We, Parliamentarians of East African Community Partner States, drawn from the Republic of Burundi, Republic of South Sudan and United Republic of Tanzania, having met in Mombasa on 26-27 April, on the occasion of the Disaster Risk Reduction Leadership Development orientation and the Second Meeting of the EAC Disaster Risk Reduction Parliamentarian Forum 2017, that aimed at giving members of national parliaments an opportunity to plan their future engagement in supporting the region to attain the Sendai Framework target(e) on *“substantially increasing the number of countries with national and local DRR strategies by 2020”* among other desirable activities;

Aware of the damages caused by natural and manmade hazards and the increased impacts of disasters in the region and aware of the region’s efforts in putting in place policy and institutions to address them;

Fully aware of the need to enhancing DRR governance through the development of risk sensitive policies, legal and legislative instruments and the power of legislators to influence Disaster Risk Management practices using the Sendai Framework as a reference tool for policy development;

Jointly resolve as follows:

Resolutions

1. Call for Partner States, donor agencies and EAC Secretariat to support the strengthening of the EAC Parliamentarian Forum for it to effectively support DRR/M legislative agenda in the region;
2. Request EAC Secretariat to establish linkages between national parliaments and East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA) on matter of interest to create synergy and coherence in both institutions;

3. Request EAC secretariat to ensure that there is regular and adequate interaction of parliamentarians with technocrats to create knowledge on crucial sensitive climate change and disaster risk managements activities;
4. Encourage Partner states to urgently undertake vulnerability impact assessment in their respective disasters prone hot spots to inform planning;
5. Request Partner States to carry out an assessment of the state of their early warning Systems and their readiness to respond to national and local levels emergencies;
6. Request the EAC Secretariat to Urgently follow up with Partner States on ratification of important regional bills and Acts such as; the DRR/M Act (2016), the EAC Trans boundary Ecosystem Management and conservation Bill (2010), the EAC Forest management and Conservation Bill(2015), and the Protocol on Environment and Natural Resources- signed in 2006;
7. Call upon EAC Secretariat to pioneer projects on urban planning benchmarking based on international standards to reducing urban risks;
8. Request EAC Secretariat jointly with Partners to convene a regional high level ministerial meeting to agree on joint strategic interventions on DRR and CC in the region;
9. Request EAC Secretariat to formalize the EAC Parliamentarian forum on DRR to be an EAC Secretariat lead and coordinated Forum with a designated officer to run the forum;
10. Call upon EAC Secretariat to enhance communication to and feedback from Partner States National Assemblies to increase sensitization and engage governments to strengthen political support on DRR;
11. Request EAC Partners States to engage parliamentarians in conflict resolution and peace building as part of disaster risk reduction initiatives; and
12. Request partner states to prioritize investment and development of resilient energy and viable technological options to mitigate against disasters.

Next steps

1. EAC Secretariat to take lead in the organization and planning of the next EAC Parliamentarian Forum on DRR;
2. EAC Secretariat to formalize the EAC Parliamentarians Forum as part of their programmatic activity;
3. EAC Secretariat development an EAC Parliamentarian work plan and share with members for inputs; and
4. Update the steering committee membership taking care of some honorable members who have already left parliament.