

**Meeting of the Arab Coordination Mechanism for Disaster Risk Reduction  
23-24 January 2018  
Tunis, Tunisia**

**Dates:** 23-24 January 2018  
**Venue:** Crystal Hall, Golden Tulip El Mechtel Hotel

The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Arab Coordination Mechanism for Disaster Risk Reduction and the implementation of Sendai Framework in 2018 will be held on 23-24 January 2018 in Tunis, Tunisia. This meeting is being organized by UNISDR Regional Office for Arab States in close cooperation with Government of Tunisia and the League of Arab States. The focus of this meeting will be to consult governments and key stakeholder engaged in disaster risk reduction in the region on the way forward to accelerate the implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework in the Arab region.

**Background:**

The Sendai Framework for Disaster risk reduction aims to achieve a 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. This overarching goal can only be achieved through prevention of new and reduction of existing disaster risk through various measures. Countries in the Arab region despite of challenging geopolitical conditions, have progressed in implementing the Hyogo Framework and in the process of implementing Sendai Framework for DRR.

In order to strengthen disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk, the Sendai framework calls on governments and stakeholders to actively engage in the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, the regional and sub-regional platforms for disaster risk reduction and the thematic platforms in order to forge partnerships, periodically assess progress on implementation and share practice and knowledge on disaster risk-informed policies, programmes and investments, including on development and climate issues, as appropriate, as well as promote the integration of disaster risk management in other relevant sectors.

The Arab Coordination Mechanism for Disasters and Emergencies was first established in 2007 based on Hyogo framework of action to support Arab states in facing natural disasters. In 2015, it was decided that the Arab coordination mechanism to be the main forum for coordination and implementation of the Sendai Framework.

The objective of the coordination mechanism is to reduce the negative effects of natural disasters and emergencies in the region.

The role of the coordination mechanism is to:

1. Work on reducing the negative effects of natural disasters and emergencies on human life, population, environment, national economies and social conditions in general.
2. Support the capacities of Arab countries in addressing the negative effects of disasters and coordinating relief and rescue efforts among Arab countries in emergencies.
3. Urge Arab countries to activate and abide by relevant international, regional and Arab agreements and protocols.
4. Follow-up the implementation of the coordination work.

5. Develop an Arab database composed of physical, human and technical resources available in each Arab country, which can contribute to reduce the impact of disasters and emergencies in Arab countries.
6. Any other roles assigned to the Committee.

After the adoption of Sendai Framework in March 2015, the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment considered in their resolution no. (474 dated 19/11/2015) that the Arab Coordination Mechanism to be the main Arab mechanism to incorporate and coordinate between Arab States on the implementation of Sendai Framework. Furthermore, the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment in their resolution no. (528 dated 19/10/2017) requested the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction in coordination with the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States to organize the Arab Coordination Mechanism meeting.

(More on the Arab coordination mechanism will be available during the meeting)

Governments and stakeholders in the Arab region gathered in May 2017 at the Third Arab Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Qatar, updated and agreed on the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2030. The strategy was further developed as an implementable Arab Plan of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction which contributes to the overall progress of the Sendai Framework implementation. The implementation of the Arab Plan of Action, set to be finalized and activated through the Arab Coordination Mechanism for Disasters and Emergencies, requires a well concerted and continuous effort from all governments and stakeholders in the Arab region.

In this important stage of time, when we are in the third year of implementation of the Sendai Framework, the Government of Tunisia in collaboration with the League of Arab States, African Union, and UNISDR both Regional offices for Africa and Arab states will host the joint Africa- Arab Regional Conferences on Disaster Risk Reduction in mid-2018 (dates and venue will be communicated in due course). This joint regional conference will be at ministerial level which will include ministers in-charge of disaster risk reduction/ management from Africa and Arab states. The main aim of the conference will be to accelerate the implementation and monitoring of Sendai Framework through the respective regional strategies and plans. This significant ministerial conference for both Africa and the Arab region also intends to generate political reaffirmation of governments as well as commitments of action from multiple stakeholders towards the implementation of the Sendai framework across both regions.

With the above background, UNISDR Regional Office for Arab States and the League of Arab States are organizing a 2 days consultation meeting on **23 - 24 January 2018 in Tunis, Tunisia**. The main aim is to bring together member states and key stakeholders to receive suggestions and advice on the preparatory aspects of the conference as well as agree on a way forward for the region towards the implementation of the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2030 and its plan of action.

The main objective of the meeting will be:

1. Reflect on the progress in DRR so far in the Arab Region and agree on a way forward for acceleration of the implementation of the Sendai Framework.
2. Consult governments and stakeholders on the priorities and preparation towards the 4th Arab Ministerial Conference on DRR (within the Africa-Arab Regional Platform)

3. Strengthen the Arab Coordination Mechanism for DRR to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework.
4. Present the final form of the Arab Strategy on DRR 2030 and its Plan of Action 2018-2020.
5. Update governments and partners on key process such as Sendai Monitoring; implementation of disaster loss databases to develop the baseline data in countries; national and local strategies and so on.

**Participants:**

Participants will be mainly from the Arab region which includes but not limited to representatives of Member States (through Sendai Framework focal points), intergovernmental organizations, UN agencies, International Organizations and different stakeholders (e.g. Civil Society, Science and Technology, Youth, Private Sector, etc).

**Agenda****DAY ONE: 23 January 2018**

**08:30-09:00** Participant's registration

**Session 1****Opening Session**

**Chair: Mohamed Ben Jeddou, Director General of Environment & Quality of Life, Ministry of Local Affairs & Environment**

- 09:00-09:30**
- Welcome remarks by *Mr. Mohamed Ben Jeddou, Director General of Environment & Quality of Life, Ministry of Local Affairs & Environment, Government of Tunisia*
  - Opening remarks by *Ambassador Shahira Wahbi, Chief of Natural Resources, Sustainability & Partnerships - League of Arab States*
  - Opening Remarks and introduction to the agenda by *Mr. Sujit Mohanty, Chief of Regional Office – UNISDR ROAS*

**09:30 – 10:15** State of disaster risk reduction in the Arab states (over view of DRR progress and unpacking the Arab regional DRR strategy and plan) – *Mr. Fadi Jannan, Deputy Chief of Regional Office – UNISDR ROAS*

**10:15 – 10:30** **COFFEE BREAK**

**10:30 -12:15** Tour de table: *How to accelerate actions towards implementation of the Sendai Framework? – Reflections/ interventions from governments on progress and priorities in implementation of the SFDRR, stocktaking of progress in national and local strategies.*

Facilitated by the Chair  
(*Followed by summary of the session and wrap up*)

**12:15 – 13:15** Partnership and stakeholder engagement strategy for disaster risk reduction in The Arab States: Commitment towards a shared responsibility – *Mr. Ragy Saro, External Relations Officer – UNISDR ROAS*  
*Plenary discussion on role and engagement of stakeholders in implementation of the Sendai Framework in the Arab Region*

**13:15- 14:15** **Lunch**

**Session 2****Strengthening the Arab Coordination Mechanism and the way forward**

**Chair: Shahira Wahbi, Chief of Natural Resources, Sustainability & Partnerships, League of Arab States**

**14:15 – 15:45** Plenary discussion on the current status, challenges, future role and responsibilities of the Arab coordination mechanism for disasters and emergencies: The role of governments and stakeholders

Presentation on the Arab Coordination Mechanism – *Ambassador Shahira Wahbi, Chief of Natural Resources, Sustainability & Partnerships - League of Arab States*

Presentation followed by **open discussion to address the following issues:**

- *How the Arab Coordination Mechanism can support implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework?*
- *What is the role of the mechanism in following up on the implementation of the Arab Strategy and its plan of action?*
- *How the coordination mechanism can support capacity building of national DRR focal points; and facilitate exchange of knowledge and experiences among countries in effectively reducing disaster risk?*
- *How the coordination mechanism can cultivate a culture of ‘shared responsibility’ through engagement of multiple stakeholders and partners towards disaster risk reduction?*

Summary of discussion and way forward – by Chair

**15:45 – 16:00**      **COFFEE BREAK**

**16:00 – 17:15**      The Arab Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction 2030 and its Plan of Action / Moving from adoption to implementation

Summary Presentation of the Arab Strategy on DRR and its Plan of Action - *Mr. Fadi Jannan, Deputy Chief of Regional Office – UNISDR ROAS*

**17:15 – 17:30**      Wrap up

**DAY TWO: 24 January 2018**

**08:30 – 08:40** Recap of day 1 and introduction of agenda for Day 2

**Session 3 Africa -Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction  
Chair: Kirsi Madi, Director, UNISDR secretariat, Geneva**

**08:40 – 09:00** Key note address by *Ms. Kirsi Madi, Director, UNISDR*

**09:00 – 09:15** The context of Global and Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction- *Ms. Christel Rose, UNISDR secretariat, Geneva*

**09:15 – 10:15** The Africa-Arab Regional Platform Conference: Initial thoughts on objectives, outcomes and logistics

Presentation followed by question and answer: *Government of Tunisia*

**10:15 – 10:30 COFFEE BREAK**

**10:30 – 12:15** Group discussion: Gathering input from governments and stakeholders on priority themes and content of the ‘Africa-Arab Regional Platform Conference’  
*(Details of group discussion will be provided at the venue)*

**12:15 – 13:00** *Group report back*  
*Followed by a discussion on key elements/ topics of the Regional Platform*

**13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH**

**Session 4 Africa- Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction:  
Putting all together and way forward  
Chair: Mohamed Ben Jeddou, Director General of Environment & Quality of Life, Ministry of Local Affairs & Environment**

**14:00 – 14:45** Update: Sendai Monitoring – process and timeline of Sendai Monitoring rollout in countries *(including development of baseline through national disaster loss databases)*

Presentation on Sendai Monitoring and Disaster Loss Accounting System – *Ms. Saira Ahmed / Risk Knowledge & Analysis Officer – UNISDR ROAS*

Questions and answers

**14:45 – 15:45** Africa-Arab Regional Platform – summary and way forward:

Focus, theme and topics of regional priority in Africa-Arab Regional Platform  
Presentation followed by discussion – *Fadi Jannan, Deputy Chief of Regional Office - UNISDR ROAS*

*(The chair will facilitate the discussion in line with the group report back and summarize the focus and priority topics suggested by the governments and stakeholders. The chair's summary report will be combined with similar summary reports from the Africa regional consultations and will make the main body of the conference concept note and agenda)*

**15:45 – 16:00 COFFEE BREAK**

**16:00 – 16:30** Wrap up and next steps – *Mr. Sujit Mohanty, Chief of Regional Office – UNISDR ROAS*

**16:30 – 17:00** Closing Remarks – Government of Tunisia, League of Arab States and UNISDR

**End of meeting**