



Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction
Tunisia 9-13 October 2018

DECLARATION OF THE SIXTH HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION, TUNIS, TUNISIA: 13 OCTOBER 2018

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Tunis Declaration on accelerating the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations responsible for Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa having met in Tunis, Republic of Tunisia on 13 October 2018 on the occasion of the Africa-Arab Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, which comprised the Seventh Session of the Africa Regional Platform and the Sixth High Level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction, 9-13 October 2018:

Appreciate the hospitality and warm welcome accorded to the Conference delegates by the Government and the people of the Republic of Tunisia, as well as the efforts being made to advance disaster risk reduction in the context of Sendai Framework in the country;

Further appreciate the initiative taken by the Government of Tunisia to bring together delegates from Africa and Arab States to share experiences, good practices and lessons learned in the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the country; and the support provided by the African Union Commission, the League of Arab States and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) to achieve the expected outcomes of the Platform.

Recognize the ever-increasing risk of disasters and their devastating effects, including loss of life, livelihoods and infrastructure, and forced displacement. The differentiated impact on men and women across the continent is exacerbated mostly by climate change and variability, environmental degradation, unplanned urbanisation, inequality, as well as conflicts. This trend undermines the efforts aimed at achieving the global targets of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the aspirations of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want;

Further Recognize the increasing vulnerability of island states of Africa, as well African states emerging from conflicts and disasters to climate change, and the impact of natural hazards on their economies and development;

Recall the decision of the African Union Executive Council at its 30th Ordinary Session, January 2017 [EX.CL/Dec.943 (XXX)], endorsing the *Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa* (Programme of Action), and the '*Mauritius Declaration on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa*';

Further recall the decision of the 31st Ordinary Session of the African Union [Assembly/AU/Dec.707 (XXXI)] on the declaration of the year 2019 as "Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards durable solutions for Forced Displacement in Africa.";

Value the efforts being made to advance the disaster risk reduction agenda across the continent in the context of the Africa Regional strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Programme of Action;

Acknowledge the African Union for its decision (Assembly/AU/Dec.417(XIX)) of July 2012 to establish the African Risk Capacity as an innovative Pan-African disaster risk pool and sovereign risk management instrument to better mitigate emergencies caused by extreme weather events and natural disasters;

Aware of the 'Yaoundé and 'Mauritius' Declarations on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa', as well as 'the Common African Position to the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction';

Commend those African States, Regional Economic Communities and the African Union Commission for their continued efforts in taking forward the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action, including taking measures to strengthen policy, legal and institutional frameworks in support of disaster risk reduction efforts on the continent;

Further commend those African States, Regional Economic Communities and the African Union Commission for taking concrete steps towards enhancing institutional capacity to effectively coordinate, monitor and review the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa;

Appreciate the role of the civil society organizations, academia, private sector, local communities and other key stakeholders in supporting and implementing the Sendai Framework, as well as regional, sub-regional, national and local disaster risk reduction programmes and plans;

Note the launch of the Sendai Framework Monitor system by UNISDR in March 2018 to report on progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework;

Appreciate UNISDR for coordinating the development of the Global Capacity Development Strategy in Support of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and availing the Sendai Framework Monitoring system to the African Union Commission and Regional Economic Communities to define and upload regional specific custom indicators for monitoring the implementation of regional disaster risk reduction plans and strategies;

Recognize the role of the Media in promotion of disaster risk reduction efforts in the context of the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action;

Note the need to achieve **target (e)** of the Sendai Framework (and the Programme of Action) “*to substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020*”;

Acknowledge the continued efforts being made by some African States and Regional Economic Communities in developing and updating national and regional disaster risk reduction policies, strategies and plans of action in line with the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action;

Recognize the importance of ensuring coherence among global, regional, sub-regional and national disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development actions; and the need to ensure national development strategies and adaptation plans reflect disaster risk reduction and that national disaster risk reduction strategies are aligned to the national development strategies and adaptation plans;

Stress the importance of the regional, sub-regional and national platforms in monitoring and reporting progress on the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action;

Further recognize the role of the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in promoting integrated actions for disaster risk reduction and in ensuring risk-informed interventions in implementing Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063;

Appreciate the support provided to African countries and Regional Economic Communities by the European Union as part of its cooperation with the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, as well as other Development Partners, United Nations agencies, and financial institutions to build disaster resilience;

Declare our determination to deliver on our commitments to the implementation of the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*, the *Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction*, as well as sub-regional and national strategies and plans of action for disaster risk reduction as key instruments for the realization of the Agenda 2030 for the Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want; and

Hereby:

1. **Adopt** the 'Monitoring and Reporting Framework for the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa';
2. **Call upon** the African Union Commission to prepare a Biennial Report on Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa, informed by the Monitoring and Reporting Framework for the Programme of Action;
3. **Urge** African States, Regional Economic Communities, Local Authorities, the private sector, academia, civil society organizations, development partners and other stakeholders to fast-track the development and implementation of disaster risk-informed, inclusive, holistic and gender-sensitive strategies, programmes and plans of action in line with the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action;
4. **Further urge** the African States and local authorities to include disaster risk reduction and resilience approaches into relevant national legal frameworks not only in disaster management acts, but also in sectoral legislation and regulations;
5. **Request** the African States, Regional Economic Communities, Local Authorities, the private sector, people with disabilities, key stakeholders and development partners to support the roll out and implementation of the Sendai Framework Monitor system, building on existing disaster loss databases and gender disaggregated data;
6. **Stress** the need for adequate annual national budgetary allocation to finance disaster risk reduction programmes to effectively implement the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Sendai Framework;
7. **Urge** the African Union Commission and the Regional Economic Communities to ensure institutionalization of the Disaster Risk Reduction Units in their regular organizational structures and staffing budgets;
8. **Request** the African Union Commission to upgrade the Environment, Climate Change, Water and Land Management Division of the Rural Economy and Agriculture to be a full-fledged Department in order to effectively advance the disaster risk reduction agenda across the continent;
9. **Further urge** UNISDR to provide disaster risk reduction tools, guiding documents and technical support to African States, Regional Economic Communities, and African Union Commission for the development, implementation, monitoring and review of disaster risk-informed local, national and regional disaster risk reduction strategies, programmes and plans of action;
10. **Encourage** African States, Regional Economic Communities and Local Authorities to develop and strengthen disaster loss accounting capacity and generate national multi-hazard risk profiles for risk-informed development planning and investment;
11. **Commit** to promote and support the integration of climate change, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development strategies, policies, programmes and

plans of action at all levels to ensure disaster risk informed, inclusive, resilient and sustainable development in Africa;

- 12. Urge** African States and Regional Economic Communities to actively participate in the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and Climate Change and Development in Africa Conference to review progress and advance measures for ensuring the integration of disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development actions;
- 13. Encourage** African States to strengthen their early warning systems, including multi-hazard and impact based early warning with priority on hydrological and meteorological systems and the delivery of services in understandable manner to end-users for enhanced preparedness, response, recovery and reconstruction;
- 14. Urge** African States, Regional Economic Communities and African Union Commission, development partners, private sector, civil society organizations and other stakeholders to develop innovative ways to ensure that disaster risk reduction is effectively implemented in fragile and conflict affected contexts;
- 15. Reiterate** the need for ensuring that a whole-of-society approach to disaster risk reduction through the integration of women, children and youth, local communities, the elderly, people living with disabilities, displaced people, and other people in vulnerable situation, as well as age and cultural perspectives into policies, strategies, plans and programmes;
- 16. Request** the African Union Commission with the support of the UNISDR to establish an African Science and Technology Advisory Group linked to the UNISDR Scientific and Technical Advisory Group to provide scientific and technical support, as well as facilitate the technology transfer for the implementation of the Programme of Action;
- 17. Further request** the African Union Commission to establish a Youth Advisory Board on Disaster Risk Reduction to ensure effective engagement of the Youth in the implementation, follow up and review of the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action;
- 18. Encourage** African States to actively support and participate in the African Risk Capacity's innovative risk pooling mechanism to fully leverage the benefits of this mechanism;
- 19. Commit** to strengthen partnerships and cooperation for disaster risk reduction through enhancing regional, sub-regional and national coordination mechanisms;
- 20. Request** the United Nations and other international and regional organisations, international and regional financial institutions to consider the Programme of Action in multilateral and bilateral development assistance programmes;
- 21. Urge African** States and African Union to fully integrate and mainstream disaster risk reduction, climate change and Sustainable Development Goals in the roadmap for durable solutions for refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons as a part of the African Union Theme of the Year 2019;

22. Mandate the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction to coordinate the development of the Africa Position to the 2019 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction; and ensure that the process is inclusive and African States driven;

23. Request the Government of the Republic of Tunisia, as the Chair of the Seventh Africa Regional Platform and the Sixth High-Level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction, to submit the Tunis Declaration to the African Union Executive Council for endorsement.

Done on this 13th day of October 2018 in Tunis