



WITH SUPPORT FROM:



13TH SESSION OF THE AFRICA WORKING GROUP ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION [EXTENDED]

• YAOUNDÉ (CAMEROON) • 4-5 SEPTEMBER 2018 •

Concept Note

OVERVIEW

Reconstituted following the request of the Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (Nairobi, April 2010), the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction (AWGDRR) has been playing an important role in providing technical support to the African Union Commission, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Member States and partners for the coordination and implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and its Programme of Action. Following the adoption of the Programme of Action (PoA) for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa¹ by the African Union Executive Council in January 2017, the AWGDRR has shifted its focus to supporting the implementation of this continental instrument.

The Group meets biannually wherein the Core Group and Extended Group meet alternatively. Twelve such sessions of the AWG have been convened so far. The 13th session is scheduled to take place from 4-5 September 2018 in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

To contribute to the realization of Agenda 2063-The Africa We Want - Africa continues taking steps to advance the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) agenda across the African continent in the context of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Programme of Action (PoA) for its implementation in Africa. The African Union Commission's Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (AUC-DREA), the custodian of the PoA, with support from the AWGDRR and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the custodian of the Sendai Framework is playing an important role in providing coordination and leadership in this regard.

FOCUS FOR 2018

The AWGDRR has prioritised key focus areas and follow up actions to support the implementation of the PoA, the Mauritius Declaration and commitments contained in the Africa Common Position that was presented at the 2017 Global Platform for DRR. The prioritized interventions and follow up actions for implementation in 2018 include:

- i. Developing an operational plan for the implementation of the PoA (based on priority activities identified by the AWGDRR);

¹ https://www.preventionweb.net/files/49455_poaforsendaiimplementationinafrica.pdf

- ii. Strengthening coherence between DRR, climate change adaptation and development actions at all levels, including through ensuring linkages between DRR and the National Adaptation Plans (NAPAs);
- iii. Improve capacity for monitoring and reporting on progress in achieving target e and other global targets of the Sendai Framework as well as targets developed at the regional, sub-regional and national levels in line with the Sendai Framework global targets;
- iv. Ensuring coordinated and consistent engagement of the science and technology community in support of implementation of the Sendai Framework and the PoA, including through the establishment of the Africa Scientific and Technical Advisory Group;
- v. Enhancing risk knowledge capacities of African countries through the establishment of disaster loss databases and risk profiles;
- vi. Increasing political commitment and domestic resources to effectively implement the Sendai Framework at all levels, and;
- vii. Ensuring successful preparation for the Africa-Arab Platform on DRR.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

To date, a range of key steps have been taken with support from AWGDRR to implement the above priorities and action points. The major achievements are summarized as follows:

- i. The Priorities identified in the PoA by the AWGDRR formed the basis of the DRR component in the AUC-DREA Strategic plan for the period 2019 to 2023;
- ii. Over 28 countries in Africa have national DRR strategies, including 9 aligned to the Sendai Framework². In addition, two sub-regional plans of action (ECOWAS and ECCAS) have been aligned with the Sendai Framework and adopted by members states in 2017/2018. These strategies and programmes/plans of action take into account linkages with, and integration of climate change adaptation and mitigation actions. At the local level, data and information management has been strengthened, and assessments were designed to enable 50 local governments to monitor and review their progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework. At the regional level, DRR was integrated into the outcome (key messages)³ of the 4th session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development with the aim of achieving alignment with the outcome of the forthcoming Africa-Arab Platform on DRR. Efforts are underway to ensure alignment with the upcoming outcome of the Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa as well.
- iii. To implement the Sendai Framework Monitor across the continent, UNISDR organized a training in which participants from AUC, IGAD and countries from the IGAD region participated. This training provided participants with the skills and knowledge needed to use the tool for monitoring and reporting on progress in implementing the Sendai Framework (and regional, sub-regional and national DRR strategies and plans). In addition, AUC-DREA has made much progress in developing the monitoring and reporting framework for the PoA, including by successfully organizing a validation workshop in June 2018. The workshop generated substantive inputs to improve the tool. The framework is expected to be launched in the margins of the forthcoming Africa-Arab Platform in October 2018.

² Regional progress updates presented by RECs at the 12th session of AWGDRR, 13-14 March 2018

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https://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/images/e1800590_key_messages_for_2018_arfsd_sent_englishreviewed.pdf

- iv. UNISDR continued providing support to countries to develop disaster loss databases and risk profiles through the ACP-EU Programme. Disaster loss accounting is critical to setting the baseline that countries would need to monitor and report on progress in achieving the Sendai Framework as well as the PoA and sub-regional targets based on the agreed indicators. The disaster loss databases and risk profiles are also critical to promoting and supporting disaster and climate risk-informed development planning and investments. The number of countries with disaster loss databases has increased to 28, and work is underway to develop risk profiles for 16 countries.
- v. Preparations for the Africa-Arab Platform on DRR to be held from 9-13 October 2018, in Tunis, Tunisia are well underway. The platform will be held under the theme '*Towards disaster risk-informed and inclusive sustainable development*'.
- vi. A lot of progress has been made under the leadership of the African Union Commission towards increasing and sustaining political commitment for DRR in Africa, including through integration of DRR into the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment-organ of the African Union.

While these achievements are a testament to the efforts being made with support from the AWGDRR to advance the DRR agenda across the continent in the context of the Sendai Framework and the PoA, the AWGDRR is cognizant of the fact that Africa still faces some challenges such as slow progress in developing/updating sub-regional, national and local DRR strategies and plans in line with the Sendai Framework (target e), limited progress in increasing and sustaining political commitment and allocation of domestic resources for DRR, inadequate institutional capacity and limited progress in ensuring linkages and integration of DRR, climate change adaptation and sustainable development actions at all levels. Addressing these and other challenges facing the continent and consolidating achievements recorded thus far are critical to effectively implement the PoA. As such, this will continue to remain at the top of the agenda of the AWGDRR going forward.

OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTCOME OF 13TH SESSION

OBJECTIVES

In view of the above, the main objective of the 13th session of the AWGDRR will be to review regional progress and challenges in the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the PoA and come up with concrete follow up actions to advance implementation.

The session will also evaluate progress made to date in the preparation for the Africa-Arab Regional Platform on DRR, which will comprise the 7th Africa Regional Platform and 6th High-Level meeting on DRR and the 4th Arab Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. In this regard, the Group will receive a briefing on the programme and is expected to generate substantive inputs that will inform the outcome of the platform and the high-level meeting.

In addition, the session will:

- i. Take stock of progress in the development/update of the sub-regional, national and local DRR strategies and plans in line with the Sendai Framework and the PoA (target e) and make recommendations on how best to move forward to fully achieve this target by 2020;
- ii. Assess the level of readiness in terms of availability of capacity and identify gaps that need to be addressed to ensure timely and regular reporting on progress in achieving the Sendai Framework and PoA targets;
- iii. Provide a platform to showcase relevant ongoing work, share experiences, best practices and lessons learned and agree on the way forward to effectively promote and

- support linkages with and integration of DRR, climate change adaptation and sustainable development actions;
- iv. Allow the AWGDRR members and other invited partners to reflect on the role of the AWGDRR in building and sustaining strategic partnerships, mobilizing and sustaining political commitment and predictable resources (including from domestic sources and the private sector) in support of implementation of the PoA;
 - v. Review the TORs for the establishment of the Africa Scientific and Technical Advisory Group; and Youth Advisory Board.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- i. Agreed recommendations/action points to advance implementation of the Sendai Framework and PoA;
- ii. Updated information on the status of the development of sub-regional and national DRR strategies in line with the Sendai Framework and the PoA and agreed recommendations/action points to speed up the process to achieve target e of Sendai Framework and the PoA by 2020;
- iii. Agreed recommendations/action points to roll-out and implement the Sendai Framework Monitor and monitoring and reporting framework for the PoA;
- iv. Substantive inputs to the programme for the Africa-Arab Platform on DRR and its outcome document;
- v. Recommendations on the role of the AWGDRR in mobilizing and sustaining political commitments;
- vi. Inputs for finalizing the TORs for the establishment of the Africa Scientific and Technical Advisory Group; and Youth Advisory Board; and
- vii. Participants are familiarized with the monitoring and reporting framework for the PoA

FORMAT OF THE MEETING

The meeting will be co-chaired by the African Union Commission and ECCAS while UNISDR will act as the Secretariat. The session will include presentations on regional progress in DRR, reflections on the above issues in plenary and discussion on the programme and elements of the outcome document of the regional platform and high-level meeting in break breakout sessions.

VENUE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Thirteenth session of the AWGDRR (Extended) will be hosted by ECCAS. The meeting will take place from 4 to 5 September 2018 in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

The AUC will provide additional logistical information and manage travel arrangements for sponsored delegates. UNISDR will provide technical and documentation support.

For any additional information, please contact AUC (Mr Gatkuoth Kai at (KaiG@africa-union.org) or UNISDR (Mr Mathewos Hunde Tulu at mathewos.tulu@un.org).