



**COMMISSION
OF THE
AFRICAN UNION**



United Nations
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Recommendations of the Second Session of the Africa Regional Platform to the Second Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

The Second Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR):

Recognising that Africa is highly vulnerable to natural hazards, and in particular to hydro-meteorological and geological hazards, the impacts of which are exacerbated by poverty, conflicts, urbanisation, epidemics, pest and insect infestations, and environmental pressures;

Also recognising that the impacts of climate variability and climate change amplify these challenges, increasing disaster risks for poor and vulnerable groups;

Aware of the specific vulnerabilities and risks faced by small island developing states (SIDS) in Africa;

Acknowledging that Disaster Risk Reduction is a strategic development issue, given that perennial disasters are gravely hindering Africa's efforts towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

Affirming that Disaster Risk Reduction is an effective tool for reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience of countries and communities to natural hazards in Africa;

Informed of the progress made in the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy and the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) at regional, sub-regional and national levels since the First Session of the Global Platform, with substantive information shared during this event and documented in the 2009 version of the Africa Status Report on Disaster Risk Reduction;

Noting that national governments, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the African Union Commission (AUC), United Nations agencies, civil society organisations and other ISDR system partners in Africa have made concrete progress in setting up institutional frameworks, strengthening policies, and implementing programmes, projects and activities related to Disaster Risk Reduction since the First Session of the Global Platform;

Conscious that gaps, needs and challenges still exist in the region, particularly in terms of weaknesses in early warning systems, inadequate coordination, and insufficient capacities and resources to translate policies and frameworks into practical tools and programmes for effective reduction of vulnerabilities and disaster impacts at national and community levels, in line with the Africa Regional Strategy and the Hyogo Framework for Action;

Recommends that:

1. National governments in Africa, with the support of regional and sub-regional inter-governmental organisations, technical institutions and international organisations, should integrate Disaster Risk Reduction into their development policies and planning processes, as well as into emergency response and recovery activities;
2. Funding should be mobilised from donors and partners, such as the World Bank's Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), in order to implement Disaster Risk Reduction measures within programmes for poverty-reduction, sustainable development and climate change adaptation;
3. In complex situations, post-conflicts and post-disasters, disaster risk reduction and conflict sensitivity approaches should be integrated into plans and programmes, to reduce both vulnerabilities to disasters and the probability of resurgence of conflict;
4. Multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder national platforms and similar national coordination mechanisms should continue to be developed and strengthened, with greater participation of civil society organisations;
5. The Africa Regional Platform should continue to be the mechanism to review progress in the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy, the Programme of Action and the HFA, to advocate for Disaster Risk Reduction, coordinate regional and sub-regional activities of stakeholders and facilitate networking among them, and promote information-sharing to avoid duplication of initiatives and encourage replication of good practices;
6. Involvement of disaster-prone communities, including women, vulnerable populations and minorities, in the identification and assessment of risks and vulnerabilities, as well as in disaster preparedness planning, should be ensured through closer coordination with civil society organisations.
7. National meteorological and hydrological services (NMHS), geological surveys, regional specialised centres, and academic, research and scientific institutions should be supported to strengthen their capacities on risk assessment, observations, monitoring, analysis and forecasting of extreme climate events, as well as early warning, in order to improve the collection and provision of data and information and to make these available to affected populations to enhance their response capacity to natural hazards;
8. National meteorological and hydrological services (NMHS), geological surveys, specialised centres, and academic, research and scientific institutions should be integrated into national disaster management mechanisms, including national platforms, and their data and information used for development of policies, strategies and programmes;
9. Development and adoption of Disaster Risk Reduction subject areas into school curricula by national and local authorities should be encouraged, and networks to develop knowledge management (including of traditional knowledge) and capacities for Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa, should be strengthened and promoted;
10. Synergies between Disaster Risk Reduction and climate variability and change frameworks and processes should be forged and promoted at national, sub-regional and regional levels as part of

the Africa region's efforts in defining its position for global climate change negotiations, in particular for the forthcoming climate change meeting (COP15) in Copenhagen.

11. Social and economic development infrastructure should take into account climate-related hazards and associated risks in urban setting and cities, and the functioning of critical facilities, such as schools, hospitals and public transport, should be ensured through appropriate urban planning and management;
12. Africa should apply a regional readiness framework and become ready to manage global protracted disasters such as influenza pandemics through promoting preparedness at all levels, taking into consideration critical inter-sectoral dependencies.
13. United Nations agencies and development partners should provide strategic support to governments, and facilitate a holistic and coordinated approach to Disaster Risk Reduction;
14. The revised Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, extended to 2015, should be resourced and implemented by all stakeholders at local, national, sub-regional and regional levels in Africa.