

AFRICAN UNION

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World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

**2nd Session of the Intergovernmental
Preparatory Committee**

Statement of H.E. Amb Jean Marie EHOUZOU

**Permanent Observer of the African Union
Commission (AUC)**

17-18 November 2014

Geneva, Switzerland

**Co-Chairs,
Excellencies,
Heads of Delegations,
Distinguished Delegates and participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is an honour for the African Union Commission to participate in the 2nd Session of the Preparatory Committee of the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and we associate with the statement delivered by Namibia on behalf of the African Group.

We acknowledge and appreciate the efforts of the co-Chairs, members of the Bureau, and the Secretariat, UNISDR, for the production of the Zero draft Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction as well as the Government of Japan for its contribution to the draft Political Declaration.

Africa is a continent confronted by a broad range of hazards and related risks and disasters, which undermines its development. The AU Commission joins the AU Member States in making Africa a more disaster resilient continent. The AUC strongly urges that Africa's Contribution be fully reflected in the global Post-2015 Framework for DRR. In particular, we are expecting the Post-2015 Framework for DRR to give special consideration to the need for support through bilateral and multilateral channels for capacity building, financial and technical assistance, and technology transfer for Africa and other vulnerable Regions.

At the 5th Africa Regional Platform and 3rd High level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction held from 13-16 May 2014, Abuja, Nigeria, African States and other stakeholders came together and endorsed a concrete, forward looking, and action oriented Contribution. Africa's Contribution, in particular, recognizes the need and importance of institutional and policy strengthening, DRR and Climate Change integration and enhancement of DRR investments as key pillars. Furthermore, Africa expressed commitment 'to promoting a coordinated and mutually reinforcing approach to 'the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Change Agreements'.

We further recall the statements made by African States at the 1st Preparatory Committee meeting where they stressed the importance of increasing investments in DRR, including prevention and preparedness towards enhancing resilience. African countries also underscored the importance of strengthening early warning and response systems.

There was also a strong support to build on the experience gained over the last 9 years in order to achieve a practical and action-oriented outcome that strengthens accountability and takes into account emerging risks and associated disasters, such as EBOLA.

Excellencies,

As we move towards the adoption of a landmark Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction four months from now, let us not forget that a resilient world is not feasible without a resilient Africa, and thus the need for significant and efficient international cooperation which takes into account the specificities of each region is of paramount importance. In this regard, we recall the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR), as reaffirmed in the outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20).

We therefore seize this moment to renew our call to all Partners and 'Friends of Africa' to support the most vulnerable continent to Climate Change and other Natural and Human induced disasters, in its effort to reduce risks and strengthen resilience, thereby ensuring sustainable development on the Continent.

Thank you for your kind attention.