



**Name of Event: [Preparatory Event] African Group on Disaster Risk Reduction**

**Date of Event: May 9, 2011**

**1) Outline**

The meeting of the Africa delegations at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Platform was chaired by Mr. Koffi Portuphy, National Coordinator of the National Disaster Management Organization (Ghana) and Chairman of the elected Bureau of the 2<sup>nd</sup> African Ministerial Conference on DRR accompanied by Her Excellency Mme Rhoda Peace, AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, and Dr Perdo Basabe, Head of the UNISDR Regional Office for Africa.

The objective of the meeting was to:

- Inform African delegations about the approval by the Heads of State at the AU Summit held in January 2011 of the extended Programme of Action (2006-2015) and its implementation process.
- Inform delegations on the reconstitution of the African Working Group on DRR (AWGDRR), its Terms of Reference and Modus Operandi.
- Discuss and approve the Africa Report to the 3rd Session of the Global Platform, and designate a dignitary to present the Africa Report to the Plenary.

**2) Key messages, outcomes, recommendations**

*Outcomes*

- The Executive Council of the African Union (AU) has approved the report of the Second African Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) during the 16th African Union Summit held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 25-31 January, which includes the substantive Ministerial Declaration and the Programme of Action until 2015.

- In order to implement the 2nd Ministerial Declaration and the Decision of the Summit, the African Union Commission in collaboration with UNISDR Africa have organized a meeting, in March 2011, in Nairobi, to reconstitute the Africa Working Group on DRR (AWGDRR). The terms of reference of the AWG were presented and discussed during the meeting as well as its modus operandi and the composition.
- The Report informing about Africa's progress on the implementation of the HFA and the Regional Strategy and its Programme of Action was discussed and some amendments were proposed as indicated in item 2.2..
- The terms of reference of the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction were discussed and adopted with minor modifications.

### *Recommendations*

- Need to focus on implementation of the Africa DRR frameworks
- Focus on reducing vulnerability as the key challenge in building community resilience and capacity
- Strong links between disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and achievement of the Millennium Development goals need to be emphasized.
- Greater advocacy for disaster risk reduction to be mainstreamed into development policies and programmes
- Lobby for disaster risk reduction to be part of on-going discussions of related policies and programmes in Executive Council of the African Union
- There must be enhanced efforts at resource mobilization for the implementation of disaster risk reduction with stronger appeals to donors and international finance institutions to allocate more resources for financing disaster risk reduction in Africa.
- The Africa Working Group must be operationalized have a key role in resource mobilization.
- Develop and strengthen partnerships for the implementation of disaster risk reduction in Africa
- Greater investment in science, technology and education as pillars for disaster risk reduction and management.

- Acknowledgement that Universities and higher education institutions are increasingly organized into consortiums for capacity building for disaster risk reduction and they need to be involved more in regional, sub-regional and local institutions

### **3) Conclusions**

- The report of the Africa Working Group to the Third Session of the Global Platform was reviewed and adopted.
- Terms of Reference of the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction were adopted
- The AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, Mme Tumusiime Rhoda Peace, was designated to represent the African Continent and present the Africa Report to the 3rd Session Global Platform to the plenary.