

8th Session of Africa Working Group (Core) for Disaster Risk Reduction

● African Union Commission, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia ● 16-17 February 2016 ●

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Members of the Africa Working Group for Disaster Risk Reduction (Core), including governments, regional economic communities, development partners including donors, United Nations, Non-Governmental Organisations, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, academic institutions, and other international organisations, met at the 8th Session of the Africa Working Group to define a roadmap for implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa and the alignment of the Africa Programme of Action with the Sendai Framework. The meeting was chaired by the African Union Commission; the IGAD Secretariat acted as the vice-chair and UNISDR acted as the Secretariat.

Members highlighted the importance of implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa particularly in light of the continued spate of disasters on the continent, including those recently induced by El Nino. Members recognised that the series of post-2015 agreements provide a unique opportunity to Africa to bring together international frameworks through the lens of disaster risk reduction for resilience.

Members agreed on the following strategic areas of action for strengthened implementation of disaster risk reduction in Africa:

1. While key achievements on policy and institutional frameworks on disaster risk reduction have been made, severe capacity and resources challenges have been recognised. Resource mobilisation and capacity building efforts should be enhanced for risk knowledge, including through assessing key capacity gaps and specific capacity needs.

2. Members called for increased sharing of information and good practices to ensure synergies on policies and strategic frameworks from global (Sendai Framework) to continental, regional, national and local levels.
3. The cooperation between disaster risk reduction and climate change communities is essential for increased and coherent application of risk information, leading to coordination in implementation and coherent early warning systems and consequent early action. Local and indigenous knowledge provides a valid basis to enable this integration.
4. Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into education curricula at all levels is an important component of understanding risk. Partnerships with universities and academic and research cooperation should be encouraged.
5. Efforts to establish an African Centre of Excellence on disaster risk reduction for research and capacity development will be undertaken and defined in line with the existing discussion in the previous sessions of the Africa Working Group and African Union policy organs.
6. The European Union-funded programme entitled '*Building Disaster Resilience to Natural Hazards in Sub-Saharan African Regions, Countries and Communities*' as part of cooperation with the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, was recognised as a key instrument to ensure implementation of several recommendations and actions. The African Union Commission will ensure coordination among the implementing partners and other development actors.

7. Implementing Sendai Framework in Africa:

Members deliberated on the Sendai Framework Priorities for Action and their key strategic intervention areas as endorsed by the Yaoundé Declaration. The deliberation resulted in draft activities, expected results and responsible institutions for implementation (Annexed). It was agreed that the draft activities, results and implementing institutions will be further consolidated by the African Union Commission and presented at the 9th Session of the Africa Working Group (Extended), tentatively scheduled for August 2016 and adopted at the 6th Session of the Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Done this day 17th of February 2016 in Addis Ababa