

DECLARATION OF THE SEVENTH HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

NAIROBI, KENYA, 19 NOVEMBER 2021

Distr. General
19 November 2021
English
Original: English

Nairobi Declaration on accelerating the path to achieving the goals and targets of the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations responsible for Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa having met in Nairobi, Republic of Kenya on 19 November 2021 on the occasion of the Seventh High-Level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction, which was preceded by the Eighth Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, 16-18 November 2021 on the theme, “*Towards disaster risk-informed development for a resilient Africa in a COVID-19 Transformed World*”:

Express appreciation to the Government and the People of the Republic of Kenya for hosting these events and for the hospitality and warm welcome accorded to the Delegates;

Further appreciate the efforts made and the support provided by the African Union Commission, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction to organize the Eighth Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Seventh High-level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction;

Recognize with deep concern the continuing negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Africa’s social and economic development, including the disproportionate impact on women, and **welcome** the efforts being made across the continent to respond to and recover from the pandemic;

Further appreciate Member States and Regional Economic Communities for their continued efforts to implement priorities and decisions in the Tunis Declaration and in the *Africa Common Position to the 2019 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction*, while the continent continues to grapple with the COVID-19 crisis;

Further recognize the systemic nature of risk, illustrated by interconnected and simultaneous disasters and their cascading and devastating impacts, including loss of lives

and livelihoods, damage to infrastructure, and displacement, exacerbated by COVID-19, climate change, environmental degradation, unplanned and rapid urbanization, poverty, inequality and conflict, including disproportionate vulnerability and exposure on women and girls, all of which undermine efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want;

Express deep concern on the growing severity and frequency of climate related disasters and the increasing vulnerabilities of Member States, especially Small Island Developing States to such disasters and the resulting negative effects on their economies and development;

Recall the decision of the African Union Executive Council at its 30th Ordinary Session, January 2017 [EX.CL/Dec.943 (XXX)], endorsing the *Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa* (Programme of Action), and the *Mauritius Declaration on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa*; and the *Ministerial Declaration on the Specialized Session of African Ministers of Environment and Natural Resources on the Challenges and Opportunities presented by the COVID-19 pandemic* (13 November 2020);

Further recall the decision of the 3rd Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment of the African Union [STC3/ARDWE/MIN], endorsing the *Tunis Declaration on accelerating the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030* and the *Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction*; and **urging** the African Union Commission to accelerate the establishment of a continental system for multi-hazard, impact-based and inclusive early warning and preparedness for natural hazards;

Commend the African Union Commission for its support and leadership in translating priorities and decisions contained in the Tunis Declaration and in the *Africa Common Position to the 2019 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction*, including institutionalization of Disaster Risk Reduction in its regular organizational structure, the development and launch of the *Biennial Report on the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa*, strengthening capacities for early warning and early action, as well as the establishment and operationalization of the Africa Science and Technology Advisory Group and a Youth Advisory Board on Disaster Risk Reduction;

Appreciate the role of stakeholders, including Parliamentarians, the Civil Society Organizations, Media, Academia, Youth, Women, Private Sector, Local Authorities and Communities in supporting and implementing the Sendai Framework, as well as regional, sub-regional, national, and local disaster risk reduction programmes and plans;

Further appreciate the work being carried out by the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction in coordinating and guiding the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action across the continent, including the revision of the Implementation of the Matrix of the Programme of Action (2021-2025);

Note the importance of ensuring coherence among global, regional, sub-regional, national and sub-national disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development actions; and the need to ensure national development strategies and adaptation plans reflect disaster risk reduction;

Stress the important role of regional, sub-regional, national and sub-national disaster risk reduction platforms and institutions in coherently implementing, monitoring and reporting progress on the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action;

Further stress the importance of the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action in providing guidance to sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery from disasters, including COVID-19 across the continent, as well as identifying and addressing underlying drivers of disaster risk in a systematic manner;

Recognize the role of the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and Climate Change and Development in Africa Conference in promoting integrated actions for disaster risk reduction and in ensuring risk-informed interventions in implementing Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063;

Further recognize the partnership between the African Union Commission, Inter Governmental Authority on Development, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, World Meteorological Organization and other Development Partners to launch and operationalize the continental programme for the implementation of the *Africa Road Map for Improving the Availability, Access and Use of Disaster Risk Information for Early Warning and Early Action, including in the Context of Transboundary Risk Management*;

Appreciate the support provided by the Governments of Germany, Italy, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom, the European Union, and the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems initiative, as well as other Development Partners, United Nations agencies, and international and regional financial institutions to implement the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action for the implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa in coherence with climate change, sustainable development, and other related actions for resilience;

Further appreciate the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction for its continued support, in partnership with the African Union Commission, in capacity building, including development of tools and guiding documents such as the Sendai Framework Monitor (including the regional module), as well as development, implementation, monitoring, and review of progress of disaster risk reduction strategies and plans at all levels;

Welcome the launch of Making Cities Resilient 2030 as a successor of the Making Cities Resilient Campaign to facilitate the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action at the local level;

Acknowledge the support being provided by the United Nations Development Programme and other partners to develop the COVID-19 Recovery Framework for Africa under the leadership of the African Union Commission;

Aware of the UN General Assembly resolution 75/216 of 21 December 2020 on holding “a midterm review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework in 2023 to assess progress on integrating disaster risk reduction into policies, programmes and investments at all levels, identify good practice, gaps and challenges and accelerate the path to achieving the goal of the Sendai Framework and its seven global targets by 2030”;

Mindful of the outcomes of the COP-26 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Glasgow, United Kingdom and **concerned** about the continued

insufficient finance for adaptation to climate change including the increasing severity and frequency of climate change induced disasters particularly in Africa and Small Island Developing States;

Declare our determination to deliver on our commitments to the implementation of the Sendai Framework, the Programme of Action, the *Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction*, as well as sub-regional and national strategies and plans of action for disaster risk reduction as key instruments for the realization of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want; and

Hereby:

1. **Adopt** the *Matrix of the Programme of Action (2021-2025)* to implement the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa*;
2. **Further adopt** the *Africa Framework for Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems and Early Action*;
3. **Call upon** Member States, Regional Economic Communities, Local Authorities, the Private Sector, Academia, Civil Society Organizations, Development Partners and other stakeholders to support the rollout and implementation of the *Matrix of the Programme of Action (2021-2025)*, as well as the *Africa Framework for Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems and Early Action* across the continent;
4. **Further call upon** the United Nations and other international and regional organisations, international and regional financial institutions to consider the matrix of the Programme of Action, as well as the *Africa Framework for Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems and Early Action* in multilateral and bilateral development assistance programmes;
5. **Request** the African Union Commission to continue to regularly prepare the *Biennial Report on the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa*;
6. **Further request** Member States, Regional Economic Communities, Local Authorities, the Private Sector, Academia, Civil Society Organizations, Development Partners and other stakeholders to support the development and implementation of disaster risk-informed, inclusive, holistic and gender-sensitive strategies, programmes and plans of action at all levels;
7. **Call for** Member States and Regional Economic Communities to increase the annual budgetary allocation, as well as establish innovative financing solutions, including by participating in the Africa Risk Capacity's innovative risk pooling mechanism, for the implementation of gender sensitive and inclusive disaster risk reduction strategies, programmes and plans of action, in coherence with climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, combating desertification and sustainable development actions and Great Green Wall initiative at all levels;
8. **Call upon** Regional Economic Communities, the African Union Commission, United Nations organizations, Parliamentarians, the Private Sector, Academia, Civil Society Organizations, Development Partners and other stakeholders to strengthen capacity for resource mobilization, implementation and mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into planning, budgeting, monitoring and reporting processes;

9. **Reiterate** the need for scaling up investments in nature-based solutions for disaster risk reduction, climate action and supporting sustainable land and biodiversity management, as well as ensuring the early and full implementation of the African Union Green Recovery Action Plan and the Africa Green Stimulus programme as key instruments for building resilience;
10. **Reiterate** the need for Member States to ensure stronger partnerships between institutions responsible for disaster risk reduction, environmental management, climate change action, planning and finance and other sectors to ensure a coherent, integrated and a whole-of-society approach to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation at all levels;
11. **Urge** Regional Economic Communities, the African Union Commission, the Private Sector, Academia, Civil Society Organizations, Development Partners and other stakeholders to strengthen the capacity of Member States to better prepare for, respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic; and consider disaster risk reduction in the overall COVID-19 response, recovery plans and mechanisms for resilience;
12. **Request** Member States, Regional Economic Communities, the African Union Commission, the Private Sector, and Development Partners to strengthen financial and technical support to use the existing Sendai Framework Monitor system for monitoring and reporting on progress in achieving all targets of the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action;
13. **Urge** Member States to ensure the development and use of multi-hazard and multi-sectoral risk assessments, collection and analysis of disaster loss data disaggregated, where relevant, by income, age, gender, disability, and geographical location, as well as putting in place a mechanism for the exchange of disaster related data between institutions responsible for disaster risk reduction and management and other relevant sectors;
14. **Call upon** the African Union Commission, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and other partners to support the integration of disaster risk reduction and the Sendai Framework Monitor into the African Peer Review Mechanism processes, methodology and questionnaire to facilitate the assessment of Member States' resilience, including the commitment to avail experts, as well as strengthen their capacities and mechanisms to effectively prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters, including COVID-19;
15. **Encourage** Member States to ensure the development and implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks that are risk-informed and aligned to the national development plans to support their efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals and the goals of Agenda 2063;
16. **Further encourage** the adoption of a whole-of-society approach that integrates women, children and youth, local communities, the elderly, people with disabilities, displaced people, and other people in vulnerable situations, as well as considers indigenous and local knowledge systems and practices, age and cultural perspectives into the design and implementation of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation strategies and plans;

- 17. Urge** Member States to establish strong risk governance systems supported by regulatory and legal frameworks to buttress the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Africa Programme of Action at all levels;
- 18. Further urge** Member States and Regional Economic Communities to actively participate in and follow-up on the outcomes of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and the Climate Change and Development in Africa Conference to strengthen the integration of disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development actions, as well as consideration of disaster risk reduction in Voluntary National Reviews and Sub-National Voluntary Reviews;
- 19. Call upon** the African Union Commission, United Nations organizations, especially the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, World Meteorological Organization and United Nations Development Programme and other Development Partners to continue to strengthen their support to Member States and Regional Economic Communities through the provision of guidance, tools and technical assistance, and by facilitating the exchange of experiences, including for the strengthening of the multi-hazard and impact-based early warning systems for early action and for effective transboundary risk management;
- 20. Urge** Member States, Regional Economic Communities, Regional Climate Centers, the African Union Commission, the Private Sector, Academia, Civil Society Organizations, Development Partners and other stakeholders to strengthen hydrological and meteorological systems and improve weather and climate information generation and outreach, for effective early warning and early action, and transboundary risk management at all levels;
- 21. Call upon** Member States, Regional Economic Communities and the African Union Commission to consider disaster-induced displacement in regional, sub-regional, national, and local levels and integrate disaster risk reduction, climate change and development strategies and plans to reduce and prevent the risk of disaster displacement, and thus build the resilience of displaced people and host communities;
- 22. Further call upon** Member States and other stakeholders to actively participate in and contribute through inclusive and evidence-based processes to the Mid-term Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa;
- 23. Request** Member States, Regional Economic Communities, the African Union Commission and Development Partners to strengthen support to the African Science and Technology Advisory Group, as well as the Youth Advisory Board on Disaster Risk Reduction as key instruments contributing to the realization of the outcomes of the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action;
- 24. Call upon** the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, other United Nations organizations and Development Partners to strengthen partnerships and cooperation through enhancing regional, sub-regional and national coordination mechanisms, as well as North-South, South-South, and Triangular cooperation in support of the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action at all levels;

- 25. Request** the African Union Commission to accelerate the development of the COVID-19 Recovery Framework for Africa for consideration and adoption by the 4th Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment; and **urge** Member States, Regional Economic Communities and other stakeholders to support the process;
- 26. Mandate** the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction to coordinate the development of the Africa Position to the 2022 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction; and ensure that these processes are inclusive, participatory and Member States driven;
- 27. Request** the Government of the Republic of Kenya, as the Chair of the Eighth Africa Regional Platform and the Seventh High-Level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction, to submit the Nairobi Declaration to the African Union Policy organ for endorsement and advocate for the follow-up and implementation of this Declaration.

Done on this day, the 19th of November 2021 in Nairobi