FIFTH AFRICA REGIONAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

◻ PREVENT RISK: BUILD RESILIENCE ◻

● ABUJA (NIGERIA) ● 13 – 16 MAY 2014 ●

Communiqué

At the last World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2005, governments committed to reducing disaster losses through adoption of the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (HFA)*. As this global framework nears its conclusion, the United Nations General Assembly (Resolution A/RES/66/199), has requested UNISDR, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, to coordinate the development of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. Based on consultations with all stakeholders, including at online, local, national, regional and global levels, and complemented by national HFA reports, findings of regional and global assessment reports and several stakeholder reports, UNISDR has proposed some consolidated elements to guide and pave the way towards the next global framework (www.preventionweb.net/posthfa/proposed-elements).

As the secretariat of the Third World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (Sendai, Japan, 14-18 March 2015), UNISDR is coordinating the preparatory activities in consultation with relevant stakeholders. To develop the Africa contribution to the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, under the leadership of the African Union Commission, the Fifth Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (AfRP) is being organised at Abuja, Nigeria, 13 - 16 May 2014.

Besides the AfRP, the Africa contribution to the post-2015 framework has been evolving through a series of consultations at various levels, including at national, sub-regional and regional levels, a roundtable at the Fourth Africa Regional Platform (Arusha, Tanzania, February 2013), Africa Consultation and Position presented by the African Union Commission at the Fourth Global Platform (Geneva, Switzerland, May 2013) and a Consultative Meeting on post-2015 framework (Nairobi, Kenya, November 2013) that resulted in a draft Africa contribution paper on post-2015 framework, in the form of a Summary Statement. The draft position paper will be refined at the biennial Africa Working Group (Abuja, Nigeria, 11-12 March 2014), ready to be discussed and adopted through a ministerial declaration at the AfRP.

The proposed themes, strategic goals and outcomes of the AfRP are summarised in this diagram.

THEMES AND OUTCOMES OF AFRICA REGIONAL PLATFORM*

PROPOSED THEMES
- Regional risk factors
- Integration of DRR and Climate Change Adaptation
- Investment in disaster risk reduction

PROPOSED STRATEGIC GOALS
- **Risk Prevention** (Prospective and anticipatory risk management)
- **Risk Reduction** (Corrective risk management)
- **Strengthened resilience**

SHAPING THE FUTURE: PROPOSED OUTCOMES
1. Africa position on a post-2015 framework for DRR and associated monitoring system
2. Ministerial Declaration
3. Voluntary stakeholder commitments

* These proposed themes and outcomes are a result of the above mentioned consultations. Delegates at AfRP will further recommend priorities for the post-2015 framework.

PROPOSED OUTCOMES:

1. Africa contribution to the post-2015 framework and Monitoring and Review

Consultations have proposed that Africa contribution to the post-2015 framework on disaster risk reduction should build on the experience gained from the last nine years of HFA implementation, be practical and action-oriented, strengthen accountability, be relatively short, and capable of addressing future natural hazards and technological risks.

Resulting from this consultative process, the proposed content of HFA-2 is:

a. Reaffirmation and/or enhancement of parts of HFA
b. New areas and elements not present in HFA
c. A monitoring mechanism based on an enhanced system of targets and indicators, including on financing
d. Elements of UNISDR's role in facilitation and coordination of the post-2015 framework

To strengthen the review process and to enable cross-fertilisation between review mechanisms for DRR and development goals, governments and stakeholders should emphasise the inclusion of DRR review in the High Level Political Forum, the intergovernmental forum on sustainable development.

2. Ministerial Declaration

To formalise and strengthen the finalisation of the Africa Position on HFA-2, ministers and/or their delegates from participating African countries will adopt a Declaration on HFA-2. The Declaration will be a key instrument to frame the overall outcome of the AfRP, including validation of HFA-2 core elements. The results of consultations before and during the Platform and stakeholder commitments will be used to build the Declaration.

The Declaration, together with the Africa contribution to the post-2015 framework and stakeholder commitments will be submitted to the Preparatory Committee of the World Conference (first meeting, Geneva, Switzerland, 14-15 July 2014) and to the African Union Summit for endorsement.

3. Stakeholder Commitments

Stakeholder commitments are the expression of voluntary commitments by all stakeholder groups participating at the AfRP. The voluntary commitments will be compiled and recognised as part of the overall outcome of the AfRP and, in particular, the Declaration, recognising their value in guiding implementation and cooperation.

Existing commitment frameworks like the 'Ten Essentials for Making Cities Resilient' and the 'Five Essentials for Business in Disaster Risk Reduction' could be used as guides for developing stakeholder commitments. These can be summarised as:

Ten Essentials for City Resilience

1. Put in place organisation and coordination to understand and reduce disaster risk.
2. Assign budget for DRR and provide incentives for stakeholders on DRR investments.
3. Conduct risk assessments and maintain up-to-date accessible data on disaster risks.
4. Invest in and maintain critical infrastructure that reduces risk.
5. Assess the safety of all schools and health facilities and upgrade these as necessary.
6. Apply and enforce building regulations and land use planning principles.
7. Ensure that DRR is integrated in curricula and DRR training is available for schools and local communities.
8. Protect ecosystems and adapt to climate change building on good DRR practices.
9. Install early warning systems and emergency management capacities.
10. Ensure that the needs of the affected population are placed at the centre of reconstruction.

Five Essentials for Business in DRR

1. Promote and develop public-private partnerships for DRR
2. Leverage sectorial private sector expertise and strengths
3. Foster collaborative exchange and dissemination of data.
4. Support risk assessments and socio-economic cost-benefit analyses and capacity-building
5. Support laws, regulations, policies and programmes that enhance DRR and improve resilience.

For all background documents and registration, visit: www.preventionweb.net/afrp/2014 . Contact isdr.afrp@unisdr.unon.org.