

## 12TH SESSION OF THE AFRICA WORKING GROUP ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION [CORE]

• BAHIR DAR (ETHIOPIA) • 13-14 MARCH 2018 •

### Concept Note [Draft]

#### BACKGROUND

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) continues to gain momentum and recognition in Africa for its contribution towards achieving the Agenda 2063 -The Africa We Want and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development across the African Continent. Efforts are being made, under the leadership of the Africa Union Commission (AUC) and with support from the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction (AWGDRR), to popularize, domesticate and implement the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa (PoA) at all levels. Regularly tracking progress in the implementation of the PoA has been and remains top of the agenda of the AWGDRR. Consequently, AUC is developing a monitoring and reporting system to track progress the continent is making in implementing the PoA and Sendai Framework. The reporting and monitoring system builds on existing reporting systems on the continent and takes into account the Sendai Framework Monitoring system.

At 11<sup>th</sup> Session of AWGDRR, priority activities to accelerate the implementation of the PoA and Sendai Framework in line with the Africa Regional Strategy for DRR were identified for the period 2017/18 - 2020. While identifying priority activities, due attention was given to the achievement of target (e)<sup>1</sup> of the Sendai

Framework (and the PoA). This exercise was critical not only for reorienting the AWGDRR to focus primarily on the implementation of the PoA, but also for providing substantive input to the development of an operational plan for the implementation of the PoA.

A key achievement since the last session of the AWGDRR is reaching an agreement with the Republic of Tunisia to host the 2018 Africa Regional Platform and High-Level Meeting on DRR. An activity checklist was developed jointly by the Host Government, AUC and UNISDR to successfully prepare for the two events. The League of Arab States was also involved in the process given that the Government of the Republic of Tunisia will also host the 4<sup>th</sup> Arab States Regional Platform and High-level meeting on DRR. The two events will be organized as part of the Arab-Africa Platform and High-Level Meeting on DRR

#### THE AFRICA WORKING GROUP ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Reconstituted following the request of the Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (Nairobi, April 2010), the AWG has been playing an important role in providing technical support to the African Union Commission, Regional Economic Communities, Member States and partners for the coordination and implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and its Programme of Action.

The Group meets biannually wherein the Core Group and Extended Group meet

<sup>1</sup> Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020;

alternatively. Eleven such sessions of the AWG have been convened so far.

The Twelfth session of AWGDRR will evaluate progress made in the implementation of action points agreed at the Eleventh session, including the development of the PoA implementation plan by AUC based on priorities identified at the 11th AWG and its validation, besides critically reviewing regional progress in DRR. More importantly, the AWGDRR will review the draft agenda for the 2018 Africa-Arab Platform and High-Level Meeting on DRR, which also includes the Africa Regional Platform and High-Level Meeting on DRR. In addition, the AWG will get briefings from AUC on the PoA monitoring and reporting system as well as on the African Union theme for 2018 (Project 2018), **“Winning the Fight Against Corruption: A Sustainable Path to Africa’s Transformation”** and the expected role of the AWGDRR in its implementation. Further, UNISDR will orient the AWGDRR members on the Sendai Framework Monitoring System as well as the PreventionWeb. The Group will also have the opportunity to learn from the experience of the Republic of the Gambia in the application of the Sendai Framework Monitoring System at the national level.

#### **OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOME OF 12<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE AWGDRR**

Specific objectives and expected outcomes of the Twelfth Session of the AWGDRR are as follows:

##### **OBJECTIVES**

1. To review progress of the implementation of agreed action points from the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of AWGDRR, 26-27 September 2017, Mombasa, Kenya
2. To evaluate regional progress in disaster risk reduction in the context of the Sendai Framework and the PoA;
3. To brief the AWGDRR on the AU theme for 2018 and its expected role in its implementation;
4. To familiarize the AWGDRR with the PoA monitoring framework developed by AUC; and orient them on the Sendai Framework Monitoring System; and
5. To review draft programme for the 2018 Africa-Arab Platform and High-level Meeting on DRR as well as status of preparation.

##### **OUTCOMES**

1. Key recommendations/follow-up actions to advance the implementation of Sendai Framework and the PoA across the continent;
2. Commitment to support and contribute to the implementation of the AU theme for 2018; and
3. Familiarization with the PoA as well as the Sendai Framework monitoring systems; and
4. Substantive inputs to finalize the Programme for the 2018 Africa-Arab Platform and High-level Meeting on DRR.

##### **VENUE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

The Twelfth Session of the AWGDRR (Core) will be hosted by AUC. The meeting will take place on 13 and 15 March 2018 in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia. The meeting will be chaired by the African Union Commission while UNISDR will act as the secretariat.

The AUC will provide additional logistic information and manage travel arrangements for sponsored delegates. UNISDR, as secretariat to the AWG, will provide technical and documentation support and other information in liaison with AUC.

For any additional information, please contact AUC (Mr Diane Aboubakar at [DianeA@africa-union.org](mailto:DianeA@africa-union.org)) or UNISDR (Mr Mathewos Hunde Tulu at [mathewos.tulu@un.org](mailto:mathewos.tulu@un.org)).