

AFRICA REGIONAL  
PLATFORM FOR  
DISASTER RISK  
REDUCTION



NAMIBIA  
21-24 OCTOBER  
2024

ACT NOW  
FOR THE  
RESILIENT  
AFRICA WE  
WANT

# DECLARATION OF THE EIGHTH HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA, 24 OCTOBER 2024

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## Windhoek Declaration on advancing 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 Windhoek, Republic of Namibia on 24 October 2024 on the occasion of the Eighth High-Level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction, which was preceded by the Ninth Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction on 22 and 23 October 2024 under the theme “Act Now for the Resilient Africa We Want”.

**Express appreciation** to the Government and people of the Republic of Namibia for hosting these events and for the hospitality and warm welcome accorded to the Delegates;

**Further appreciate** the African Union Commission and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) for organizing these events with the support of the Southern African Development Community;

**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);

**Further recall** the adoption of the Nairobi Declaration on accelerating the path to achieving the goal and targets of the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa by African Ministers and Heads of Delegations responsible for disaster risk reduction in Africa at the seventh High-level meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction on 19 November 2021 in Nairobi, Kenya;

**Appreciate** the efforts of Member States, Regional Economic Communities and non-governmental stakeholders and the support of the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction to implement priorities and decisions of the Nairobi Declaration as well as the Africa Common Position to the 2022 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction;

**Commend** the African Union Commission for its leadership in translating priorities and decisions in the Nairobi Declaration and in the Africa Common Position to the 2022 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction;

**Recall** the decision of the African Union Executive Council at its 40th Ordinary Session, February 2022 [EX.CL/Dec.1143-1167(XL)], endorsing the Africa Framework for Multi-

Hazard Early Warning and Early Action System (AMHEWAS) and its Delivery Programme 2022-2030; and **welcome** the launch of the Early Warnings for All initiative by the United Nations Secretary-General at COP 27 in Egypt, and the Multi-Hazard Early Warnings for All in Africa Action Plan (2023-2027), which support the implementation of AMHEWAS; **Welcome** the adoption of the Political Declaration of the high-level meeting on the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 by the United Nations General Assembly in May 2023;

**Also welcome** the outcomes of the African Leaders Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change and Call to Action of the First Africa Climate Summit, 4-6 September 2023, Nairobi, Kenya;

**Further welcome** the outcomes of the Twenty-Seventh and Twenty-Eighth Sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27 and COP 28), Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt 6-18 November 2022 and Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 30 November-13 December 2023 respectively; and **take note of** the agreement at COP 28 to operationalize the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage launched at COP 27;

**Acknowledge** the outcomes of the Tenth Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, 23-25 April 2024, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Sixth African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology, 16-17 May 2024, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; the SADC Extra-ordinary Heads of State and Government Summit on El-Nino-induced drought and floods, 20 May 2024; Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS), 27-30 May 2024, Antigua and Barbuda; First Africa Urban Forum (AUF), 04–06 September 2024, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; the Least Developed Countries Strategy and Ministerial Meeting, 26-28 August 2024, Lilongwe, Malawi; Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa, 30 August-2 September 2024; the Lilongwe Declaration on Climate and Tenth Special Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment, 3-6 September 2024, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire; and First Africa Multi-Stakeholder Forum for Early Warnings for All, 21 October 2024, Windhoek, Namibia;

**Further acknowledge** the adoption of the Pact for the Future, along with its annexes, including the Declaration for Future Generations and the Global Digital Compact, by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2024, and note that the implementation of the Programme of Action is critical to realise the Pact for the Future's implementation in Africa;

**Express deep concern** on the growing severity and frequency of weather and climate extremes-related disasters, particularly those triggered by El Niño Southern Oscillation events; especially in Small Island Developing States, Landlocked Developing Countries and Least Developed Countries;

**Mindful of** the recent State of the Climate in Africa 2023 report, which shows that, on average, African countries are losing 2 - 5% of GDP and many are diverting up to 9% of their budgets responding to climate extremes;

**Recognize the significant impact** that weather and climate extreme events triggered by El Niño Southern Oscillation have on the African continent, especially on agriculture and food security and on the most at-risk communities, and the urgent need to invest more in observational networks and prediction tools, disaster risk reduction, preparedness, early warning and early action, resilient recovery and building back better and anticipatory action through prearranged and scaling up climate adaptation finance in particular in the most affected countries;

**Recognize** the systemic nature of risk, illustrated by climate and human-induced, interconnected and simultaneous disasters and their cascading and devastating impacts undermining the efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want;

**Further recognize** the declaration of Mpox outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of Continental Security by the Africa Centres for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC) and a Public Health Emergency of International Concern by the World Health Organization (WHO) in August 2024; and **appreciate** the efforts by the Africa CDC and the support from the WHO to strengthen and accelerate the response to the ongoing Mpox outbreak and cases of Malburg Virus outbreak in Africa;

**Acknowledge** the leadership of the African Union Commission in implementing the Early Warnings for All in Africa Action Plan (2023–2027) with support of the United Nations system and other partners across the continent;

**Aware of** the significant financing gap for implementing Disaster Risk Reduction and management, including response and recovery priorities and AMHEWAS Programme;

**Also aware of** the needs of the African Member States to establish Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action Situation Rooms for coordinating, monitoring and informing on the potential occurrence of disaster events and their associated impacts, in order to facilitate disaster preparedness, response and recovery activities and anticipatory action;

**Appreciate** the role of stakeholders, including Parliamentarians, Civil Society Organizations, Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Scientific Community, Media, Academia, Youth, Women, Persons with Disabilities, Private Sector, Local Authorities and Communities in supporting and implementing the Programme of Action at all levels; and the efforts of the African Risk Capacity in supporting Member States to strengthen risk financing mechanisms;

**Stress** the importance of ensuring synergies and coherence between the implementation of disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action, humanitarian, development and climate change actions at all levels including in the context of the Humanitarian-Peace-Development nexus **Mindful of** the outcome of the first global stocktake under the Paris Agreement and the need for urgent climate action ambition to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement; and concerned about inadequate provision of means of implementation from developed countries for climate change adaptation and resilience building;

**Welcome** the launch of the Africa Urban Resilience Programme, which together with Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) can significantly contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action in urban areas;

**Take note of** the Comprehensive School Safety Framework 2022-2030 developed by Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education sector;

**Further welcome** the launch of the UNDRR Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies (ARISE) and the Sendai Gender Action Plan to support implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030;

**Appreciate** the support provided by African governments, development partners, United Nations system, and international and regional financial institutions to implement the Programme of Action;

**Declare** our determination to deliver on our commitments to the implementation of 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 Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want;

**Hereby:**

- 1. Call upon** Member States, with support from Regional Economic Communities, the African Union Commission and the United Nations system and development partners to mobilize resources to advance the implementation of the AMHEWAS Programme, including the establishment of situation rooms;
- 2. Also call upon** Member States, with support from Regional Economic Communities, the African Union Commission and the United Nations system and development partners, , to build on existing initiatives and ensure country-driven implementation of the Early Warnings for All in Africa Action Plan (2023–2027) in support of the AMHEWAS, including in fragile and conflict affected situations;
- 3. Reiterate the call to** Member States, Regional Economic Communities, the African Union Commission, Regional Climate Centres and Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres, to develop capacity and scale up investment in national Hydrological and Meteorological Systems for improved weather and climate information generation and service delivery for effective early warning, anticipatory action and transboundary risk management at all levels and recognise the critical role of National Hydrological and Meteorological (NHMSs) in providing warnings and alerts on weather, climate and water;
- 4. Encourage** Member States, Regional Economic Communities, United Nations and other international and regional organisations and financial institutions to mainstream Disaster Risk Deduction in development programmes in all sectors;
- 5. 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 coherent,

risk-informed, people-centred, inclusive, holistic and gender-responsive and disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction laws, indigenous and local knowledge systems and practices, policies, strategies and programmes;

6. **Reiterate the call to** Member States to increase the annual public budgetary allocation and expenditure, and establish innovative financing solutions, including at the local level; and galvanize private sector investments to accelerate the implementation of the Programme of Action;
7. **Call upon** the African Union Commission and Regional Economic Communities and development partners to strengthen capacity of Member States to access international financing facilities;
8. **Urge** Member States and Regional Economic Communities to design and implement sustainable and inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction strategies and recovery mechanisms;
9. **Call upon** Member States, local authorities, and partners to implement the Africa Urban Resilience Programme (AURP), leveraging the Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) initiative and implement the outcomes of the first Africa Urban Forum; and call for the alignment of the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the World Urban Forum (WUF12) to be held in Cairo, Egypt from 4 to 8 November 2024 with the outcomes of the First Africa Urban Forum;
10. **Encourage** Member States to conduct disaster risk assessment and stress testing of critical infrastructure systems to ensure that infrastructure plans are risk-proof and aligned to national and local Disaster Risk Reduction strategies and risk assessments; **Further encourage** Member States to ensure stronger partnerships between institutions responsible for Disaster Risk Reduction and management displacement, environmental management and climate change action , planning and finance to promote comprehensive risk management approach at all levels;
11. **Reiterate the call to** Member States and Regional Economic Communities to actively participate in and follow-up on the outcomes of the Africa Regional Forum (ARFSD) on Sustainable Development and the Climate Change and Development in Africa Conference; and make disaster risk reduction an integral part of Voluntary National Reviews and Sub-National Voluntary Reviews of ARFSD;
12. **Urge** African Union Commission and Regional Economic Communities, the private sector, academia, civil society organizations, development partners and other stakeholders to support the capacity development of Member States to better anticipate, prepare for, act early, respond to and recover from the Mpox and Marburg outbreak; and consider Disaster Risk Reduction in the overall Mpox and Marburg recovery plans and in policies, plans and strategies for epidemic and pandemic prevention and resilience health systems;
13. **Request** the African Union Commission, Regional Economic Communities United Nations system and development partners to strengthen the capacity of Member States to leverage the Monitoring and Reporting Framework for the Programme of

Action and Sendai Framework Monitor system in monitoring and reporting of progress toward achieving all targets of the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action;

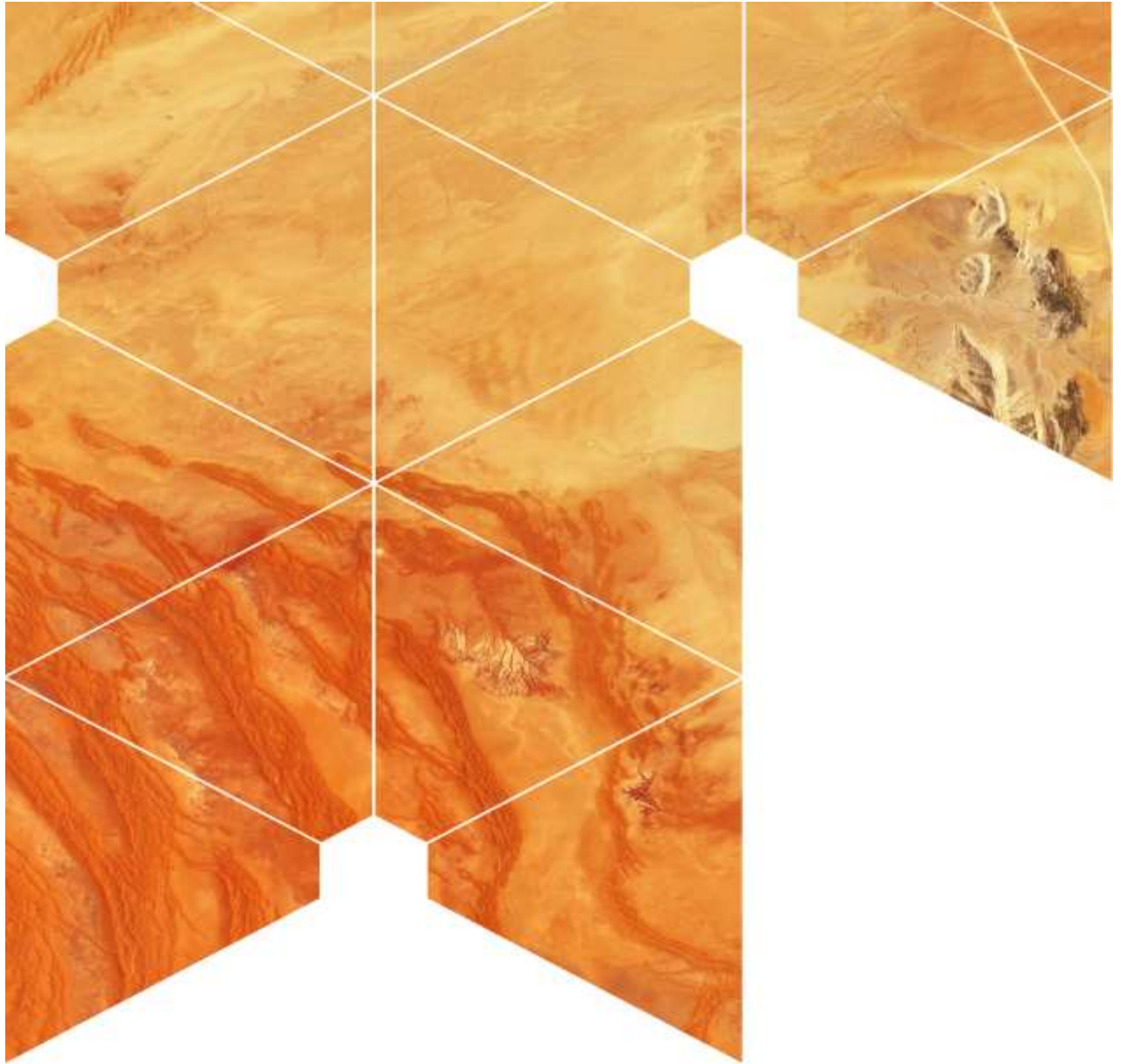
- 14. Further request** Member States and Regional Economic Communities to support the development of the Africa Biennial report on the Implementation of the Programme of Action;
- 15. Urge** Member States, to enhance national systems for the collection, analysis, and reporting of disaster loss and damage data disaggregated by economic and non-economic losses and, where relevant, by income, age, gender, disability, and geographical location;
- 16. Encourage** Regional Economic Communities, the African Union Commission, the United Nations system and development partners to support Member States in their efforts to benefit from technical assistance provided through the Santiago Network for initiatives to avert, minimize and address loss and damage at all levels and to access the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage;
- 17. Call upon** Member States, Regional Economic Communities and the African Union Commission to proactively address disaster-induced displacement at all levels by integrating Disaster Risk Reduction, climate change, environmental management into development strategies and plans;
- 18. Call upon** Member States, Regional Economic Communities and the African Union Commission to enhance policy coherence and public-private partnerships, and leverage on innovative and cost-effective nature-based solutions and Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction approaches to bridge the gaps in climate resilience, preparedness, response and build back better for sustainability;
- 19. Also call upon** Member States Regional Economic Communities, the African Union Commission and other stakeholders to promote the implementation of the recommendations of the Mid-term Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa; and the Africa Biennial Report on Disaster Risk Reduction;
- 20. Further call upon** Member States Regional Economic Communities, the African Union Commission and other stakeholders to translate the Sendai Gender Action Plan into action at all levels toward achieving Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action into action across the continent;
- 21. Urge** Member States, Regional Economic Communities, the African Union Commission and development partners to bolster and prioritize science-based approaches to disaster risk reduction through increased investment in research and innovation and promotion of science, policy and practice dialogues; and integrate Disaster Risk reduction in early childhood, primary and secondary and tertiary education systems;

**22. Mandate** the African Union Commission to coordinate the development of the Africa Common Position to the 2025 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction;

**23. Request** the Government of the Republic of Namibia, as the Chair of the Ninth Africa Regional Platform and the Eighth High-Level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction, to submit this Declaration to the African Union Policy Organs for consideration and endorsement;

**Done on this day, 24 October 2024 in Windhoek**





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