



# African Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND ACTION POINTS

MEETING HELD ON 22 OCTOBER 2020

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The second virtual meeting of the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction (AWGDRR) was held on Thursday, 22 October 2020 from 14:30-18:15 hrs. In attendance was Ms. Cristelle Pratt, the Assistant Secretary General for the Environment and Climate Action from the Organization of African Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), who delivered the keynote address.

Over 60 participants from member organizations participated in the meeting. They included, Member States (MS), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), African Union Commission (AUC), African Development Bank, UN agencies, the World Bank Group, civil society organizations, Africa Science and Technology Advisory Group (AfSTAG), Africa Youth Advisory Board (AYAB). Donors attending included, the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).



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The main objective of the meeting was to discuss progress and next steps towards addressing priorities identified by Member States and Regional Economic Communities at the first virtual meeting of AWGDRR to effectively prepare, respond and recover from COVID-19 and other hazards.

The meeting was also an opportunity for the AWGDRR to receive updates and discuss progress and next steps with respect to the development of disaster risk reduction strategies and plans, as well as on the use of the online Sendai Framework Monitor in monitoring and reporting progress in the implementation of such strategies. The meeting was chaired by the African Union Commission, with UNDRR served as the Secretariat.

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**The meeting focused its deliberations on two areas:** (i) implementation of action points from the last meeting, which reflect priorities identified by MS and RECs; and (ii) achievement of target (e) of the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action for its implementation in Africa (PoA)-substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020. Also included was the coverage and quality of reporting using the online Sendai Framework Monitor (SFM).

Eighteen speakers drawn from MS (Gabon, South Sudan and Tunisia), RECs (ECCAS, IGAD, SADC and UMA) and other selected member organizations (AUC, UNDRR, WBG-GFDRR, UNDP,

AfDB, ARC, IFRC, AfSTAG, AYAB, GNDR and GreenAid International) provided updates and/or shared their perspectives on the progress to date and next steps with respect to these two focus areas.

Overall, the updates and briefings provided indicated that there has been encouraging progress in addressing the priorities identified by MS and RECs at the first virtual AWGDRR meeting to effectively prepare, respond and recover from COVID-19 and other hazards.

Key achievements and next steps reported with respect to action points from the last meeting (which represent the priorities identified by MS and RECs) include: (i) the continued capacity

building of MS and RECs, building on the 10th European Development Fund (Result 2); (ii) the provision of support for the establishment and/or strengthening and operationalization of multi-hazard early warning systems and emergency operation centres; and (iii) continued support in resource mobilization to support Member States to implement the Sendai Framework in general and effectively prepare, respond and recover from COVID-19 and other hazards such as floods and desert locust infestations.

On resource mobilization, since March 2020, the World Bank Group has made available nearly \$12 billion across Africa to help countries respond to the COVID-19 crisis. In addition, the Bank is redeploying resources in health, urban and resilience projects including more than \$316 million through the emergency components of existing projects (Contingent Emergency Response Components-CERCs) in 16 countries. Additional resources (about \$200 million) are being leveraged through project restructuring and existing health operations. In addition, efforts were made to strengthen resource mobilization in support of the implementation of the Sendai Framework in general and addressing priorities identified by MS and RECs in particular. These

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include the contribution of EUR 3 million by the Italian Government to implement a programme on **Strengthening early warning systems and transboundary risk management in Africa**; and support from the Government of Sweden to implement a Horn of Africa Partnership for Early Warning and Early Action programme. Moreover, it was noted that US\$ 24 million was mobilized by the African Risk Capacity to support insurance premiums for replica in Mali, Burkina Faso, Mauritania and The Gambia and sovereign premiums for East and Southern African countries. Regarding the status on the 11th EDF intra-ACP DRM Programme, in her keynote address, the Assistant Secretary General of OACPS highlighted its imminent endorsement and signature by the European Commission and OACPS Secretariat.

As for the second focus area - risk governance – and, particularly regarding the development and/or updating of disaster risk reduction strategies and plans for target (e), it was reported that a total of 33 countries in Africa have either validated their disaster risk reduction strategies and plans or are in the process of developing or validating them in line with the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action. On the monitoring and reporting on progress in the implementation of such strategies using the SFM, it was highlighted that a total of 25 countries in Africa have started the process and that institutional arrangements have been put in place in some countries to support and facilitate the monitoring and reporting process. However, it was noted that around 50 percent of countries have not yet officially designated coordinators, which is a prerequisite to have access to the online SFM system.

While acknowledging the above achievements, the Group underscored the need to continue exerting efforts to fully address priorities identified by MS and RECs by effectively implementing action points from the first virtual meeting of AWGDRR, including the achievement of target (e) of the Sendai Framework and the PoA by 2020.

More specifically, the Group agreed on the following additional action points:

- i. Support in mobilizing resources to help MS respond and recover from the ongoing floods and desert locust infestations;
- ii. Mobilize support and commitment to sustain the capacity built in RECs for disaster and climate resilience;
- iii. Accelerate the development of inclusive DRR strategies and plans including at the local level (and by integrating biohazards);
- iv. Provide support to implement disaster risk reduction strategies and plans at all levels;
- v. Increase the coverage and the quality of reporting using the online SFM, including by increasing the number of countries reporting;
- vi. Encourage MS that have not done so to designate Sendai Framework Focal Points; and
- vii. Ensure full engagement of local governments and communities, indigenous people, youth/AYAB, women and the scientific and technological community/AfSTAG in the development, implementation, monitoring and reporting of progress in disaster risk reduction strategies and plans at all levels.

The table on page 4 summarizes key action points, including those agreed at the last meeting, which the Group will take forward to implement the five recommendations from the April 2020 meeting (<https://www.undrr.org/publication/covid-19-brief-virtual-dialogue-between-national-and-regional-disaster-risk-reduction>). □

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND ACTION POINTS

NO.	ACTION POINTS	RESPONSIBLE	LEAD	TIMEFRAME
1	Support and follow-up the <b>implementation of recommendations from the April 2020 virtual meeting</b> with Member States and RECs DRR focal points and other stakeholders	AWGDRR members	AUC/ UNDRR	Continuous
2	Advance a <b>high-level support and commitment at continental, regional and national levels</b> (including by organizing a High-level meeting for RECs) in support of the implementation of the PoA and other related commitments and decisions including the Tunis Declaration.	AWGDRR members	AUC	Continuous
3	Support <b>resource mobilization</b> from both domestic and external sources to implement DRR strategies and plans at all levels while continuing efforts to respond and recover from COVID-19 and other hazards including the ongoing floods and desert locust infestations	AWGDRR members	AUC	Continuous
4	Support in <b>advocacy and awareness raising</b> for disaster and climate resilience; <b>mainstreaming DRR</b> into national and sectoral development planning; integrating <b>DRR into all measures to address COVID-19 and other hazards</b>	AWGDRR members	AUC	Continuous
5	Promote and support better <b>understanding and management of systemic risk</b> and the cascading impacts of COVID-19 and other hazards within and across systems	AWGDRR members	AUC/ UNDRR	Continuous
6	Provide leadership in <b>improving risk governance</b> , with a focus on the development and/or updating of DRR strategies and plans including at the local level to achieve target (e) of the Sendai Framework and the PoA	AWGDRR members	AUC/ UNDRR	By end of 2020

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NO.	ACTION POINTS	RESPONSIBLE	LEAD	TIMEFRAME
7	Promote and support the use of the online SFM to monitor and report on progress in the implementation of DRR strategies and plans at all levels	AWGDRR members	AUC/ UNDRR	Continuous
8	Ensure full engagement of local governments and communities, indigenous people, women, youth/ AYAB, and the scientific and technological community/AfSTAG in the development, implementation, monitoring and reporting of progress in disaster risk reduction strategies and plans	AWGDRR members	AUC/ UNDRR	Continuous
9	Support in <b>capacity building</b> of Member States (including through provision of technical support, peer reviews, South-to-South learning and demand driven DRR related trainings)	AWGDRR members	AUC/ UNDRR	Continuous
10	Support the establishment and/or strengthening and operationalization of <b>multi-hazard early warning systems; and interoperational emergency operation centres</b>	AWGDRR members	AUC/ UNDRR	Continuous
11	Strengthen multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder sub-regional and national <b>coordination mechanisms</b> , including for enhanced information sharing, knowledge management, transboundary risk management and partnerships	AWGDRR members	AUC/ UNDRR	Continuous
12	Provide update on the status of implementation of the above action point at the next meeting	AWGDRR members	UNDRR	October 2020



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