

AFRICAN UNION



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Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA P. O. Box 3243 Telephone: 517 700 Fax: 5130 36  
Website: [www. au.int](http://www.au.int)

## **2022 Call for Volunteer Board Members**

### **The Africa Youth Advisory Board on Disaster Risk Reduction (AYAB/DRR)**

#### **Background**

The Africa Youth Advisory Board (AYAB) for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), hereafter referred to as the board or AYAB, was established under the African Union Commission (AUC) to meaningfully engage young Africans (up to 35 years) in DRR processes on the continent. The African continent has suffered disproportionately from the increasing occurrence of climate exacerbated disasters, because of its high exposure and high vulnerability to climate shocks.

Africa's population is estimated to increase to 2.4 billion with more than a billion being youth by 2050. Considering that disasters caused by both natural hazards and anthropogenic factors are expected to increase in frequency and magnitude, as well as the fact that, young people will form the majority of Africa's population, empowering young people to play an active part in all DRR on the continent will be key to reducing disaster risks and strengthening its resilience.

In reducing risks and strengthening Africa's resilience to disasters, the African Union (AU) Heads of State and Government adopted a Programme of Action (PoA) as a strong commitment to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030 in Africa. The PoA was an outcome of the 6th Session of the African Regional Platform (AfRP) and the 5th High-Level Meeting of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Mauritius. The PoA as highlighted in the SFDRR seeks "The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries by 2030". Equally important to note is that, it was at the 6th AfRP that young people called on member states to form a youth advisory board to support the achievement of the PoA. Eventually in the next AfRP, which was in Tunis, the official declaration from the 7th AfRP endorsed the formation of AYAB to provide youth with an official platform to engage in DRR processes on the continent.

The first batch of AYAB was inaugurated on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya. Since then, members have carried out various initiatives and activities to either empower or meaningfully engage youth in DRR processes on the African continent. These included but are not limited to creating and actively using social media handles (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram,

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YouTube) with a combined following of almost 10,000 and counting, #SafeSaturdays Twitter chat tradition, quarterly technical webinars, publications focused on or led by youth, national quizzes on DRR, content development of a mobile application on DRR (KNOW DRR) for young people, COVID-19 virtual campaign and surveys, and contribution to DRR policy dialogues. The foundation of the board is strongly influenced by the Youth Engagement Platform (YEP) to ensure coherence with the United Nations office for disaster risk reduction (UNDRR), United Nations (UN) Department of Economic and Social Affairs (ECOSOC) to promote collective and meaningful youth involvement in DRR processes. In addition, the establishment of the board is part of strengthening good governance for DRR as advocated for by priority two (2) 'Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk' of the SFDRR.

### **Vision and mission of the Board**

The board is envisioned to be an inclusive, open, and transparent platform for African youth to provide advisory services in regional DRR policy design, implementation, review and follow up. The board's vision is focused on five priority areas: (1) Understanding disaster risk; (2) strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk; (3) investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience; (4) enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction and (5) Community development. In addition, the board is regionally represented (North, East, West, South and Central) in its vision of supporting the PoA implementation, review and follow up. Members are encouraged to take up initiatives in engaging the heterogeneous group of young Africans on multiple platforms in achieving the board's vision.

### **Roles of Board Members**

1. Partner with national DRR focal persons, African Union partners and other stakeholders to facilitate the implementation, monitoring and review of the PoA.
2. Engage with the AUC, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), National and Local governments in DRR policy design that are youth-led or focused, as well as its implementation and review.
3. Build linkages and synergies between youth activities focused on DRR at global, regional, national and community levels.
4. Facilitate African youth engagement in continental, regional and national stakeholder fora and coordination with national and local governments, in line with and through existing platforms for youth engagement.

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5. Facilitate capacity building opportunities for and with young people, in collaboration with the AUC, RECs and other relevant institutions centred on the five priorities of the board.
6. Facilitate intergenerational capacity building between young and experienced practitioners at different levels of engagement in DRR.
7. Create avenues for the interaction of young people/youth organizations in DRR with related disciplines such as Climate Change, Urbanization, indigenous knowledge, new technologies and Sustainable Development for cross discipline building of capacities.
8. Facilitate interdisciplinary and intergenerational collaboration across electronic and non-electronic platforms (defined as collaboration between different age groups) between African scientists in applying their existing and ongoing scientific research for evidence-based implementation, monitoring and follow up and review of the SFDRR.
9. Leverage the PERIPERI Universities network to support young scientists in the development of new research agendas tailored to complement the implementation, monitoring and review of the Sendai Framework for postgraduate research, and where possible, in collaboration with universities, research organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and the private sector.
10. Develop physical and virtual campaigns/strategies to extend the existing reach of DRR knowledge of young people in cooperation with different public and private institutions.

### **Membership**

The board shall consist of fifteen (15) young volunteers from across the continent, coming from the formal or informal sectors, youth-led or youth-focused organizations, and other stakeholder groups, who are committed, passionate and actively involved in DRR activities or processes. Membership to this board is not a ceremonial one, with members expected to commit at ***least 8 hours*** a week to promote and advance AYAB DRR related activities and initiatives. It should be noted that members are not entitled to a salary or compensation of any kind for their time working for the board.

Members are encouraged to engage with other youths in other disciplines towards achieving the board's vision.

*The following criteria shall further guide the selection of members:*

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1. Members must not be older than 35 years of age throughout the duration of their tenure<sup>1</sup>
2. The tenure of membership is two years and renewable once
3. Selection is done every two years through an Expression of Interest/ Call led by the AUC
4. The 15 positions on the board are as follows:
  - I. 2 representatives each from East, West, South, Central and North Africa
  - II. 1 thematic focal point for each of the four priorities of the SFDRR.
  - III. 1 representative for Community Based DRR

#### **Operations and Coordination Mechanisms**

1. The African Union Commission Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (AUC-DARBE) through its DRR unit, works with the AU Youth Division (in an advisory role) to support the functioning of the board.
2. AUC-DARBE supports the Executive Committee (ExCom) members of the board to coordinate its activities.
3. The board will also seek guidance, when necessary, from the AYAB Alumni (Previous AYAB members) network to ensure there is continuity and knowledge acquired by the board is not lost
4. The board meets biannually with the AUC, alternating between physical and online meetings. Beyond that, members can self-organise their own meetings when necessary.
5. The board led by its Executive Committee should submit biannual reports to AUC earmarking progress on the road map.
6. Members of the board are to initiate and maintain relationships with relevant local, national, regional, NGOs and CSOs to enhance coherence in DRR policy and activities at the different levels of engagement.
7. Members are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner in all engagements with other members of the board, as well as, with the AUC and its partners
8. If for any reason a member should resign from the board or is unable to continue their tenure, they lose associated privileges with the position and must follow laid down

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<sup>1</sup> Applicants who will turn 36 or older during their tenureship will be unlikely to be considered for membership to the board

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procedures in abdicating their position. In addition, if there should be a possible replacement of the position, this shall be done at the discretion of the AUC.

### **Proposed Recruiting Procedure and Timelines**

This Expression of Interest (EoI) or Call for new Board members is to solicit applications from eligible individual African youth professionals or youth-led/focused organisations interested in becoming members of the board.

**A complete application** package shall consist of uploading the following items to this application link: <https://forms.office.com/r/FZGpZWKqFF> by September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (GMT+3).

- (1) A CV detailing relevant qualifications and experience to the position (2 pages maximum, 12 size font Times New Roman, single spaced)
- (2) A cover letter detailing your motivation to become part of the board (2 Pages max) – please express what position you are interested in applying for membership (see positions available below)
- (3) Proof of African Citizenship (e.g. Passport, Identification Document)
- (4) Name and contact details of two referees who can attest to the qualifications and experience of the applicant

For any clarifications, please send an email to [KoualaoA@africa-union.org](mailto:KoualaoA@africa-union.org). Failure or incomplete documents leads to an automatic disqualification from the application process.

Once again, the 15 positions available are:

1. East Africa - Two (2) positions
2. West Africa - Two (2) positions
3. Southern Africa - Two (2) positions
4. Central Africa - Two (2) positions
5. North Africa - Two (2) positions
6. Priority (Understanding disaster risk) - One (1) position
7. Priority 2 (Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk - One (1) position
8. Priority 3 (investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience - One (1) position
9. Priority 4 (enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction) - One (1) position
10. Priority 5 (Community Based DRR) - One (1) position

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The recruitment process will be done in an inclusive manner and transparent manner. In addition, the recruitment team will strive to achieve gender balance in the selection of the board members.

No.	Activity	Date
1	Application Opens	August 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2022
2	Application closes	September 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2022
3	Shortlisting	September 5 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2022
4	Informing shortlisted Applicants of outcome	September 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2022
5	Zoom Interviews of shortlisted Applicants	September 16 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2022
6	Communication of final Decision to all Applicants candidates	10 <sup>th</sup> October 2022