



CONCEPT NOTE

THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 2022 INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION DAY (IDDRR) AND THE LAUNCH OF DRR FRAMEWORKS IN MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE

13-15 OCTOBER, 2022

1.0. Background

Disaster risk and its impacts on vulnerable communities remains a yearly challenge for many African states. The major hazards affecting people and livelihoods in Africa are hydro-meteorological in nature, with anthropogenic hazards (such as transportation and industrial accidents) on the increase. Pests and diseases have also been on the rise in recent years. Volatile vulnerability conditions are rooted in extreme poverty and under-development, which makes Africa one of the most at-risk environments on Earth¹.

Over the last four decades, the continent experienced more than 1000 disasters and 1 million deaths as a result of natural hazards between 1970 and 2019. Economic losses have also substantially increased from US\$ 2.8 billion in 2015-2016 to US\$ 8.1 billion in 2017-2018². A classic example is the impact of Tropical Cyclone Idai that had devastating impact on Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe and Kenneth disaster in Mozambique – all combined killed over 1300 and affected 3 million people³ in 2019.

Recent devastating floods in South Africa, tropical cyclones in Malawi and Zimbabwe including Mozambique (tropical storm Ana in January, tropical depression Dumako in February 2022, and tropical cyclone Gombe in March 2022), droughts in some countries in Eastern Africa, namely Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia that significantly affected lives and livelihoods are a reminder of the urgency to undertake aggressive risk reduction measures.

To respond to growing challenges being faced by the Continent, the African Union and its member states have expressed their strong commitment to reducing Disaster Risks in Africa by:

- Adopting the Africa Programme of Action (PoA) for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. The PoA has 5 additional Africa-specific targets in addition to the Sendai Framework's targets.
- Establishing the Africa Multi-hazard Early Warning and Action System (AMHEWAS) Programme to promote the availability and access to multi-hazard early warning information for early action to help to significantly reduce disaster losses on the continent.
- Developing an Africa Institutional and Operational Framework for Multi-Hazard Early Warning System and Early Action. The framework sets out the Continental Action Plan for a networked MHEWS across the continent and the framework further proposes governance structures for delivery of a Multi-Year Program for the

¹ WEF, 2019

² AU (2019). *Africa Biennial Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2018*. The report can be found at <https://au.int/en/documents/20200805/first-africa-biennial-report-disaster-risk-reduction-synopsis-report>.

³ OCHA, 2019

development of MHEWS for Early Action that contributes to reducing exposure to hazards and helping to prevent hazards from developing into disasters.

Due to the importance of DRR in the attainment of the Agenda 2063: the Africa we want, a significant political development has taken central stage when the African Union Heads of State and Government, at the 35th Assembly of the Union, held from 5-6 February 2022, appointed His Excellency Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique, as African Union Champion for Disaster Risk Management⁴.

The AU Champion for DRR has developed a roadmap to guide his actions during an initial period of three (years), from 2022-2024. To begin the implementation of his roadmap, a Commemoration of the 2022 International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as, launching of DRR Frameworks, is planned for 13th October 2022.

1.1. Overall Objective

The overall objective of the Commemoration of the 2022 International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as, launching of DRR Frameworks is to reinforce advocacy on disaster risk reduction in Africa and give a clear indication of the AU political commitment to strengthening multi-hazard early warning systems for early action.

1.1.1 Specific Objectives

The specific objectives are as followed:

- i. To launch key disaster risk management frameworks and programmes:
 - Africa Institutional and Operational Framework for Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Disaster Risk Reduction - the Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Action System (AMHEWAS) and
 - COVID-19 Disaster Recovery Framework for Africa; and
- ii. To participate to the commemoration of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDR) on October 13, 2022 and highlight progress, challenges, opportunities and efforts being made on the continent to advance disaster risk reduction agenda.

2.0. Expected Output

- Showcase political commitment to DRR advocacy on efforts to reduce existing risk and address the vulnerabilities of the continent.
- DRR Programmes and frameworks launched
 - Africa Institutional Framework for Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action and its delivery programme - Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action (AMHEWAS)
- COVID-19 Disaster Recovery Framework for Africa

⁴ Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.819 (XXXV)



3.0. Participants

H.E. Filipe Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique, African Union Champion for DRR, will be joined in the visit by H.E Ms Mami Mizutori, the Special Representative Secretary-General of the United Nations for Disaster Risk Reduction. The Representatives of AU MS, the government of the Republic of Mozambique, RECs, International organizations and the Private sector will also join the event both physically or virtually.