

AFRICAN UNION

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CONCEPT NOTE

AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION PARTICIPATION ON THE

EIGHTH SESSION OF THE GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION¹

“EVERY DAY COUNTS, ACT FOR RESILIENCE TODAY”

2–6 June 2025, Geneva, Switzerland

1. INTRODUCTION

Africa has made significant achievements in disaster risk reduction (DRR) due to implementing global, continental, regional, and national DRR frameworks and programmes. In particular, implementing the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030](#): Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters and its [Africa Programme of Action \(2015-2030\)](#) (PoA) contributed to substantially reducing disaster-induced losses in human lives across the continent. Despite this achievement, Africa remains the most vulnerable continent, where the number of reported disasters associated with natural hazards has increased from 496 for 2019-2020 to 612 for 2021-2022. This event also dramatically increased the loss of life, from 42,275 lives lost in 2019/2020 to **279,103** lives lost in 2021-2022. There was also an increase in the number of people affected by disasters, which increased significantly from 86.9 million in 2019-2020 to **137.1** million in 2021-2022.

Recognising the importance of disaster risk reduction in building resilience, and thereby contributing to sustainable development and the realization of the aspirations of Agenda 2063, The Africa We Want, the African Union (AU) Heads of State and Government reiterated their continued commitment to disaster risk reduction in the context of the Sendai Framework by endorsing the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa at the January 2017 Assembly of the African Union. The practical implementation of this Programme of Action

¹ The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction is recognized by the United Nations General Assembly as the main forum to assess and discuss progress on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

contributes to implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030 is a global blueprint for reducing disaster risk and building resilience. The Sendai Framework was adopted in March 2015 at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, Japan. The framework aims to guide national and local efforts to reduce disaster risk and to address the underlying drivers of risk. In Africa, the SFDRR has provided a platform for improving disaster risk management and promoting resilience building. The Programme of Action (PoA) for implementing the SFDRR (and its Matrix 2.0 for implementation) in Africa is a comprehensive strategy for reducing disaster risk and building resilience. The PoA was developed in recognition of the unique disaster risk landscape of Africa and the need for region-specific approaches to disaster risk reduction. The PoA provides a roadmap for implementing the SFDRR in Africa, outlining specific priorities, targets, and actions that can be undertaken at sub-national, national, regional, and continental levels.

Under the theme “**Every Day Counts, Act for Resilience Today,**” the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the Government of Geneva are preparing for the [8th Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction](#) (GPDRR) to be held from 02-06 June 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland. This Platform will be the eighth since the adoption of the Sendai Framework. It will be a key opportunity for Member States and all stakeholders to gather globally two years after the [Midterm Review](#) of the Sendai Framework to assess the impact of the “course correction” and implementation of the recommendations made in the Political Declaration of the Midterm Review.

GPDRR 2025 will also provide a platform to address relevant global issues related to disaster risk reduction, such as challenges with implementing sustainable development, climate change, food insecurity, water scarcity, and water-related hazards, and to initiate the discussion on “what and how” beyond 2030, including how disaster risk reduction should be addressed in the post-Sendai Framework era.

For the AU Commission, GPDRR 2025 will be an opportunity for the African Continent to raise its voice on accelerating the implementation of the Sendai Framework for tangible results and impact on the ground.

2. OBJECTIVE

The Commission aims to strengthen the implementation of the Sendai Framework, considering the progress and challenges identified in its Midterm Review and reflecting the Africa Common Position in the Political Declaration. It will pay particular attention to key areas of progress and success, areas where concerted efforts are needed, and commitments required to accelerate its implementation.

2.1 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

The Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction is an opportunity to:

- Take stock of progress, share new knowledge, exchange best practices, and discuss the latest developments and trends in reducing disaster risk.
- Make sure the Africa Common Position is included in the Political Declaration
- Build synergy and collaboration with relevant stakeholders in DRR

2.2 EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The expected outcome is strengthening Africa's Voice on DRR in global forums and ensuring the African Common Position is reflected in the final Declaration of the Global Platform.

3. PROGRAMME

The official programme (4–6 June 2025) will feature thematic sessions, high-level dialogues, and ministerial round tables. A series of multi-stakeholder plenary sessions will allow a guided discussion on the progress made, ways to address remaining gaps, and identify actionable measures to accelerate progress for the five years of the Sendai Framework. Furthermore, the plenary sessions may spark initial thoughts and reflections on the future of global disaster risk reduction policy.

A series of side events, learning labs, and innovation platforms will supplement the official programme.

The GPDRR 2025 preparatory days will feature three global meetings: the third Stakeholder Forum, the sixth World Reconstruction Conference, and the first global Early Warning for All Multi-stakeholder Forum. The respective organizing entities will provide additional details.

AUC Events

DATE	TIME AND VENUE	TITLE OF THE EVENT	INSTITUTIONS
02/06/2025	09:00- 11:00	Africa day: Consultation on the Africa Common Position	AUC, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Regional Office for Africa (UNDRR - RoA), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Member States
02/06/2025	All day	<u>Global EW4All Multi-Stakeholder Forum</u>	AUC
02/06/2025	13:30 - 17:30 CCG	Intra-ACP DRR Side-event in the	Organisation of African, Caribbean

		Framework of GPDRR 2025 in Geneva	and Pacific States (OACPS), AUC, RECs
04/06/2025	10:00-11:00 Amphitheatre D (CICG)	Multi-Stakeholder Plenaries Topic 1: Regional progress on implementation of the Sendai Framework and MTR recommendations	UNDRR
04/06/2025	14:00-15:30 CICG, Plenary B	<u>Special Event Africa:</u> Investing in resilience for Africa: Tools, strategies and partnerships	AUC, UNDRR,
04/06/2025	15:30-18:00 CICG	Ministerial Roundtable: Financing for DRR	AU Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development and Blue Economy (ARBE)
04/06/2025	17:00 - 19:00 InterContinental	High-level partnership reception on Urban Resilience in Africa	AUC, UNDRR, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), United Nations University (UNU)
05/06/2025	12:45-14:15	<u>AUC Side Event:</u> Knowledge Series on African Urban Resilience	AUC, UNDP, UN-Habitat, GIZ, UNU
05/06/2025	14:30-17:00 Amphitheatre D (CICG)	Multi-Stakeholder Plenaries Topic 3: Investments in reducing risk and	UNDRR

		building resilience to accelerate progress in sustainable development	
05/06/2025	09:00-14:00 IUCN Headquarters	IUCN roundtable 'Scaling Integrated Species Conservation Action in Africa'	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

4. DATE AND VENUE

GPDRR 2025 will take place over five days, including two preparatory days (2–3 June 2025) and three official days (4–6 June 2025). The event will be held at the Geneva International Conference Centre (CICG) and the Varembe Conference Centre (CCV), which is situated opposite the CICG. Both venues are in the Varembe area, approximately 5 kilometers from Geneva International Airport (CVA) and around a 10-minute drive from the Palais des Nations.

GP2025 is expected to be a hybrid meeting, offering both in-person and online participation options. Details on the exact format will be shared later.