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PRESS STATEMENT

H.E. Amb. Josefa Leonel Correia SACKO
Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture

On the occasion of

**The Launching of the Inaugural Africa Biennial Report on Disaster
Risk Reduction**

5th August, 2020
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

My fellow Africans! I am pleased to issue this press briefing at the launch of the Inaugural Africa Report on Disaster Risk Reduction. As you might be aware, disasters have become a recurrent phenomenon in Africa and the Africa Union wants to ensure that countries prepared to minimize the losses from these natural hazards hence the DRR Unit embarked on this work. This is the first report since the adoption of the Programme of Action for implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 by the African Union.

As you might have observed in the presentation during the launch, this Report covers the period 2015-2018, using 2015-2016 as the baseline. It measures Africa's progress on 12 targets (7 global and 5 specific to Africa). Among these targets are reduction of disaster mortalities, economic losses, losses to critical infrastructures and disruption of basic services, increasing domestic resources allocation.

Comparing the two periods (2015-2016) and (2017-2018), the report highlights the following:

1. Africa risk profile is increasing:
 - a. Hazards are increasing. The number of disasters increased from 311 in 2015-2016 to 474 in 2017-2018.
 - b. Vulnerability and exposure are increasing.
 - c. Coping capacity is declining .
2. Disaster mortalities increased from over 31,000 in 2015-2016 to more than 36,000 in 2017-2018
3. However, the number of affected people, I am glad to report, decreased from over 58 million in 2015-2016 to 22 million in 2017-2018
4. Economic losses increased from 2 billion in 2015-2016 to 8 billion in 2017-2018
5. Only 22% of the 50 Countries that participated have DRR strategies in place and 5% of those with strategies are fully implementing them
6. In term of other targets that are specific to Africa, only 1 country (Rwanda is fully on track. Other countries such as Ghana, Algeria, Kenya, and Sudan have made important programme. Kindly refer to the dash board in the report for further details.

Algeria	Angola	Benin	Botswana	Burkina Faso	Burundi	Cameroon	Cabo Verde	CAF	Chad	Comoros
3,4	1,1	2,7	2,3	2,0	2,4	2,9	n/a	1,6	1,3	1,2
4,4	1,1	3,4	2,7	2,4	3,1	3,1	n/a	2,9	3,3	1,6
Congo	DRC	Cote d'Ivoire	Djibouti	Equatorial Guinea	Egypt	Eritrea	Eswatini	Ethiopia	Gabon	Gambia
2,1	1,8	n/a	1,6	1	1,9	n/a	1,8	2,4	3	2,2
1,4	2,2	n/a	2,6	1,2	3,6	n/a	2,2	2,4	3	2,6
Ghana	Guinea	Guinea-Bissau	Kenya	Lesotho	Liberia	Libya	Madagascar	Malawi	Mali	Mauritania
4	1,6	2,5	3,7	2,4	1,9	n/a	1,8	3,8	3	1
4	1,5	2,5	4	3,9	2,9	n/a	2,7	4,1	3	1
Mauritius	Morocco	Mozambique	Namibia	Niger	Nigeria	Rwanda	Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic	Sao Tome and Principe	Senegal	Seychelles
2	1	2,4	2,7	2,1	2,1	5	n/a	2,3	2	2
3,4	1	3,4	2,7	2,2	2,2	5	n/a	1,9	2,4	2,5
Sierra Leone	Somalia	South Africa	South Sudan	Sudan	Tanzania	Togo	Tunisia	Uganda	Zambia	Zimbabwe
2,9	1,2	3,7	1,6	3,2	3,4	2,2	2,1	2,1	3,7	3,2
3,6	1,2	3,8	2,1	4,1	3,8	2,8	2,8	3,4	3,8	3,3

As evidenced in the summary above, disasters are on increase and driven mostly by climate change and variability. Natural degradation is also adding another layer to the occurrence of hazards, facilitating even viruses such as Coronavirus to cross species boundary in order to infect humans.

The AU Commission is committed to reducing disaster risks and losses. As an Agronomist, I associate resilience with food security. One of my priorities has been building resilience to Disaster and Climate risks which continue to impact our continent. Drought, floods and pests are some of the hazards threatening food security in Africa. In my interactions with African Ministers responsible for Disaster Risk Reduction at global and Africa's fora, I have always insisted that **Disaster Risk Reduction is a matter of survival and that resilience building must be our ways of life.**

In conclusion, I call upon our member states and RECs to continue to put more efforts on reducing disaster risks and further requests our development partners to enhance collaboration on disaster risk reduction.

Thank you for your kind attention!