

The Africa Common Position for the 2025 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

2 June 2025, Geneva, Switzerland

1. Preamble

The post-2022 Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction era is marked with appreciable progress towards the achievement of the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (PoA). Building on the Mauritius (2016), Tunis (2018) and Nairobi (2021) Declarations, the continent's renewed commitment has translated into various high-level disaster risk reduction related undertakings. This includes the adoption of the Political Declaration-Windhoek Declaration on advancing the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2025-2030 in Africa-by Ministers and Heads of Delegations responsible for disaster risk reduction in Africa at the eighth High-level/Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction on 24 October 2024.

The High-level meeting was held back-to-back with the Ninth Session of the Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction under the theme "Act Now for the Resilient Africa We Want", 21-23 October 2024, Windhoek, Namibia. The Windhoek Declaration is a significant milestone in paving the way for accelerating the implementation of the PoA.

Regarding other related continental and global events that provided critical DRR priorities include the African Leaders' Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change and Call to Action at the First Africa Climate Summit, 4-6 September 2023, Nairobi, Kenya; the Twenty-Seventh and Twenty-Eighth Sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt 6-18 November 2022 and Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 30 November-13 December 2023 respectively, the latter resulting in the agreement to operationalize the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage.

The global imperative also includes the adoption of the Pact for the Future, along with its annexes, including the Declaration for Future Generations and the Global Digital Compact, by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2024.

Despite the progress made toward strengthening disaster risk reduction and resilience across the continent, Africa remains the most vulnerable continent where disasters continue to take a huge toll on the lives and livelihoods of vulnerable populations. According to the Third Biennial report on Disaster Risk Reduction, Morocco experienced a 6.8-magnitude devastating earthquake (8 September 2023) which resulted in a death toll of 2,946 people, a destruction of more than 50,000 homes and 300,000 people affected, including an estimated 100,000 children.

Additionally, the Continent continues to grapple with both Slow and rapid onset Disasters. This was evident from the extreme drought conditions experienced in six Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries (Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana) in 2024, which led to the declaration of a state of emergency/disaster.

Moreover, in Western and Central Africa, particularly Niger, Nigeria, Chad and Cameroon experienced unprecedented floods, leading to severe landslides, tropical cyclones, and mudslides.

2. Reflection on implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR

Progress

- i. The publication of the Third Biennial Report on Disaster Risk Reduction is another milestone which shows a significant improvement in reporting on the progress in the implementation of the PoA, which is vital in invigorating risk-informed planning, advocacy for mainstreaming disaster risk management in development agenda. Some Member States and RECs have also made strides to improve risk knowledge, including through risk assessment and profiling.
- ii. Some Member States have also made progress in developing, implementing and reviewing disaster risk reduction strategies and plans aligned with the PoA and their respective RECs' disaster risk reduction programmes.
- iii. Some Member States are taking measures to increase public budgetary allocation for DRR. Development partners have also continued to provide financial support to complement national efforts.
- iv. Since the 2022 Global Platform, significant efforts have been made by AU Member states, RECs and non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders to strengthen Disaster Risk Reduction and resilience across the continent, including through the Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action Systems (AMHEWAS) programme. The programme resulted in the establishment and operationalization of the situation rooms at Continental (AUC and ACMAD), regional (ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD and SADC) and national (Tanzania) levels. The situation rooms are playing an important role in generating and disseminating early warning advisories for anticipatory actions.
- v. The adoption of the Africa Urban Resilience Programme (AURP) at the 44th Ordinary Session of the African Union (AU) Executive Council in February 2024, which focuses on addressing urban risks and promoting risk-informed development. The AURP has provided technical support to RECs in the development of institutional frameworks, and facilitated support to the development and implementation of a Community Recovery and Resilience Facility in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme.
- vi. The adoption of the Statute for the African Continental Civilian Capacity Mechanism for Disaster Preparedness and Response by the African Union Heads of State and Government in February 2025.

Challenges

Despite the progress made thus far, Africa continues to face challenges, including:

- i. Limited risk knowledge and disaggregated data for risk-informed development and investments. The coverage and quality of reporting through the Sendai Framework Monitor remains low.
- ii. Limited progress in the implementation of DRR policies and strategies and fragmented approach to the planning and implementation of DRR and CC initiatives.
- iii. The significant financing gap for implementing Disaster Risk Reduction strategies and programmes, including AMHEWAS

3. Priorities

Based on the unique context of the continent, and guided by the PoA, the Windhoek Declaration, as well as other relevant AU Decisions, it is envisaged that MS, RECs and partners' initiatives will be shaped by the following priorities:

1. Improve the generation, access and use of disaggregated and inclusive risk information for risk-informed development and investments taking advantage of new and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence and digital innovations.
2. Support the development and implementation of coherent, risk-informed, people-centred, inclusive, holistic, gender-responsive and disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction laws, indigenous and local knowledge systems and practices, policies, strategies and programmes.
3. Support country-driven implementation of the Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action System Programme, including in countries in fragile and conflict-affected situations.
4. Mobilize resources to advance the implementation of the Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action System Programme, including through the establishment of situation rooms, that would also inform Anticipatory Actions at all levels.
5. Increase the annual public budgetary allocation and expenditure, to establish innovative financing solutions, including through risk transfer instruments, at the local level, and to galvanize private sector investments to accelerate the implementation of the PoA.
6. Implement the Africa Urban Resilience Programme, leveraging the Making Cities Resilient 2030 initiative, and to implement the outcomes of the first Africa Urban Forum
7. Enhance the capacity of Member States to leverage the Monitoring and Reporting Framework for the PoA and the Sendai Framework Monitor in monitoring and reporting on progress made towards achieving all targets of the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action.
8. Support Member States in their efforts to benefit from technical assistance provided through the Santiago network for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change at all levels and to access the Fund through capacity building for Responding to Loss and Damage.
9. Promote disaster risk assessment and stress testing of critical infrastructure systems to ensure that infrastructure plans are risk proof and are aligned with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies and risk assessments.
10. Support the design and implementation of sustainable and inclusive disaster risk reduction strategies and recovery mechanisms.
11. Promote disaster risks awareness within communities through structured training initiatives and education beginning at the school level.

4. Commitments for further implementation of the Sendai Framework

The overall theme of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, ***'Every Day Counts, Act for Resilience Today'*** embodies an urgency to correct the trajectory of progress in the achievement of the Sendai Framework goals and the recommendations of the midterm review. With five years remaining until 2030, there is a critical window to accelerate actions. We commit:

1. To strengthen Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) and Data Management building on existing initiatives and ensure country-driven implementation of the Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action System Programme, including the establishment of situation rooms in countries in fragile and conflict-affected situations. This contributes to the achievement of the Early Warning for All initiative.
2. To develop capacity and scale up investment in national meteorological and hydrological systems for improved weather and climate information generation and service delivery for effective early warning, anticipatory action and transboundary risk management at all levels.
3. To support the development and implementation of coherent, risk-informed, people-centred, inclusive, holistic, gender-responsive and disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction governance frameworks, indigenous and local knowledge systems and practices, policies, strategies and programmes; and strengthen local leadership and community-led resilience in DRR through the empowerment of local communities and prioritizing women and marginalized groups.
4. To establish and operationalize innovative and sustainable domestic financing solutions and improve public-private partnerships.
5. To enhance national systems for the collection, analysis and reporting of disaster loss and damage data, disaggregated by economic and non-economic losses and, where relevant, by income, age, gender, disability and geographical location.
6. To promote urban development and resilience in cities and urban centres through the implementation of the AUC-led African Urban Resilience Programme aligned to the MCR2030 Initiative.
7. To accelerate Investment in Resilient Infrastructure and Community Preparedness through strengthening resilience across key sectors.
8. To prioritize science-based approaches to disaster risk reduction through increased investment in research and innovation and promotion of science, policy and practice dialogues.
9. To mainstream DRR and CCA in development plans and investments.
10. To enhance the capacity of Member States to access international financing mechanisms.
11. To improve the capacity of Member States to report using the Sendai Framework Monitor and the PoA Monitoring and Reporting Framework.