

COMMON AFRICAN POSITION (CAP) ON HUMANITARIAN EFFECTIVENESS **at a Glance**



One Africa, One Voice, One Message

*“...Africa should continue to speak with one voice and act collectively to promote our common interests and positions in international arena...”*¹

The African Union adopted a **Common African Position on Humanitarian Effectiveness** during the 2016 Ordinary Sessions of the Executive Council and the Assembly held in January 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The CAP lays emphasis on **humanitarian effectiveness in Africa**, and is a consolidation of the aspirations of African Union Member States and their people, on the desired reforms they want in the global humanitarian architecture to make it more effective and relevant for the future. In this regard, the CAP is therefore Africa’s contribution in shaping a future humanitarian architecture - **An Agenda for Humanity** - as proposed by the Secretary General of the United Nations. Furthermore, this CAP serves as Africa’s long-term roadmap and vision on forced displacement in line with its Agenda 2063. In doing so, the CAP reaffirms and recalls ideals of Pan-Africanism and African Shared Values, as foundations of Africa’s humanitarian architecture.

The CAP calls for a truly inclusive and transformative ‘**global humanitarian architecture**’ on the basis of a new **spirit of solidarity, cooperation and mutual accountability** in humanitarian action.

Considering Africa’s peculiarities, the humanitarian priorities are grouped into 10 Pillars:

Pillar One: Primary Responsibility of the State

Pillar Two: Addressing Root Causes and Durable Solutions to Humanitarian Crises

Pillar Three: Governance and Human Rights

Pillar Four: The Development, Peace and Security Nexus

Pillar Five: Institutional Architecture

Pillar Six: Domestication and Implementation of Normative and Policy Frameworks

Pillar Seven: Protection and Assistance of Affected Populations

Pillar Eight: Knowledge, Innovation, Research, Data, Information and Communication Technology

Pillar Nine: Role of the Host Communities, Affected Populations, Private Sector, African Civil Society and the Diaspora and the Youth

Pillar Ten: Humanitarian Financing and Partnerships

The CAP upholds humanitarian principles of **humanity, impartiality, independence** and neutrality as well as on **participation and ownership** by affected populations. The CAP is premised on a long standing principle that effective humanitarian response is a function of a capable State, and therefore calls for strengthening the capabilities of the State to: **predict, prevent, respond and adapt**.

To achieve this vision and objectives, the CAP in the medium-term proposes a **Ten Year Action Plan** in the following five priority areas to build momentum for national and continental transformative capabilities for an effective humanitarian system in Africa:

1. **Strengthening** role of the State in humanitarian action;
2. **Reforming** the humanitarian architecture;
3. **Addressing** root causes and durable solutions;
4. **Moving** from norm setting to implementation;
5. **Linking** humanitarian action to sustainable development.

¹ African Union 50th Declaration, paragraph.5