

**Declaration of the Second African Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 14 to 16 April 2010**

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations responsible for Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa having met in Nairobi, Kenya on 16 April 2010 at the Second Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, concurrently with the First Conference of Ministers Responsible for Meteorology in Africa held from 15 – 16 April 2010 in Nairobi, Kenya.

We express our sincere condolences and solidarity with the people and communities seriously affected by disasters in all its manifestations across Africa and other parts of the world and commend the efforts made by them, their governments and the international community to respond to and overcome those tragedies.

We are convinced that disasters seriously undermine the results of development and poverty eradication and prosperity. Development efforts that fail to appropriately consider disaster risk could seriously increase vulnerability of people and their livelihoods. We therefore believe that coping with and reducing disaster risk to build resilience for sustainable development is a most critical challenge facing governments, communities and the international community. African countries, cognisant of our joint endeavours to build our disaster risk reduction efforts, believe it is our collective responsibility to support each other.

- I. *Take note* of the proceedings of the Second Africa Regional Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction consultative meeting held in Nairobi from 5-7 May 2009, at which Governments, Regional Economic Communities (REC), the African Union Commission (AUC), NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA), and United Nations (UN) and non-UN partners, discussed and proposed a draft extended Programme of Action (2006-2015) for the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: ‘Building the Resilience of Communities and Nations to Disasters’;
- II. *Endorse* the Executive Summary of the Proceedings of the Second Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction Consultative Meeting, which includes the recommendations of the Africa Platform to the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction held in Geneva from 16-19 June 2009;
- III. *Endorse* the Proceedings of the Second Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction “Creating Linkages for a Safer Tomorrow” which contains the Chair’s Summary;

- IV. *Recall* the African Union Assembly Decision on the Revised 1968 African Convention (Algiers Convention) on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and the Action Plan of the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) at the Second Ordinary Session, held in July 2003, in Maputo, Mozambique;
- V. *Recall also* the African Union Executive Council Decision on the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the African Regional Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction (2006 – 2010) adopted at the Eighth Ordinary Session of the AU, January 2006 held in Khartoum, Sudan;
- VI. *Recall further* the African Union Executive Council Decision on the Special Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) on climate change held at Nairobi, Kenya, May 2009, adopted at the Thirteenth Ordinary Session of the African Union Summit held in Sirte, Libya, June 2009.
- VII. *Recall* all previous decisions on climate change.
- VIII. *Recall* the decision of African Ministers of Finance in Lilongwe, Malawi (29-30 March 2010), to “*support efforts towards enhancing national and regional capacities to mitigate exposure to disaster risk through institutionalising effective financial and other instruments such as strategic grain reserves, budgeted contingency funds as well as through sharing risk across [sub]regions*”.
- IX. *Acknowledge* the positive efforts that many national governments in Africa have made in integrating disaster and climate risk reduction in their development policies and planning processes, as well as into emergency response and recovery activities and recognise the difficulties of many States to institutionalize, enact and decentralize these efforts and turn them into action;
- X. *Stress* the need for the Africa Regional Platform to continue to advocate and provide technical advice and support mechanisms by Regional Economic Communities, national governments and partners, for the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and its Programme of Action (2006-2015);
- XI. *Stress* the fact that there is a need for assessing the progress made by the African Union Commission, NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency, Regional Economic Communities and Member States in order to accelerate the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for DRR through its Programme of Action (2006-2015);

- XII. *Call the attention* of African leadership to the urgent need to strengthen sub-regional mechanisms in order to achieve the objectives of the HFA and the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, through the implementation of the Programme of Action (2006-2015);
- XIII. *Emphasize* the need for Member States, to promote the creation of partnerships with institutions dealing with disaster risk reduction, such as National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), the health and financial sector institutions, academia, specialised centres, research and scientific institutions, NGOs and civil society organisations, for purposes of achieving the objectives of the Africa Regional Strategy and Programme (2006-2015) and form part of a multi-sectoral National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction;
- XIV. *Recognise* the negative impacts of climate variability and change, including the increase in the occurrence and severity of disasters and increased competition over natural resources;
- XV. Stress the special needs of most vulnerable countries and Small Island Developing States and recognise their aspirations for sustainable development and need for cooperation;
- XVI. *Recognise also* that poorly planned urbanisation increases vulnerabilities which calls for concerted actions by local governments and communities.
- XVII. *Stress* the need for Member States to leverage new entry points for disaster risk reduction by taking advantage of new developments since the inception of the Africa Regional Strategy for DRR, and integrate them into existing mechanisms.

Hereby recommend to the African Union Summit:

1. To request the African Union Commission to continue mobilising political support, and to advocate for international community, institutions and development partners to support Member States to institutionalise multi-sectoral National Platforms for disaster risk reduction, or similar coordinating mechanisms, that integrate disaster and climate risk management, emphasising the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in planning and finance, the health, education, urban development, infrastructure, energy, water and sanitation, industry, agriculture and food security sectors, among other national priorities;
2. To call on the African Union Commission to reconstitute the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction to provide coordination and technical support to Member States for the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and its Programme of Action;

3. To call upon the African Union Commission, NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Member States to create a network of capacity development institutions for training, research, and information management and exchange at country, sub-regional and regional levels in collaboration with international and regional partners;
4. To request African Union Commission, NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency, regional and sub-regional organisations and Member States to continuously monitor the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and its Programme of Action in line with the HFA and to assess and report biennially on the progress made;
5. To request Member States to decentralize and implement local and community-based disaster risk reduction strategies and programmes, supported by adequate, realistic and predictable funding mechanisms, with an enhanced role for local governments and empower local and regional NGOs, including volunteers;
6. To strongly call upon Member States to incorporate gender equity and empowerment considerations in implementing the Programme of Action;
7. To strongly urge Member States to increase their investments in disaster risk reduction through the allocation of a certain percentage of their national budgets and other revenue dedicated to disaster risk reduction and report to the next Ministerial Conference, considering other related African Ministerial resolutions;
8. To call upon development and humanitarian partners to ensure that disbursement of one percent (1%) of development assistance and ten percent (10%) of humanitarian assistance, in line with the Chair's Summary of the Second Session of the Global Platform, supports disaster risk reduction, preparedness and recovery, including from violent conflicts and/or severe economic difficulties;
9. To call upon Member States, under the auspices of the African Union Commission, to explore the feasibility of continental financial risk pooling in working towards the creation of an African-owned Pan-African disaster risk pool, building on existing and emerging tools and mechanisms for financing disaster risk reduction;
10. To call for a study into the establishment of a regional funding mechanism for disaster risk reduction which allows Member States to access existing, and future, regional and global funds for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction;
11. To make disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation a national education priority, through their integration into the educational system, including the development of curricula, and the training of teachers;

12. To call upon Member States to undertake vulnerability assessments of schools, health facilities and urban centres, and develop and implement plans to ensure their safety and resilience;
13. To encourage the development of capacities of, and partnerships among, Member States to access and utilise existing traditional knowledge, space-based and other technologies for disaster risk reduction;
14. To call on the African Union Commission and the Regional Economic Communities to establish and/or strengthen, within their organisational structures, functional, sustainable, affordable and dedicated disaster risk reduction units for coordination and monitoring;
15. To call on the Regional Economic Communities to enhance the implementation of their roles and responsibilities as stated in the Africa Strategy and Programme of Action;
16. To call upon the Member States to adopt the revised Programme of Action for the Implementation of the African Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (2006-2015) and to monitor progress;
17. To invite the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and partners to engage with African Union Commission, Regional Economic Communities and African countries to support the implementation of this Declaration, as appropriate; and
18. To request the African Union Commission to take note of this Ministerial Declaration, and to submit to the African Union Summit.