



Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction
Tunisia 9-13 October 2018

COMMUNIQUE OF THE CHAIR ON AFRICA-ARAB COOPERATION ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION TUNIS, TUNISIA

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Joint Communiqué on Strengthening Africa-Arab Collaboration on Disaster Risk Reduction

1. The Africa-Arab Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction was held in Tunis, Republic of Tunisia, from 9 to 13 October 2018. It brought together Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, academia, women, youth, civil society, United Nations organizations and other stakeholders to take stock of progress made in the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the regional strategies on disaster risk reduction, and to reaffirm political commitment to achieving its implementation. The Africa-Arab Platform was co-organized by the Government of Tunisia and UNISDR in collaboration with the African Union Commission and the League of Arab States.
2. The African and Arab States regions face common hazards, primarily hydro-meteorological but also geological. They also share similar risk drivers such as the consequences of poverty and inequality, climate change and variability, unplanned and rapid urbanization, poor land management and compounding factors such as demographic change. As a result, the regions face similar challenges in reducing disaster risk.
3. Coming together at the Africa-Arab Platform, the two regions noted the many similarities, identified shared lessons and experiences, and agreed on ways to enhance future collaboration in the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

4. Through the Tunis Declaration for Accelerating the Sendai Framework and the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction as well as the Tunis Declaration of the Fourth Arab Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction, the two regions committed to collaborate to:
5. Ensure disaster risk reduction strategies are aligned with the Sendai Framework and in place by 2020 in the African and Arab States.
6. Accelerate efforts to ensure all African and Arab States systematically collect and account for disaster losses by 2020, using the Sendai Framework Monitor, to inform risk assessments to guide the investment decisions of development planners, business leaders, risk officers and finance ministries.
7. Seize the opportunity of post-conflict reconstruction to build back better by investing in resilient and accessible infrastructure, following the example of the African and Arab Governments that are integrating disaster risk reduction into national and sectoral investment planning under the responsibility of Central Finance and Planning Ministries.
8. Enable the meaningful participation and uphold the human rights of women and girls, children and youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, displaced and migrant populations, and those in vulnerable situations such as the poor and marginalized, in disaster risk reduction and development planning and practice.
9. Foster all-of-society engagement in the decision making, design, planning, budgeting, implementation and monitoring of policies and management for gender-sensitive and inclusive prevention, preparedness, early warning, response and recovery.
10. Translate global frameworks on climate change, sustainable development and the Sendai Framework into coherent national and local policy and practice across all sectors to achieve resilience, including by strengthening governance arrangements and by providing practical guidance to ensure effective and efficient management of disaster risk.
11. Strengthen inclusive and multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms, such as regional, national and local platforms, to ensure institutional coherence.
12. Intensify South-South collaboration through the exchange of good practices and technology transfer between the Africa and Arab regions on policies and practices for disaster risk reduction, building upon existing Afro-Arab partnerships.
13. Invite the African and Arab delegations and stakeholders to the 6th session of Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held on 13-17 May 2019 and present the outcomes of the Africa -Arab Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction.
14. Invite African and Arab delegations attending the Fifth Africa-Arab Summit in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2019, to consider the concrete recommendations of the Africa-Arab Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction to accelerate implementation of the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction in both regions.