

AFRICA REGIONAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

O TOWARDS DISASTER RISK-INFORMED DEVELOPMENT FOR A RESILIENT AFRICA IN A COVID-19 TRANSFORMED WORLD O

16– 19 NOVEMBER 2021, NAIROBI, KENYA

Concept Note for sessions
(pre-conference, working sessions, special sessions, plenary sessions)

Event title	Disaster risk governance in the context of systemic risks and COVID-19
Date and Time	18 November (11:00-12:00)
Venue/ Room no.	<i>Will be filled by conference Secretariat</i>
UNDRR ROA Focal Point/s	Diana Patricia Mosquera Calle
Organizers	Lead: Diana Patricia Mosquera Calle Collaborators: Auriane Denis Loupot
Background and Rational	<p>Risk in interdependent systems has always existed. However, increasing interconnectedness in modern societies due to economic globalization leads to increased system interdependency, complexity and uncertainty and hence magnified systemic risk. Time and space are compressed in the modern way of life and systems are increasingly inter-reliant.</p> <p>Systemic risk may therefore be materialized at different scales and levels of complexity. It may be triggered by single, multiple and cascading hazards and lead to synchronous, sequential and simultaneous impacts. Systemic risk becomes magnified by synchronous failures in multiple systems associated with systems interdependence. Simultaneous crises associated with multiple triggers can have compounded impacts. Multiple hazards may also be associated with simultaneous crises, where risk manifests in different systems at the same time, further magnifying and compounding impacts. Nonlinear and cascading impacts in social, economic and ecological systems is a key characteristic of systemic risk. The realization of systemic risk by definition leads to a breakdown, or at least a major dysfunction, of the system as a whole.</p> <p>Systemic risk is compounded by the potential for losses to cascade across interconnected socioeconomic systems, to cross political borders (including municipal and Member State boundaries or regional mandates), to irreversibly breach system boundaries and to impose intolerable burdens on entire countries.</p>

	<p>Risk governance needs to address the processes through which risk is systematically constructed, concentrated and accumulated. However, risk governance faces the challenges of identifying causal agents and assigning liability. The response to COVID-19 has shown the extreme complexity of systemic risk and the inadequacy of governance arrangements to identify, estimate and address systemic risks.</p> <p>This session will foster exchanges on the application of the concept of systemic risks drawing upon experiences in the Africa region in order to identify adjustments or key measures that must be taken to ensure disaster risk governance in the context of systemic risks and COVID-19</p>								
Session Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote exchanges on the concept of systemic risk and the implications for disaster governance • Foster exchanges on the approaches and lessons learned from the governance of systemic risk at regional, national and local level drawing upon experiences from the Africa region • Discuss the adjustments or key measures that must be taken to ensure disaster risk governance in the context of systemic risks and COVID-19 • Present examples of regulatory frameworks that support risk management in interconnected systems 								
Session format and programme (detailed agenda)	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Time</th> <th>Session</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>11:00-11:05</td> <td>Introduction</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11:05 -11:10</td> <td> <p><i>Ms. Mami Mizutori, Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What is systemic risk governance? ○ How to enhance systemic risk governance – the role of partnerships </td> </tr> <tr> <td>11:10-11:20</td> <td> <p>The importance of regional regulatory frameworks – the experience of the Indian Ocean region</p> <p><i>Prof. Vélayoudom Marimoutou; Secretary General, Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Given the systemic nature of risk, and experiences of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic (including cascading, indirect impacts), what adjustments are required at the national and local, international and regional levels in policy, regulatory and legislative frameworks, organisation and investment to be able to capitalise on opportunities, or to mitigate new / emerging risk? </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Time	Session	11:00-11:05	Introduction	11:05 -11:10	<p><i>Ms. Mami Mizutori, Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What is systemic risk governance? ○ How to enhance systemic risk governance – the role of partnerships 	11:10-11:20	<p>The importance of regional regulatory frameworks – the experience of the Indian Ocean region</p> <p><i>Prof. Vélayoudom Marimoutou; Secretary General, Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Given the systemic nature of risk, and experiences of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic (including cascading, indirect impacts), what adjustments are required at the national and local, international and regional levels in policy, regulatory and legislative frameworks, organisation and investment to be able to capitalise on opportunities, or to mitigate new / emerging risk?
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The case of the SEGA One Health Network and the linkages with disaster risk reduction
	11:20-11:30	<p>Reducing risk across sectors at the national level – experiences from Madagascar</p> <p><i>Mr. Olivier Elack, Director General, BNGRC, Madagascar</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What are the adjustments or key measures that must be taken to ensure that disaster risk management is no longer treated as a ‘sector’ in itself, but is a practice systematically applied across all sectors? ○ How to better address the interconnections among the impact of different hazards such as asset loss and damage and mortality, including the everyday risk associated with pollution, road accidents, fires and multidimensional poverty and interruption of essential services, among others? ○ What are the experiences in Madagascar to address risk in a systemic manner, taken into consideration the interconnectedness of risk and the impacts in different sectors/systems (e.g agriculture, food security?)
	11:30-11:40	<p>Priority actions for systemic risk governance at the local level – the experience in Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo</p> <p><i>Mr. Méschac Bilubi Ulengabo, Mayor of the City of Bukavu, D.R.Congo and Chair of the Platform of Local Authorities from Countries of the Great Lakes Region (PALPGL)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What must be prioritised to ensure that responsibilities for disaster risk reduction are shared by central Governments and relevant national authorities and sectors, so as to facilitate multi-stakeholder risk management and transdisciplinary, multiscale risk governance? ○ What priority actions can be taken to empower local authorities and local partnerships to strengthen risk reducing action at the subnational and local levels based on recent experiences such as the eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano and COVID-19? ○ How the pandemic exacerbated risks in different contexts and the actions that were taken to avert, minimize and address risks?
	11:40-12:00	Discussion and closing

Expected Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of approaches to address systemic risk governance at regional, national and local level Recommendations to strengthen risk governance in the region
Key messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systemic risk cannot be measured by separately quantifying the contributing parts. This means that effective governance should consider the interconnected elements and interdependencies among individual risks. A network perspective, with attention to interconnected nodes or agents, can be useful, as well as greater accountability and responsibility on the part of individual and institutional decision makers.
Proposed Moderator of the Session	Thandie Mwape, Coordinator Humanitarian Diplomacy, Regional Office for Africa, IFRC
List of Panelists/Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Mami Mizutori, Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Prof. Vélayoudom Marimoutou, Secretary General, Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) Mr. Olivier Elack, Director General, BNGRC, Madagascar Mr. Méschac Bilubi Ulengabo, Mayor of the City of Bukavu, D.R.Congo and Chair of the Platform of Local Authorities from Countries of the Great Lakes Region (PALPGL)
Reference Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNDRR (2015). The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030
Technical Equipment requirements	Interpretation French/English