

## AFRICA REGIONAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

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

16– 19 NOVEMBER 2021, NAIROBI, KENYA

### Concept Note for sessions

*(pre-conference, working sessions, special sessions, plenary sessions)*

<b>Event title</b>	Comprehensive disaster and climate risk management in Africa
<b>Date and Time</b>	18 November- (14:00-15:00) - Parallel working session 4
<b>Venue/ Room no.</b>	<i>Will be filled by conference Secretariat</i>
<b>UNDRR ROA Focal Point/s</b>	Diana Patricia Mosquera Calle
<b>Organizers</b>	<p>Lead: UNDRR Diana Patricia Mosquera Calle, Programme Management Officer, UNDRR Regional Office for Africa, <a href="mailto:diana.mosquera@un.org">diana.mosquera@un.org</a></p> <p>Collaborators: IFRC Stella Ngugi, Disaster Law Coordinator for Africa, <a href="mailto:stella.ngugi@ifrc.org">stella.ngugi@ifrc.org</a></p>
<b>Background and Rational</b>	<p>In the past ten years, 83 percent of all disasters triggered by natural hazards were caused by extreme weather- and climate-related events, such as floods, storms and heatwaves, and killed more than 410,000 people worldwide. In 2020 only, 80 disasters were recorded across 36 African countries. Among them, floods affected seven million people and caused 1,273 deaths, the highest figure since 2006. Science shows that with climate change, such hazards are expected to increase in frequency and intensity, posing serious challenges to sustainable development in Africa.</p> <p>Reducing disaster risk and adapting to climate change is therefore necessary. Both Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) fields aim at strengthening resilience of people and societies by managing risks and adjusting to climate change. Although, they have strong similarities and complementarities, DRR and CCA are implemented in separate ways as they have emerged from different global processes and are managed by different stakeholders.</p> <p>To prevent and mitigate disaster impacts, a systemic risk management approach that transcends across disciplines, sectors and institutions is required. Indeed, risk reduction cannot occur without climate action; climate change adaptation will not be successful without risk reduction. By generating more efficient and effective preparedness, response and recovery processes while making more efficient use of</p>

	<p>financial and human resources, policy coherence among DRR and CCA practices can contribute to a more sustainable development.</p> <p>In 2015, Members of the United Nations adopted the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Paris Agreement for Climate Change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which call for integrated approaches in CCA, DRR and sustainable development. In particular, the Sendai Framework (Target E) and the SDGs (goals 11 and 13) share a common target – to substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies – which can serve as entry point to foster policy coherence between DRR and CCA.</p> <p>In addition, in Africa, Member States of the African Union have expressed their strong commitment to the implementation of the Sendai Framework by adopting the Africa Programme of Action (PoA) for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015- 2030 (AUC, 2016). Despite this important commitment and significant progresses made in aligning DRR strategies to the Sendai Framework, more efforts are needed to increase DRR mainstreaming and accelerate policy coherence across development policies and sectors (including Agriculture, Health, Education, Transportations etc.) and into development.</p> <p>In response to the need to support efficient implementation of these frameworks and agenda, the African Union Commission (AUC), the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and multiple stakeholders are working at regional, national, and local levels, on fostering policy coherence among DRR and CCA practices.</p> <p>In particular, since 2019 UNDRR Regional Office for Africa has conducted workshops and consultations in order to better understand the challenges and opportunities for better policy coherence between DRR and CCA in Africa. Results were compiled in the report titled <i>Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, Pathways for policy coherence in Sub-Saharan Africa</i> (UNDRR, 2020) and were complemented by case studies in four countries namely Benin, Niger, Malawi, and Uganda. To advance the coherence agenda in Africa, these studies recommended to (1) develop common grounds for understanding risks to inform policy-making and joint planning, (2) establish a strong governance system to achieve long-term resilience, (3) increase investments and budget for DRR and CCA and (4) clarify roles for preparedness and enhance adaptation to build back better.</p> <p>To this end, the UNDRR is supporting the application of comprehensive climate and disaster risk management principles and guidance. The latter aims to strengthen synergies between DRR and CCA, identifying mutually beneficial opportunities across policies and programmes and enhancing the capacity of governments for cross-sectoral planning while ensuring vertical alignment.</p>
<p><b>Session Objectives</b></p>	<p>This session will aim to foster exchanges between government representatives and development partners active in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation with a view to identifying enablers, challenges and opportunities for enhancing coherence between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction policies, strategies, plans and practices through the application of</p>

	<p>comprehensive climate and disaster risk management – from risk assessment to governance, planning, implementation and monitoring.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discuss practical approaches to enhance coherence of DRR and CCA fields at national levels</li> <li>2. Highlight good practices</li> <li>3. Identify enablers and opportunities for the application of comprehensive climate and disaster risk management</li> </ol>																								
<p><b>Session format and programme</b> (<i>detailed agenda</i>)</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Time</th> <th>Topic</th> <th>Speaker</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>14:00-14:05</td> <td>Introduction</td> <td>Moderator</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14:05-14:15</td> <td><b>Developing common grounds for understanding risks to inform policymaking</b> How can governments and partners develop common grounds at national level for understanding risks to inform policymaking and joint planning?</td> <td>UNDRR</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14:15-14:25</td> <td><b>Establishing a strong governance system to achieve long-term resilience</b> How can we clarify roles and responsibilities of DRR and CCA stakeholders and establish a strong governance system to achieve long-term resilience?</td> <td>Uganda Red Cross</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14:25-14:35</td> <td><b>Experience at the country level</b> What are the needs at the country level to undertake a comprehensive disaster and climate risk management approach to address risk and to strengthen collaboration?</td> <td>Representative from Benin</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14:35-14:45</td> <td><b>Experience of mainstreaming DRR and CCA into development</b> How is mainstreaming of DRR and CCA fields into other sectors progressing in Africa? What are the challenges and opportunities?</td> <td>AUC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14:45-14:55</td> <td>Q&amp;A</td> <td>All panelists</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14:55-15:00</td> <td>Conclusion</td> <td>Moderator</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Time	Topic	Speaker	14:00-14:05	Introduction	Moderator	14:05-14:15	<b>Developing common grounds for understanding risks to inform policymaking</b> How can governments and partners develop common grounds at national level for understanding risks to inform policymaking and joint planning?	UNDRR	14:15-14:25	<b>Establishing a strong governance system to achieve long-term resilience</b> How can we clarify roles and responsibilities of DRR and CCA stakeholders and establish a strong governance system to achieve long-term resilience?	Uganda Red Cross	14:25-14:35	<b>Experience at the country level</b> What are the needs at the country level to undertake a comprehensive disaster and climate risk management approach to address risk and to strengthen collaboration?	Representative from Benin	14:35-14:45	<b>Experience of mainstreaming DRR and CCA into development</b> How is mainstreaming of DRR and CCA fields into other sectors progressing in Africa? What are the challenges and opportunities?	AUC	14:45-14:55	Q&A	All panelists	14:55-15:00	Conclusion	Moderator
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<p><b>Expected Outcomes</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approaches to increase coherence between DRR and CCA in Africa presented</li> <li>• Good practices identified</li> </ul>																								

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enablers and opportunities for the application of comprehensive climate and disaster risk management identified</li> </ul>
<b>Key messages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehensive disaster and climate risk management to operationalize policy coherence between DRR and CCA.</li> <li>Risk assessments are fundamental for risk-informed planning. Without greater attention to collecting, analyzing, and using data, countries will be unable to track progress on reducing climate and disaster risks, and lack the evidence to make sound future decisions related to development and economic growth.</li> <li>There is a need for strong governance system backed up by regulatory and legal frameworks which clarify roles and responsibilities for DRR and CCA and ensures alignment of DRR and CCA policy frameworks and outcomes.</li> <li>There is a need for joint mainstreaming of DRR and CCA into sustainable development and sectors.</li> </ul>
<b>Proposed Moderator of the Session</b>	Stella Ngugi, Disaster Law Coordinator for Africa, IFRC
<b>List of speakers and their interventions</b>	<p>Mr. Animesh Kumar, Head of UNDRR Office in Bonn, UNDRR</p> <p>Ms. Agnes Ndaaba, Disaster Law Project Manager/In- House Legal Counsel, Uganda Red Cross</p> <p>Mr. Diane Aboubakar, Senior Policy Officer, African Union Commission</p> <p>Mr. Toussaint Adjehounou, Assistant to the Director General of the National Civil Protection Agency (ANPC) and former Minister of the Interior, Public Security and Cults, Benin</p>
<b>Reference Documents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CRED &amp; UNDRR. (2021). 2020: The Non-COVID Year in Disasters. Brussels. <a href="https://emdat.be/sites/default/files/adsr_2020.pdf">https://emdat.be/sites/default/files/adsr_2020.pdf</a> .</li> <li>IFRC. (2020). World Disaster Report 2020. Geneva.</li> <li>UNDRR. (2015). The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030</li> <li>UNDRR. (2020). Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, Pathways for policy coherence in Sub-Saharan Africa.</li> <li>UNDRR. (2021). Promoting synergy and alignment: between Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in the context of National Adaptation Plans.</li> <li>IFRC UCC (2021) Global Synthesis Report on Law and Policies for Climate Resilience. Enhancing Normative Integration between Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction, Geneva.</li> </ul>
<b>Technical Equipment requirements</b>	Interpretation in English/French