



Pre-Conference Stakeholder Consultations

21 October 8:30-16:00

Africa is disproportionately affected by disasters, with significant socioeconomic and environmental impacts. While progress has been made in DRR, the region faces challenges in implementing the Sendai Framework, including limited resources, capacity gaps, and climate change exacerbating risks. To address these challenges, a multi-stakeholder approach is essential to leverage diverse perspectives and expertise.

Africa faces significant challenges from climate change and disasters. To effectively address these issues, it's crucial to involve all sectors of society in disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate change adaptation, and sustainable development.

Governments, communities, businesses, civil society organizations, academia, traditional and religious leaders, youth, women, and the media all play vital roles in building resilience. Governments create policies and allocate resources, while communities possess invaluable local knowledge. Businesses contribute through innovation and investment, while civil society organizations advocate and build capacity. Academia provides research, and traditional and religious leaders can mobilize communities. Youth and women bring unique perspectives, and the media raises awareness and holds stakeholders accountable.

The Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction is a key platform for fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing among these diverse stakeholders. By prioritizing stakeholder engagement, Africa can enhance its ability to prevent, prepare for, and respond to disasters. This collaborative approach is essential for building a more resilient and sustainable future for the continent.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) provides a global blueprint for reducing disaster risk and building resilience. To accelerate its implementation in Africa, robust stakeholder engagement is crucial. Therefore, the Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction will hold a pre-conference stakeholder consultation on 21 October 2024, aiming to develop voluntary commitments, stakeholder position statements, and key messages to advance DRR in the region.

Objective

To convene a Stakeholder Pre-Conference Meeting at the Africa Regional Platform for DRR, to facilitate inclusive and meaningful participation in the AfrRP, develop voluntary commitments, stakeholder position statements, and key messages to advance DRR in the region and build consensus on a shared vision for disaster risk reduction in Africa. This includes:

- Provide a platform for UN Major Groups and Other Stakeholders to exchange knowledge and experiences on DRR in Africa.
- Consolidate diverse perspectives into a unified message representing each stakeholder group and ensure they are reflected throughout the AfrRP-9

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Republic of Namibia

- Facilitate the development of voluntary commitments, stakeholder position statements, and key messages aimed at accelerating the implementation of the Sendai Framework 2015-2030
- Identify critical gaps and opportunities for enhancing DRR efforts in Africa.
- Foster collaboration and partnerships among stakeholders for effective DRR action.

Expected Outcomes

- A comprehensive understanding of the current state of DRR in Africa, including challenges and opportunities.
- A set of voluntary commitments from stakeholders to contribute to DRR implementation.
- A consolidated stakeholder position statement on key priorities for DRR in Africa.
- A set of key messages to communicate the importance of DRR to policymakers and the public.
- A roadmap for future collaboration and partnerships among stakeholders.

Participants

The meeting will bring together representatives from Government agencies at national and local levels, Civil society organizations (CSOs), Private sector, Academia and research institutions, local and traditional leaders, Children, Youth, women's groups, Media, and various international organizations.

By the end of the Consultations, each stakeholder group will have identified Voluntary Commitments, Key Messages, Outcome Positions, and planned pathways (Roadmap) for effective implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa.

Organization

The consultations are being organized by the Pre-Conference Stakeholder Consultation Committee, made up of 10+ Stakeholder Groups active in Africa. The Consultations provide an avenue for UN Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (Children and Youth, Disability Inclusion, Gender, Local Authorities, Media, Private Sector, Science and Technology, etc.) to convene amongst themselves and develop voluntary commitments, stakeholder position statements, and key messages for accelerating implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa. The Committee is expected to produce the following substantive outputs:

- A Concept Note including a snapshot of frontier thinking on course correction towards 2030 with expected outcomes and guided questions for the consultations.
- Proposal on the Format of Discussion: Weigh in on how to format and sequence the consultations to optimize expected outcomes and maximise stakeholder interaction and participation.
- A Moderation and Rapporteur Form to guide the Consultation Sessions and capture Session Notes and Outcome Recommendations

As needed and where possible, the committee will also be responsible for supporting the consultations on the day of the event.

Queries and clarifications can be directed to undrr-africa@un.org, copying Mekailah.stephens@un.org