

**Eighteenth Session of Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction  
4-6 October 2022, Algiers, People's Democratic Republic of Algeria**

**Theme: From commitments to action-Enhancing Anticipatory Action in Africa through effective implementation of Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action Programme**

**Background:** Reconstituted in 2011 in line with the recommendation of the Second African Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (April 2010) and endorsed by the Executive Council of the African Union in January 2011 (EX.CL/Dec.607 (XVIII)), the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction (AWGDRR) is a principal continental coordination mechanism and advisory body for DRR with a mandate to provide technical and coordination support to Member States (MS), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), African Union Commission (AUC) and other partners to implement the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction. Since the adoption of the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa (PoA) by the African Union Executive Council back in January 2017, the AWGDRR has been focusing its efforts on supporting the implementation of this continental framework.

Recognizing the importance of the PoA in building climate and disaster resilience to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, the Eighth Africa Regional Platform for DRR and Seventh High-Level Meeting on DRR adopted the Nairobi Declaration on Accelerating the Path to Achieving the Goal and Targets of the PoA in November 2021 ([https://afrr.undrr.org/sites/default/files/2021-11/ADOPTED-2021%20AfRP\\_Nairobi%20Declaration\\_0.pdf](https://afrr.undrr.org/sites/default/files/2021-11/ADOPTED-2021%20AfRP_Nairobi%20Declaration_0.pdf)). This Declaration includes decisions on the adoption of the Matrix of the Programme of Action (2021-2025) to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa, as well as the Africa Framework for Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems and Early Action.

The AWGDRR has played a pivotal role in the process leading up to the development and adoption of the Nairobi declaration, which outlines strategic priorities to accelerate the implementation of the PoA. It also mandated the AWGDRR to coordinate the process leading up to the development of the Africa Common Position to the 2022 Global Platform for DRR 2022 (ACP-GP 2022) under the leadership of the African Union Commission. The ACP-GP2022 (<https://globalplatform.undrr.org/publication/africa-common-position-2022-global-platform-drr-24-may-2022-bali-indonesia>) includes concrete and action-oriented priorities/commitments aimed at translating priorities and decisions in the Nairobi Declaration into concrete action and thereby advancing progress in implementing the PoA at all levels.

Meeting twice a year since 2011, the AWGDRR has held 17 regular (in person) and three virtual sessions to date, which resulted in tangible recommendations to advance the DRR agenda for resilience across the continent within the framework of the Sendai Framework and the PoA. The Eighteenth session will provide a platform for the AWGDRR members and other stakeholders to discuss achievements, challenges and lessons learned with respect to the implementation of recommendations and action points agreed at the last session. (<https://www.undrr.org/publication/17th-africa-working-group-disaster-risk-reduction>). The recommendations that will be agreed upon at the meeting are expected to pave the way for smooth implementation of priorities, decisions and commitments outlined in the Nairobi Declaration and ACP-GP2022 at all levels.

Unlike previous sessions, in line with its theme, the AWGDRR will take a deep dive into specific priorities outlined both in the Nairobi Declaration and the ACP-GP2022, with a focus on Anticipatory Action (A-A) and the Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Action Systems (AMHEWAS), the Second Biennial Report on the PoA, the Midterm Review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework. The session will also consider resource mobilization approaches to support DRR efforts. The outcomes of continental and regional events held since the last session, including the Ministerial Meeting on Integrated Early Warning and Early Action Systems Initiative in Southern Africa, Africa Climate Talks and other COP27 related events and their implications for the PoA will also be discussed. In addition, the session will feature marketplace lightning talks and field visits with a view to providing additional opportunities for participants to share best practices and lessons learned in DRR in general, and A-A and MHEWAS in particular.

**Objective:** The main objective of the session is to review progress in the implementation of recommendations from the last session and commitments and priorities outlined in the Nairobi Declaration and ACP-GP2022 and agree on the way forward to accelerate the implementation of the Programme of Action for the implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa and advance A-A in Africa through AMHEWAS.

**Expected outcomes:**

- Recommendations and action points to accelerate the implementation of action points agreed at the last session.
- Concrete action points to fully implement priorities and commitments in the Nairobi Declaration and ACP-GP2022.
- Lessons learned and best practices identified to strengthen A-A and AMHEWAS.
- Way forward to strengthen resource mobilization for DRR/PoA/A-A and AMHEWAS.

**Format of the meeting:** The meeting will be held in a hybrid format and will feature panel discussions and include presentations centred around the theme of the meeting.

**Language:** English and French

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