

Report of the Drafting Committee on The 8th Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 18 November 2021, Nairobi, Kenya

The 8th Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction was held virtually from 16th – 18th November 2021, on the theme, “Towards disaster risk-informed development for a resilient Africa in a Covid-19 Transformed World”, Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting was hosted by the Republic of Kenya and co-organized by the African Union Commission, IGAD and UNDRR.

The meeting brought together 750 delegates from across the continent to review progress made in the implementation of the Program of Action (PoA) for the implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa, as well as priorities in the Tunis Declaration and Africa Common Position to 2019 Global Platform for DRR and agree on the way forward to accelerate implementation.

The delegates in attendance included, representatives of Member States, Regional Economic Communities, African Union Commission, United Nations organizations, parliamentarians, civil society organizations, private sector, academia, youth and women groups, media, local communities, local authorities, and disaster risk reduction practitioners.

The first day, 16 November 2021, included a range of pre-conference sessions, stakeholders’ consultations, trainings, and orientations. The Regional Platform from 17– 18 November 2021 constituted substantive sessions, which included plenary, parallel sessions, and side events aligned to the overarching theme of the event.

A virtual marketplace was also launched, and it allowed for a range of stakeholders to showcase their best practices as far as Sendai Framework, the PoA and priorities in the Tunis Declaration and Africa Common Position to 2019 Global Platform for DRR are concerned. Covid -19 featured in most sessions, given its importance in terms of the challenges and opportunities it presented.

The platform was officially opened by **Dr. (Eng) Karanja Kibicho**, the Principal Secretary State Department of Interior and Citizen Services, Kenyan Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government. Other dignitaries included **Dr.**

Stephen Jackson, UN Resident Coordinator, Kenya, **Ms. Mami Mizutori**, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction, **H.E. Amb. Josefa Correia Leonel Sacko**, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment, African Union Commission, and **Dr. Guleid Artan**, Director, IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Center.

The event also featured a press conference in which these dignitaries participated.

The Drafting Committee with 34 members drawn from a range of stakeholders, had its session in parallel to the Regional Platform to review and finalize the outcome document “Nairobi Declaration”. The Drafting Committee was chaired by Col. (Rtd) Charles Owino, Director, National Disaster Operations Center, Republic of Kenya.

The Nairobi Declaration took into consideration inputs from the Africa Working Group Meeting in October 2021 as well as recommendations from various sessions during the platform and voluntary commitments from stakeholder groups. The draft Nairobi Declaration was presented at the Regional Platform for review and inputs generated from the platform have been incorporated in the current version that will be presented at this High-Level meeting for consideration and adoption.

Another important document that the platform reviewed was the Implementation Matrix for the Programme of Action (PoA) for the period 2021-2025. These two important outcome documents have been reviewed and are proposed for consideration and adoption by the High-Level Meeting.

The drafting Committee commended the important role played by the African Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction (AWGDRR), Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (AfRP) Regional Organizing Committee, and the National Organizing Committee as well as the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), African Union Commission (AUC) and Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) for not only shaping and framing the theme, focus areas, and the program of the platform, but also for making it a successful event.

The Drafting Committee would like to thank the Africa Working Group and all delegates for their contribution. The Committee also wishes to thank the Republic of Kenya for hosting the meeting and AUC, IGAD and UNDRR for organizing the event.