



Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction

SUMMARY OF
DISCUSSIONS AND
ACTION POINTS

MEETING HELD ON 23 JULY 2020


VIRTUAL
DIALOGUE

#PreventionSavesLives



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The first virtual meeting of the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction (AWGDRR) was held on Thursday, 23 July 2020 from 14:30-17:30hrs.

The meeting was attended by over 80 participants from member organizations, including Member States, Regional Economic Communities, African Union Commission, UN agencies, civil society organizations, and donors.



SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND ACTION POINTS

The main objective of the meeting was to assess progress and build consensus on the way forward to strengthen the capacity of Member States to effectively prepare, respond and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and other hazards in line with the recommendations from the virtual meeting of national and sub-regional Disaster Risk Reduction Focal Points and other stakeholders that was held on 28 April 2020. The meeting was chaired by the African Union Commission while UNDRR served as the Secretariat.

The meeting featured three panel discussions with Member States (Republic of The Gambia, United Republic of Tanzania, Republic of Chad and Republic of Rwanda), Regional Economic Communities (ECCAS, IGAD and SADC) and partner organizations (AfDB, IFRC, UNDP, UNDRR and WBG-GFDRR) moderated by IGAD, WBG-GFDRR and SADC, respectively. The three panel discussions focused on progress to date and follow up actions with respect to the management of COVID-19 and other hazards at regional, sub-regional and national/sub-national levels. The three panel discussions also served as a platform to share best practices, challenges and lessons learned as well as identify priority focus areas for the AWGDRR going forward.

The meeting was also an opportunity to brief the AWGDRR on the five recommendations from the meeting with Member States and RECs DRR focal points and other stakeholders, held on 28 April 2020. The draft working modalities for the AWGDRR prepared jointly by AUC and UNDRR were also discussed and adopted at the meeting.

Among the key areas of focus was the issue of resource mobilization, where it was learned that the World Bank Group will be making available up to US \$50 billion over the next 15 months for African countries to deal with COVID-19. The assistance will focus on three main areas simultaneously: saving lives, protecting livelihoods and securing the future. In addition,

*...the **African Development Bank** will provide around **US\$10 billion** of financing directly to Regional Member Countries in 2020 **guided by three principles: flexibility, speed, and responsiveness.***

The action points include

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| ✓ support for advocacy and awareness raising | ✓ resource mobilization | ✓ capacity building |
| ✓ strengthening coordination mechanisms and early warning systems | ✓ improving risk governance | ✓ understanding and management of systemic risk |

through its COVID-19 Response Facility, the African Development Bank will provide around US\$10 billion of financing directly to Regional Member Countries in 2020 guided by three principles: flexibility, speed, and responsiveness. These interventions are expected to contribute to bridging financing gaps and help Member States to effectively manage the COVID-19 pandemic and other hazards.

The table on [page 3](#) summarizes key action points resulting from the meeting, which the

group is expected to implement in support of the recommendations from the above-mentioned April 2020 meeting. The action points include support for advocacy and awareness raising, resource mobilization, capacity building, strengthening coordination mechanisms and early warning systems, as well as improving risk governance and understanding and management of systemic risk. The identified action points are consistent with the mandate of the group and are of great importance to make the group fit for purpose in the current context. □

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND ACTION POINTS

NO.	ACTION POINTS	RESPONSIBLE	LEAD	TIMEFRAME
1	Support and follow-up the implementation of recommendations from the April 2020 virtual meeting with Member States and RECs DRR focal points and other stakeholders	AWGDRR members	AUC/ UNDRR	Continuous
2	Advance a High-level Commitment to disaster risk reduction at continental and regional levels (including by organizing a High-level meeting for RECs) in support of the implementation of the PoA and other related commitments and decisions including the Tunis Declaration	AWGDRR members	AUC	Continuous
3	AWGDRR to serve as champion in advocacy and awareness raising for disaster and climate resilience, supporting resource mobilization from both domestic and external sources, and for mainstreaming of DRR into national and sectoral development planning	AWGDRR members	AUC	Continuous
4	Support the integration of DRR into all measures to address COVID-19 and other hazards ; and provide leadership in planning for recovery, with a focus on addressing systemic risk	AWGDRR members	AUC	Continuous
5	Provide leadership in improving risk governance (including through the development of DRR strategies at all levels) as well as understanding and management of systemic risk and the cascading impacts of COVID-19 and other hazards within and across systems	AWGDRR members	AUC/ UNDRR	Continuous

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NO.	ACTION POINTS	RESPONSIBLE	LEAD	TIMEFRAME
6	Support in capacity building of Member States (including through provision of technical support, peer reviews, South-to-South learning and demand driven DRR related trainings)	AWGDRR members	AUC/ UNDRR	Continuous
7	Support the establishment and/or strengthening and operationalization of multi-hazard early warning systems; and interoperational emergency operation centres	AWGDRR members	AUC/ UNDRR	Continuous
8	Strengthen multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder sub-regional and national coordination mechanisms , including for enhanced information sharing, knowledge management, transboundary risk management and partnerships	AWGDRR members	AUC/ UNDRR	Continuous
9	Provide update on the status of implementation of the above action point at the next meeting	AWGDRR members	UNDRR	October 2020



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