

POSITION STATEMENT ON THE POST-2015 HFA DIALOGUE IN AFRICA

The dawn of the global policy and legislative reforms following the adoption of the sustainable development principles, policies and practices and the associated declaration of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDDR): 1990-1999 has manifested in the global recognition of the inextricable link between sustainable development, disaster risk reduction and climate change management.

Within the disaster risk reduction realm, the turn of the 21st millennium has also heightened global, regional and national efforts to implement disaster risk reduction as a concern for service delivery and sustainable development founded on the building of resilience from hazards and disasters.

Recognising the gains and guidelines from the IDNDR, the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the Hyogo Framework for Action, the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, sub-regional strategies and national disaster risk reduction policies and laws, outcomes of various Global and Africa Regional Platforms since 2005, global and national assessments and preparatory materials for the World Conference for Disaster Reduction in Sendai, Japan, 2015;

Acknowledging the consultative processes in the run-up to the 5th Africa Regional Platform from 13-16 May 2014 in Abuja, Nigeria;

The Southern Africa Society for Disaster Reduction (SASDiR) representing universities, research institutions, civil society organisations working in disaster reduction in Southern Africa, certain private sector organisations, local politicians, and disaster risk reduction practitioners in all SADC member states;

Building on the community-based evidence created through the Views from the Frontline process in 2009, 2011 and 2013; and

Taking cognisance of the Global Assessment Reports and country self-assessments and DRR implementation reports and national DRR statements;

SASDiR herewith presents a position statement for consideration as inputs to the post-2015 HFA discussions and inclusion in a new global framework (HFA2 or also called HFA+).

In so doing the Society calls on SADC member states, civil society organisations and other like-minded networks to consider and emphasise the following points in their deliberations in the run-up to the 5th African Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Platform and the 2015 World Conference for Disaster Reduction:

1. Ensure implementation of existing national and sub-national disaster risk reduction policies, plans and legislation through resources, capacities support and the integration of disaster risk management into all government sectors.
2. Disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, the development agenda (SDGs) and environmental concerns, can no longer be treated as separate phenomena. A mutually founded convergence in policy and planning, institutional and collective efforts are needed to efficiently and cost-effectively reduce the risks which natural and anthropogenic hazards pose to development gains. To this end, SASDiR calls for serious and tangible and targeted strategies and actions by our respective governments represented at the various post-2015 dialogues in visibly integrating these shared concerns in their policies, plans and development strategies.

3. Recognise the impact of everyday hazards and disasters on lives, livelihoods and assets by supporting local actions and initiatives.
4. Prioritise the most at-risk, poorest and marginalised people, through ensuring and decentralising disaster risk governance as a development practice.
5. Tackle the underlying causes and drivers of people's vulnerability to disasters through judicious development measures on a decentralised basis, mindful that internal as well as external factors are to blame.
6. Acknowledge that health is a basic condition for every person to actively participate in and support any disaster risk management, prevention, mitigation and recovery activity.
7. Mobilise political commitment by focusing on rights, responsibilities and accountabilities of citizens, local governments, central governments and regional bodies alike.
8. Promote regional and national partnerships and public participation, with special emphasis on reaching regional disaster risk reduction consensus and capacity enhancement.
9. Develop and implement national research agendas for the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in environmental management and development planning in all tiers of government.
10. Adopt targets to ensure the improvement in local ownership of risk management, engendering of risk management, children and young people's ownerships of risk management and disability-inclusive risk management within the development and changing climate contexts.
11. Ensure percentage budgetary commitments for disaster risk management as part of development, climate change and adaptation, humanitarian and disaster response and recovery funding.
12. Heighten measures to ensure effective trans boundary and supra-national disaster risk management measures between and among nations.
13. Call for the strengthening of the SADC Disaster Risk Reduction Unit in terms of staff capacities and budgetary allocations, with a strong focus on decentralised assistance (through appointed focal points) to member states.