

## CONFERENCE COMMUNIQUÉ:

### **ACCELERATED COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DISASTER RISK REDUCTION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE SADC REGION**

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**Pretoria, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

We, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Stakeholders of Southern Africa (SADC Secretariat, SADC Member States, Heads of Disaster Risk Reduction Agencies, UN agencies, Civil Society Organisations, Academia, private sector, women and youth representatives) having met in Pretoria, South Africa between 26 to 28 March 2018 on the occasion of the SADC Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Conference:

***Appreciate*** the hospitality and warm welcome accorded to the conference delegates by the Government and the people of the Republic of South Africa and commend them for their commitment towards disaster risk reduction;

***Recognize*** the increasing frequency and impact of disasters in the SADC region coupled by the vulnerability context of the region exacerbated by climate change and variability, environmental degradation, rapid land uses changes and increasing urbanization and how it affects livelihoods; threatens life and undermines the achievement of sustainable development;

***Restate our*** commitment and determination to substantially reduce mortality and morbidity, and loss of livelihoods in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries in the SADC region.

***Value*** the important role played by the SADC disaster risk reduction and Resilience strategic frameworks that are aligned to global and regional DRR, climate change and sustainable development frameworks;

***Recall*** the adoption by African Union Executive Council of the Programme of Action for the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction in line with the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction through a dedicated Programme of Action for the implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa;

***Further recall*** the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement on climate change, the New Urban Agenda and the outcomes of the World Humanitarian Summit, and their contribution in realization of the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan;

**Recognize** the significance of financial, technical and academic partnerships and collaborations at global, continental, regional, national and local levels to effectively implement the SADC DRR Strategy in the SADC region;

**Recognize** the support provided to the SADC Secretariat and Member States by International Cooperating Partners in particular the European Union; the World Bank; the African Development Bank and UN agencies in support of DRR initiatives in the region;

**Emphasize** the importance of the coordination role of SADC Secretariat in enhancing the Regional Platform for DRR and supporting harmonization of DRR policy formulation and implementation for regional and national DRR actors for strengthened multi-sectoral disaster risk reduction, coordination and implementation:

**Hereby:**

1. **Welcome** the SADC leadership in setting strategic frameworks and programmes on DRR and resilience in support of the coherent implementation of the post 2015 development and resilience frameworks;
2. **Call upon** the SADC Secretariat, SADC Member States and financial, technical and academic partners to move beyond development of policies, plans and strategies to accelerate implementation of coordinated actions;
3. **Commit** to prioritize the enhancement of investments in the prevention of new and reducing existing disaster risks, through the implementation of integrated and inclusive measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disasters and increase preparedness for response, recovery and reconstruction thereby strengthening resilience;
4. **Call for** SADC Member States to significantly increase the allocation of annual national budgets for disaster risk reduction and sustain the financial support to the SADC Secretariat for facilitating regional disaster risk reduction initiatives in the SADC Region;
5. **Request** international and regional organizations, technical and financial partners to increase and sustain financial support and technical assistance for the implementation of regional disaster risk reduction initiatives in the SADC Region;
6. **Recognize** the SADC Regional Disaster Preparedness and Response Mechanism; the Regional DRR and Resilience programme financing **and implementation** by the SADC Secretariat and Member States, with the support of financial and technical partners;
7. **Commit** to implementation of integrated monitoring and impact reporting at community, sub-national, national and regional levels of initiatives aimed at reducing existing disaster risk, hazard exposure and vulnerability to climate change and disasters coherent with Sustainable Development Goals' Indicators

taking into consideration the specificity of the vulnerability of Small Island States (SIDs);

8. **Promote** mainstreaming of gender and the inclusion of youth, community based organizations in the design and implementation of integrated approaches for disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and sustainable development;
9. **Promote** a conducive environment for building and exchanging academic and research expertise and promote learning and continued professional education on disaster risk reduction in the SADC region and member states;
10. **Recognize** the critical role of ecosystems, environmental conservation, spatial and land use planning and the important role of weather, water and climate services, and integrated modernized hydromet services for effective early warning and disaster risk reduction
11. **Request** SADC Secretariat to facilitate engagement between member states and financial institutions and build capacity on disaster risk financing and risk transfer through international financial institutions, including the African Development Bank, Africa Risk Capacity and the World Bank;
12. **Request** SADC Secretariat to present this communique to the SADC Council of Ministers for their endorsement and urge all stakeholders to facilitate awareness and endorsement of this communique at various levels.

**Done on this 28<sup>th</sup> day of March 2018 in Pretoria, South Africa.**