

Rabat Declaration for Disaster Risk Reduction

11 November 2021

We, Ministers and Heads of delegations of the Arab Member States of the United Nations and representatives of regional, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations participating in the Fifth Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Rabat, the capital of the Kingdom of Morocco, through the feature of virtual conference.

We express our thanks and appreciation to the King, Government and people of the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting and organizing the Fifth Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. We also thank the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction for their unremitting efforts to support the Arab States in building their resilience to disasters.

We declare the following:

1. We express our full awareness of the increasing frequency of hazards and the resulting scale of human and economic losses. Arab States face multiple challenges due to disasters triggered by natural and biological hazards such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, storms, droughts, epidemics, fires, including forest fires, agricultural crops, and other man-made disasters that directly affect the environment, populations, human movements and infrastructure;
2. We reiterate the goals, priorities and targets of the Sendai Framework and the **Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2030** and renew our

commitment and support by all means to lead a paradigm shift from disaster risk management to a more comprehensive and risk-resilient development practice through a coherence with sustainable development and climate change policies, and the preservation of biodiversity and ecological systems at the regional, national and local levels through the development of tools for the implementation of the Priority Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction 2021-2024, showcased and ratified at the Fifth Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, following clear timeframes, programmes and activities, and identifying its implementing entities and sources of funding, provided that the implementation tools of the Plan be presented to the Arab Coordination Mechanism for Disaster Risk Reduction at its next meeting;

3. We reiterate our disposition to continue the concrete work to develop a timetable and plans at the Arab States level for the implementation and follow-up of the actions set out in the various Global and Arab Platforms and related conferences: Statement of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Cancun 2017, Statement of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva 2019, and the outputs of the Arab Platforms held in Aqaba, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in 2013, Sharm el-Sheikh, Arab Republic of Egypt, in 2014, Doha, State of Qatar, in 2017, and Tunis, Republic of Tunisia, in 2018;
4. We welcome the achievements made at the Arab regional level with the adoption of the "Arab Coordination Mechanism for Disaster Risk Reduction" (ACMDRR) within the framework of the League of Arab States by the 2018 Arab Summit as the regional institutional framework and the official Arab forum for disaster risk reduction. We also commit to redouble our efforts and to promote inter-Arab coordination and consultations at the regional level through ACMDRR, with a view to consolidating efforts and aligning national programmes with the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2030 and the United Nations Programmes for DRR;

5. We underscore the need to continue to promote and develop Arab policies for disaster risk reduction that take into account the impacts of climate change by supporting the interdependence of disaster risk reduction with climate change adaptation and mitigation programmes in order to achieve the SDGs and to build the capacities of Arab States to be able to receive international funding for disaster risk reduction from funding institutions dedicated to climate change.
6. We stress the need to further develop programs and plans to integrate disaster risks at the local level in the Arab States, by addressing extended risks and limiting their adverse effects, by strengthening local resilience and its coherence with climate change and SDGs, and by catalyzing investments in disaster risk reduction programmes, according to an integrated participatory approach that seeks to engage stakeholders: government and legislative departments and authorities, academia, training and scientific research centers, media outlets, civil society organizations and the private sector;
7. We express our deep interest and concern at the ongoing global health crisis induced by the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, known as COVID-19, and underline the need to intensify efforts and cooperation among Arab States to address this pandemic and all types of biological hazards that may occur in the future and in coordination and cooperation with various United Nations and Arab organizations;
8. We value the main pivotal role of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction UNDRR in coordinating and supporting global, Arab and national efforts to implement and monitor the Sendai Framework, through the joint work of regional and international organizations of the United Nations System, the League of Arab States, development partners, academic/research institutions, stakeholders networks, media institutions and civil society organizations;

9. We also praise the paramount role undertaken by the League of Arab States and its specialized Arab organizations in coordinating and supporting efforts to implement and evaluate the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and its Work Programme, which directly helps to achieve the Sendai Framework goals. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction has urged to provide support to Arab States to respond to and alleviate the effects of disasters.

10. We also value the previous and current role played by the Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies and the civil society organizations in all Arab States in assisting national institutions in disaster risk reduction, and most notably the COVID-19 pandemic.

By virtue of the present Declaration, we call upon all Arab governments, partners and stakeholders to:

1. Integrate and align disaster risk reduction strategies and programmes with sustainable development policies to be integrated and inclusive at all relevant social, developmental and health levels.

2. Strengthen partnerships and cooperation between stakeholders, including Arab and United Nations organizations, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction - Regional Office for Arab States UNDRR ROAS, the League of Arab States, development partners, academic/research institutions, stakeholders, media institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector, in order to expedite the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction; to provide the necessary support to Arab States that are unable to complete the requirements and strategies of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction through capacity-building and providing special inputs in this regard.

3. Continue to develop, update, analyze and evaluate the database and statistics on disasters and their losses; and support the establishment of systematic statistical mechanisms for coordination among the various producers of disaster-related data at the national level and the development with disaster risk reduction indicators, and the development of a capacity-building programme of Arab statistical agencies and all relevant stakeholders in the collection, analysis and calculation of disaster risk reduction indicators using successful experiences in this framework.
4. Leverage on the experiences of Arab States in finalizing or updating data on disaster risk reduction, as appropriate, and establish a national risk register and a historical disaster losses register through the ongoing development of the DesInventar database, the assistance and the exchange of experiences and good practices among the States.
5. Rely on countless cutting-edge technologies, techniques and means of communication to access, share and make available disaster risk data and information.
6. Promote opportunities to share knowledge, expertise, experience and good practices and value Arab gains in disaster risk reduction; and work to share successful experiences among them.
7. Strengthen the active participation of women and youth in leading the development and implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies, policies, plans and programmes through the adoption of a gender-based approach that takes into account the needs of women, elderly, children, youth and persons with disabilities.
8. Strengthen volunteerism by building the capacities of volunteerism frameworks that can function during a disaster to assist the affected populations.

9. Support decision-making processes based on science, technology and trust with relevant Arab research, educational and academic institutions, including the Arab Advisory Group on Science and Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction (ARAB STAG).
10. Encourage investments that take into account infrastructure resilience to disaster risks and the development of recovery plans, based on the “Building Back Better” principle at all levels and ensure businesses and supply and procurement chains continuity.
11. Develop multi-hazard measurement, forecasting and early warning systems for disaster risk prevention.
12. Ensure periodic assessment of progress made in the implementation of the Sendai Framework through the Sendai Framework Monitor; and periodic assessment of progress made in the implementation of the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction at the regional level.
13. Achieve Target (E) of the Sendai Framework, work to increase the number of National and Local Strategies of Arab States for Disaster Risk Reduction.
14. Use the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Arab Day for Disaster Risk Reduction and the World Tsunami Awareness Day as an opportunity to promote community awareness and better knowledge of risks.
15. Establish a legal framework and permanent national institutional mechanisms for disaster risk governance.
16. Develop an integrated Arab system for awareness-raising and training on disaster risk reduction.

17. Support and encourage Arab cities to participate in the Making Cities Resilient Programme 200 (MCR2030) to transform them into resilient and sustainable cities.
18. Take note of the recommendations of the United Nations Secretary-General, in which he called for a Mid-Term Review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and before the end of year 2021, and urged the United Nations Member States to draft voluntary reports for the Mid-Term Review of the Sendai Framework and recommended to use the multiple coordination mechanisms and regional and international meetings.
19. Welcome the League of Arab States initiative to support the Mid-Term Review of the Sendai Framework in the Arab region at the technical and logistical levels.
20. Value the convening of the First Ministerial Meeting of the Ministers of Disaster Risk Reduction in the Arab States in March 2022 at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States unless an Arab State requests to host this Meeting pursuant to Resolution 14 of the Arab Coordination Mechanism for Disaster Risk Reduction of 15/09/2021 and to actively participate in it to support the achievement of disaster risk reduction in the Arab region at the highest political level.

In pursuit of these objectives, we will work together to:

- Follow up the implementation of the recommendations of the Rabat Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction through the Arab Coordination Mechanism for Disaster Risk Reduction and in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction – Regional Office for Arab States UNDRR ROAS.

- Implement in a coherent and coordinated fashion the national strategies and policies that take into account the DRR-CC-SDGs Nexus.
- Invite stakeholders to report periodically on progress made in their Voluntary Commitments through UNDRR ROAS and to submit them to the Arab Coordination Mechanism for Disaster Risk Reduction Secretariat at the League of Arab States.
- Efficient Arab participation in all Global Platforms, including the Seventh Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Bali, Indonesia, in May 2022, in order to produce results and outputs in the interest and priorities of the Arab region, in line with Recommendation 10 of the Arab Coordination Mechanism for Disaster Risk Reduction, which mandated ACMDRR's Technical Secretariat to organize an Arab Preparatory Meeting for the Mechanism aimed at the preparation for the Platform at the Arab level in consultation with National DRR Focal Points and relevant Arab, regional and UN organizations.
- Invite UNDRR ROAS to strengthen coordination among partners and stakeholders for disaster risk reduction in order to harmonize with the Agenda 2030, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 to ensure effective integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development strategies.

Arabic version is the official adopted version of the Rabat Declaration for Disaster Risk Reduction.