



Fifth Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

**From Risk to Resilience: Accelerating
Local Action for Disaster Risk Reduction**

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Rabat, Morocco**

Voluntary Action Statement of the Arab Youth Advisory Group for Disaster Risk Reduction

**Statement for the 2021, 5th Regional Platform
for Disaster Risk Reduction, Rabat
Mr. Talal Ahmed**



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Dear chair and distinguished delegates,

My name is Talal Ahmed, I am here representing the Arab Youth Advisory Group for Disaster Risk Reduction for participation in the follow up and review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction in the Arab Region.

As the number of natural related disasters in the Arab region has almost tripled since the 1980's. These small- and -large scale incidents substantially affect children and youth and their ability to lead normal lives. While the global attention is currently focused on the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic; it is important to continue enhancing the spaces and mechanism for youth to adequately engage and become active agents in supporting the major global agendas. There is a need for channels to show that children and youth are not just part of the vulnerable groups; we are part of the solution in driving the behavioral change we need in order to ensure the resilient and sustainable society we want.

In order to create a resilient society, it is imperative to address explicit, implicit, and underlying economic, social, and environmental risks. These underlying risk factors create obstacles. These obstacles prevent us from progressing towards effective and inclusive resilient and sustainable development. These obstacles will create new challenges for stability and prosperity. It is a negative trend we all want to avoid. The solution is to address the underlying risks.

The major challenges faced currently by Arab children and youth are compromising our preparedness for better engagement and participation in different fields and roles in society, including our engagement in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). The lack of such engagement in turns creates negative consequences that will affect Arab children and youth today but are also likely to have long term effect on us.

The Arab Youth Advisory Group for Disaster Risk Reduction was established in 2021 to continue and expand of the work of the Arab Children and Youth Stakeholder Group. The group is open to young experts, and youth-led or youth focused organizations who are passionate and actively involved in Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change activities. It is an open constituency for young people and people working for the benefit of youth, with the aim to effectively engage children and youth to strengthen our role as agents of change as we are part of the solution in driving the behavioral change, we need in order to ensure the resilient and sustainable society we want.

As recognized by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction “Children and youth are agents of change and should be given the space and modalities to contribute to disaster risk reduction, in accordance with legislation, national practice and educational curriculum”. Also, it should be highlighted that children and youth represent more than one third of the population in our region, and we are the inheritor of the society and agenda we create here today.

In this context we are here to communicate and commit to the on our role in supporting the implementation of the Prioritized Action Plan 2021-2024 of the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. As the effectiveness of the Sendai Framework will depend on the meaningful engagement and action of local people in the design, implementation and monitoring of relevant policies, standards and plans. This will require a supportive institutional and political environment to facilitate the engagement of local people and actors, together with access to adequate means of implementation for local actions.

We hereby present our Voluntary Action Commitments the Prioritized Action Plan 2021-2024 of the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

1. Support the organization of consultations meeting(s) ahead of the next Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
2. Represent the constituency of Children and Youth in the Arab region in the UNDRR Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism (SEM) to ensure cross-fertilization with other UNDRR Advisory Groups and stakeholders.
3. Support the facilitation of awareness campaigns of and for Arab Children and Youth on DRR, Climate Change and SDG's
4. Develop infographic material(s) to explain DRR concepts in a simple manner targeting young audiences
5. Facilitate the organization of a regional conference to strengthen the engagement of youth in DRR
6. Facilitate the organization of workshop/lecture with academic institutions in particular in the LDC's to raise DRR awareness and youth engagement in DRR
7. Facilitate online and in-person development and progress report of youth-led action plans on local DRR actions;
8. Facilitate the participation of youth as equal stakeholders in the regions formal and informal avenues of DRR policy design, implementation, monitoring and follow up, and review.
9. Support and encourage youth-led and youth-focused initiatives and innovative actions;
10. Provide and help providing youth capacity building on DRR, Climate change and related topics through workshops, lectures and webinars;
11. Provide/Create suitable communications channels between youth and other stakeholders for more effective involvements in Sendai Framework implementation;
12. Call and advocate for a wider representation of youth among the various stakeholder