

# Sixth Arab Partnership Meeting for Disaster Risk Reduction



**Outputs of the Sixth Arab Partnership Meeting for DRR**

## **SIXTH ARAB PARTNERSHIP MEETING FOR DRR**

**June 30 - July 01, 2021**

### **Background:**

The Arab Partnership Meetings for Disaster Risk Reduction, which have been held twice a year since 2017, aim to provide a forum for technical and operational deliberations on progress, challenges, and gaps in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in the region. They also aim to facilitate regional discussions on innovative solutions to integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change risk management in the sustainable development goals in the Arab region. These periodic discussions on implementation challenges, gaps and related solutions will enrich the deliberations of the conferences of the Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

### **Sixth Arab Partnership Meeting for Disaster Risk Reduction**

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) - Regional Office for Arab States (ROAS) held the Sixth Arab Partnership Meeting for Disaster Risk Reduction, in cooperation with the League of Arab States, from June 30 to July 1, 2021 through a series of online sessions, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic challenges that are hampering face-to-face encounters.

The key objectives of the Sixth Arab Partnership Meeting for Disaster Risk Reduction were the preparations for organizing the Fifth Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction through:

- Drafting a detailed concept note for the Fifth Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Providing a forum for governments and stakeholders to consult and agree on priority themes and content of the Fifth Arab Regional Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Discussing the guidance note on the integration of biological hazards in disaster risk reduction activities in the Arab region.
- Providing a forum for governments and stakeholders to consult and agree on the main priorities of the second Priority Action Plan (2021-2024) of the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2030.

The meeting succeeded in bringing together the Sendai Framework National Focal Points, government representatives from 15 Arab countries, main members of the five Arab stakeholder groups for DRR, representatives of 12 regional United Nations organizations and international organizations, and representatives of the League of Arab States and the UNDRR Regional Office for Arab States.

## Day 1 – Wednesday, 30 June 2021

### Opening Session:

The opening session of the Meeting started with a welcome speech by His Excellency Mohamed Jarifa, Head of Planning and Cooperation at the Ministry of Interior, on behalf of the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, in which he welcomed the attendees and thanked the organizers for the support provided to Arab countries in reducing their disaster risks. He also presented the objectives of the Sixth Arab Partnership Meeting for Disaster Risk Reduction, consisting of the preparations for the Fifth Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction which he declared would be hosted by the Kingdom of Morocco and co-organized by the UNDRR Regional Office for Arab States and the League of Arab States, from November 8 to 11, 2021, virtually. Furthermore, he underscored in his speech the importance of concerted efforts by Arab countries and all partners and stakeholders to strengthen the Coordination Mechanism at the regional level, and highlighted the strategic vision of the Kingdom of Morocco, which consists of preventing risks and protecting lives and assets as a less costly and more effective approach. Moreover, he showcased the achievements made by the Kingdom, including: 1) the development of the institutional framework for disaster risk reduction and the implementation of institutional capacity-building activities, 2) the adoption of the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2020-2030, and 3) the adoption of the Making Cities Resilient Program which is currently under implementation. Lastly, he underlined the need to review the achievements and present the priorities for the next phase to accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and strengthen institutional capacities for risk management.

In her opening speech, Her Excellency Ambassador Shahira Wehbe, Head of Natural Resources Sustainability and International Partnerships at the League of Arab States, referred to the request by the UNDRR Regional Office for Arab States to the League of Arab States to jointly organize the Fifth Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, which was met with the approval of the League. She also referred to the establishment of the Regional Coordination Committee formed of representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco, the League of Arab States and UNDRR-ROAS, which held its first meeting on June 24, 2021, in which the Platform concept note, schedule of events, sessions and consultations before and during the Platform were presented, as well as the division of roles among the members of the Regional Coordination Committee. It was also requested that all documents be translated from English into Arabic to facilitate communication and feedback among members. Moreover, Her Excellency pointed out that the preparations of regional and global platforms must be carried out through the Arab Coordination Mechanism for Disaster Risk Reduction pursuant to the decisions of the Arab Environment Ministers Council at the League of Arab States and the Arab Summit. Her Excellency also expressed the readiness of the League of Arab States to respond to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction initiatives and to prepare the guidance note on the integration of biological hazards in disaster

risk reduction activities in the Arab region to guide Arab countries in dealing with biological and health hazards.

In the opening speech delivered by Mr. Sujit Mohanty, Chief of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction - Regional Office for Arab States (UNDRR-ROAS), he welcomed the participants and expressed his thanks to the Kingdom of Morocco, which participated in organizing the Sixth Arab Partnership Meeting for Disaster Risk Reduction and offered to host the Fifth Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. He also shed the light on the main objective of holding the Arab Partnership Meetings twice a year since 2018, which is to create a multi-stakeholder platform that brings together governments and stakeholders to deliberate on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in the region. He also noted that the Arab Partnership Meetings have become the largest platform to discuss issues, challenges and priorities in disaster risk reduction in the Arab region and have demonstrated the true meaning of shared responsibility and the “whole-of-society” approach stipulated in the Sendai Framework and all other global frameworks. Furthermore, he praised the progress made so far by all governments and stakeholders in implementing the Sendai Framework and the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction as per the outcomes of the previous Arab Partnership Meeting. As for regional platforms, Mr. Mohanty stressed their importance in providing the opportunity to address transboundary issues and risks, and noted that the Sendai Framework gave trusteeship to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction to support the organization of regional and global platforms to review what has been achieved and identify priority concerns and available opportunities to address them. In conclusion, Mr. Mohanty underscored the importance of this Meeting in preparing for the Fifth Arab Regional Platform in a participatory and inclusive manner by providing the opportunity to exchange views and ideas to jointly reach the contrived results.

### **Session 1: Preparations of the Fifth Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction**

His Excellency Mohamed Jarifa made a presentation on preliminary ideas on the objectives, results and logistics related to the organization of the Fifth Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction on behalf of the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, which is hosting the Platform, and presented the Kingdom's paramount achievements in this regard as follows:

- ✚ The Fifth Arab Regional Platform represents a main pillar of reflection on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the development of a roadmap for the implementation of national and local strategies in the Arab region. In the same context, the Moroccan government, in line with both the Sendai Framework targets and the Arab Strategy for DRR objectives, has worked on bolstering its policies in managing disaster risks through the following:

- Develop the Integrated Natural Disasters Risk Management and Resilience Program.
- Set up an institutional governance based on the creation of specialized governance systems for disaster risk management at the national and local levels and the reinforcement of existing systems.
- Adopt a system to insure the consequences of disastrous events.
- Adopt a National Strategy for Natural Disasters Risk Management.

✚ The objectives of the Fifth Arab Regional Platform for DRR consist of the following:

- Take stock of progress made in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030 and the Arab Strategy for DRR 2030 in the region and reaffirm political commitment to accelerate its implementation.
- Identify viable approaches and mechanisms to advance the implementation of the Arab Strategy for DRR 2030 and define regional priorities for the following two years.
- Provide the region with opportunities to share knowledge, experiences, and best practices around regional disaster risk reduction priorities and to forge partnerships for the implementation of the Sendai Framework, achieving resilient economies and building risk-informed sustainable development.
- Promote complementarity and alignment of disaster risk reduction with climate change and sustainable development as well as the integration of disaster risk management in all relevant humanitarian, development and health sectors.
- Consult on the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and provide recommendations for the 7th session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Indonesia in May 2022.

## **Preparations for the Platform by the government of the Kingdom of Morocco:**

### **1. The Platform**

- The Kingdom of Morocco hosts the Fifth Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction through the remote online technique.
- The Platform will be held in partnership with the Kingdom of Morocco, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction – Regional Office for Arab States (UNDRR-ROAS) and the League of Arab States.
- The following are participants at the Fifth Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction: representatives of Arab national and local governments, civil society organizations, UN organizations and agencies and international organizations, international financial institutions, media outlets, private sector organizations, academic and research institutions, stakeholders in DRR, and partners in development.
- The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction – Regional Office for Arab States (UNDRR-ROAS) prepares the Platform work programme in consultation with the Kingdom of Morocco and the partners.

- The Platform will be held from 8 to 11 November 2021 virtually.
- The Platform will be held as per Rabat time, Morocco.

## **2. Platform Governance**

- A Regional Organizing Committee was created to oversee the general preparations of the Platform.
- This Regional Organizing Committee is formed of representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco, UNDRR-ROAS and the League of Arab States.
- A National Organizing Committee was also created at the Kingdom's level to coordinate the efforts of national stakeholders, each in its area of concern, in coherence with the Regional Organizing Committee.

## **3. Platform Preparations and Proceedings**

There will be a joint coordination on the following points:

- General coordination of the support provided by UNDRR partners and member States.
- Lead and coordinate all thematic contributions such as the required essential researches and studies around the Platform theme to better understand the topics and enrich the Platform deliberations.
- Prepare the general program of the Platform and the different events in order to achieve the expected outcomes.
- Develop and implement a Communications Strategy related to the Platform.

## **4. Platform Proceedings and Content**

There will be a joint coordination on the following points:

- Lead the formulation of and negotiate the Political Declaration and/or the Final Document of the Platform.
- Prepare essential studies to support deliberations on themes and topics.
- Lead the organization of sessions to discuss themes and topics and report to the plenary session.
- Organize secondary workshops of the Fifth Arab Regional Platform for DRR.
- Contribute to the drafting of the final documents.

### **Session 2: Detailed Summary of the Fifth Arab Regional Platform for DRR: main theme and priority regional focus areas and topics**

Mr. Fadi Jannan, Deputy Chief of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction - Regional Office for Arab States (UNDRR-ROAS), presented a detailed summary of the Fifth Arab Regional Platform for DRR, the main topic of the Platform, and its priority regional focus areas and topics as follows:

### Platform Title/Theme

"From Risk to Resilience: Accelerating Local Action for DRR"

### Platform Guiding Principles

1. Coherence with Global Agendas
2. Adoption of a multi-stakeholder approach
3. Focus on vulnerable and exposed populations to leave no one behind
4. Focus on interaction, innovation and impact
5. Inclusiveness and easy access
6. Integrated gender perspective and gender equality
7. Eco-friendliness and non-consumption of paper

### Platform Expected Outcomes and Final Documents

1. Consolidating the political commitment of governments towards preventing and reducing risk as well as strengthening resilience by accelerating the implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework and the Arab Strategy for DRR 2030 in the region and increasing government investments in disaster risk reduction.
2. Issue a set of Stakeholders' voluntary action statements on the implementation of the Sendai framework and Arab Strategy for DRR 2030.
3. The Prioritized Action Plan 2021-2024 of the Arab Strategy for DRR 2030 to accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the Arab region.

### Platform Work Program

1. **Opening and closing sessions**
2. **Sessions on formal country statements (2)**
3. **Ministerial session (1):** adoption of the final documents
4. **Plenary sessions (3):** Mid-Term Review of Sendai Framework (1), Stakeholders Statements (1), and a brief session to present the final documents, a mid-term consultation and the outcomes of thematic sessions (1).
5. **Thematic sessions (5):** a session to review progress in the implementation of Sendai Framework and one session dedicated to each priority of the Sendai Framework's 4 priorities for action.
6. **Special sessions (9):** organized by partners and stakeholders as per the priority themes for the region and those proposed at the Sixth Arab Partnership Meeting for DRR.
7. **Exhibition on Disaster Risk Reduction**



### **Session 3: Working groups to discuss ideas, priority focus areas and topics for the Fifth Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction**

Participants were divided into 4 working groups according to the Sendai Framework 4 Priorities for Action and language in order to identify a list of priority themes and topics that will form the content of the Fifth Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction as follows:

- ✚ Group 1 (Arabic language): addresses Priority 1 of Sendai Framework “Understanding disaster risks”.
- ✚ Group 2 (Arabic language): addresses Priority 2 of Sendai Framework “Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk”.
- ✚ Group 3 (English language): addresses Priority 3 of Sendai Framework “Investing in disaster risk reduction to increase resilience”.
- ✚ Group 4 (French language): addresses Priority 4 of Sendai Framework “Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction”.

According to priority themes and topics that were proposed by the four working groups, the participants held a vote to select some themes and topics. Below is a list of the proposed focus areas voted on by the participants (from the most votes to the least votes):

1. Health and disaster risk reduction in the post-COVID-19 context.
2. Financing disaster risk reduction and enhancing resilience to climate change.
3. Resilient infrastructure and Building Back Better.
4. Target E: National and local strategies for disaster risk reduction.
5. Resilient cities and implementation at the local level.
6. Strengthening multi-hazard early warning systems.
7. Progress in implementing the Sendai Framework.
8. Disaster risk reduction in humanitarian and conflict contexts.
9. Investing in science and technology to reduce risk.
10. Artificial intelligence in risk information and assessments.
11. Classification of the disaster in the Arab region.
12. Regional Assessment Reports.
13. Gender in Disaster Risk Reduction.
14. Coherence with other Global Frameworks.
15. Recovery, Building Back Better, Early Warning and Early Response.
16. Civil Society Engagement in Disaster Risk Reduction.
17. Regional Governance for Disaster Risk Reduction.



18. National Observatory for Disaster Risk Reduction.
19. Risk Maps.
20. Financing Disaster Risk Reduction at the Local Level.
21. Nature-Based Solutions.
22. Disaster Risk Reduction Management should be at the highest government levels.
23. From Analysis to Implementation.
24. Media management.
25. Advocacy on Disaster Risk Reduction.
26. Establishment of an Arab Youth Platform.
27. Inclusion (disability).
28. Follow-up on the joint Arab-African Communique.

#### **Session 4: Future Action Plan for the preparation of the Fifth Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction**

Mr. Fadi Jannan, Deputy Chief of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction - Regional Office for Arab States (UNDRR-ROAS), made a presentation on the future steps for the preparation for the Fifth Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and their implementation timeframe as follows:

<b>Future Steps for Preparations</b>	<b>Calendar</b>
<b>Consultations on:</b>	
1. Priority Action Plan 2021-2024	July to October, 2021
2. Voluntary Action Commitments (Stakeholder Groups)	July and August, 2021
3. United Nations Action Plan to Support Governments	September 2021
4. Mid-Term Review of Sendai Framework	October 2021
<b>Seventh Arab Partnership Meeting for DRR</b>	<b>October 2021</b>
<b>Working Group for Drafting Final Documents</b>	<b>July to November 2021</b>

It was declared that for those wishing to join the working group that will be drafting the final documents, a formal letter should be sent to Mr. Fadi Jannan at [Jannan@un.org](mailto:Jannan@un.org) by **July 15, 2021** at the latest.

## Day 2 – Thursday, 01 July 2021

Participants were again welcomed on Day 2 of the Sixth Arab Partnership Meeting for Disaster Risk Reduction and a summary of Day 1 was presented by Ms. Mirna Abu Ata, Regional Programme Management Officer at the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction - Regional Office for Arab States.

### **Session 1: Guidance Note on the Integration of Biological Hazards in DRR Action Plans in the Arab Region**

Mrs. Abir Sayrawan, UNDRR-ROAS International Consultant, presented the content of the Guidance Note on the Integration of Biological Hazards in DRR Action Plans in the Arab Region.

Through discussions, participants proposed the hereafter recommendations to enrich the Guidance Note:

- ✚ Uphold the regional context and identify ways to enhance regional coordination to withstand disease outbreaks in the Arab region.
- ✚ Uphold the role of the private sector and relevant stakeholders in the fixed plan and ensure different levels of tailored training based on the different needs and the targeted sector/beneficiaries.
- ✚ Expand the current scope to include the integration of transboundary animal and plant diseases that may not only threaten public health but also food security.
- ✚ Focus on adding practical indicators that can enhance the health sector resilience with a particular focus on ways to strengthen health infrastructures.
- ✚ Benefit from the current health addendum scorecard system at the local level in using and developing additional practical indicators that can increase cities resilience at the local level.
- ✚ Focus on bolstering the national and regional role of academia and research institutions in addressing biological hazards and conducting biohazard assessments with a particular focus on the multi-hazard approach.
- ✚ Take into account the strengthening of infrastructure and preparedness in the Guidance Note.

### **Session 2: Priority Action Plan (2021-2024) of the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2030**

Mrs. Abir Sayrawan, UNDRR-ROAS International Consultant, gave a presentation on actions provided for in the Priority Action Plan 2018-2020 in the region since its adoption at the Africa-Arab Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction in October 2018 in Tunisia, and the actions that have not made any noticeable progress in their implementation thus far to be included in the forthcoming Priority Action Plan with some recommendations for the coming phase according to procedures stipulated in the second stage of the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (2021-2025) work program.

Participants were divided into 4 working groups according to the Sendai Framework 4 Priorities for Action and language in order to identify a list of priority actions for the coming phase, which participants propose to integrate in the Priority Action Plan 2021-2024 of the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2030 as follows:

- ✚ Group 1 (Arabic language): addresses Priority 1 of Sendai Framework “Understanding disaster risks”.
- ✚ Group 2 (Arabic language): addresses Priority 2 of Sendai Framework “Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk”.
- ✚ Group 3 (English language): addresses Priority 3 of Sendai Framework “Investing in disaster risk reduction to increase resilience”.
- ✚ Group 4 (French language): addresses Priority 4 of Sendai Framework “Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction”.

The outcomes of the working groups were presented with the following priority actions:

Level	Recommended Priority Actions for the period 2021-2024
Regional	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strengthen partner coordination and share best practices.</li> <li>2. Set up a regional platform to insure against climate risks.</li> <li>3. Set up a coordinated mechanism for national early warning systems.</li> <li>4. Invest in the creation of a regional fund to fund DRR at national and local levels.</li> <li>5. Enhance regional coordination among UN agencies, regional organizations and national associations to implement Sendai Framework and encourage the use of emerging communications and technologies to counter natural and health disasters while taking into account the following: capacity building and skill upgrading through training programs, and enhancing the exchange of experience, knowledge and successful practices among countries and national and regional entities.</li> <li>6. Establish the necessary mechanisms to activate digitalization procedures to model regional weaknesses by adopting a research-based approach, reinforcing resilience at the regional level, and ensuring ongoing regional dialogues among all stakeholders at the regional and national levels.</li> <li>7. Organize an annual forum for all stakeholders in DRR and ensure coherence among the three Global Agendas (sustainable development, climate and DRR).</li> <li>8. Develop models of legislations and policies to establish emergency health support systems to provide free healthcare to victims and address impacts of disasters on mental health at both regional and national levels.</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. Issue a regional guidebook for the Arab region to standardize different DRR concepts and set up innovative mechanisms to help understand disaster risk reduction.</li> <li>10. Activate the Arab Regional Platform and Networks for DRR.</li> <li>11. Understand and address cross-border risks.</li> <li>12. Support and encourage scientific research in DRR and use cutting-edge technology in risk evaluations.</li> <li>13. Strengthen and support coherence across DRR, climate change, the Urban Agenda, and Sustainable Development Goals.</li> <li>14. Support the exchange of experiences among national institutions responsible for DRR.</li> <li>15. Support the bilateral exchange of experiences, support the exchange of experiences among regional institutions, and strengthen the role of institutions like the League of Arab States.</li> <li>16. Support scientific and technical exchange.</li> </ol>
National/Local	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Build local authorities capacities by establishing local indicators to measure the engagement of stakeholders, marginalized populations and civil society organizations with local authorities.</li> <li>2. Strengthen crisis mechanisms to provide the necessary funding resources to implement adaptation and resilience projects at the national and local levels by setting up long-term programs with specified roles for all stakeholders, vulnerable and marginalized populations.</li> <li>3. Establish legislations and evaluation procedures to assess the impacts of disaster risks, especially in relation to large-scale development and infrastructure projects like dams, and include DRR elements in urban planning and residential areas management, including the execution of construction laws at the national level.</li> <li>4. Support and strengthen assistance to Arab states, especially the least developed, in developing policies, legislations and national communications plans in emergency situations.</li> <li>5. Improve and strengthen the necessary legislations to activate multi-hazard early warning systems and rapid vigilance systems, and sensitize the local and national community on dealing with hazards. Intensify citizen training on first aid and practices to follow during disasters.</li> <li>6. Evaluate different national-level early warning systems and build evidence.</li> <li>7. Evidence/financial information for private sector funding.</li> <li>8. Translate national and local strategies for DRR to bankable products/investible concrete opportunities.</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. Increase resource allocations to enhance local capacity building for an effective decentralization (institutional and technical capacities).</li> <li>10. Enhance the role of the private sector in climate-resilient infrastructure, weather index insurance and early warning systems at the national and local levels.</li> <li>11. Create a social protection mechanism and transfer risks at the national level.</li> <li>12. Strengthen coordination among health and DRR institutions to respond to any future biological hazards (pandemic, animal diseases, plagues, etc.).</li> <li>13. Strengthen and create local platforms to reinforce coordination at the local level.</li> <li>14. Reaffirm the importance of developing emergency plans, especially in local communities.</li> <li>15. Update multi-hazard disaster losses databases to be used in disaster risk evaluations at the national and local levels.</li> <li>16. Carry out evaluations of previous, existing and expected risks per sector to develop plans to address potential disaster risks to facilitate decision making.</li> <li>17. Prepare and periodically update risk maps.</li> <li>18. Strengthen and support cities participation in the Making Cities Resilient 2030 Program (MCR2030).</li> <li>19. Create and activate national and local platforms for DRR.</li> <li>20. Develop youth and children training programs to understand disaster risks.</li> <li>21. Integrate disaster risk reduction concepts in educational curricula.</li> <li>22. Set up a budget to plan, implement and monitor DRR plans.</li> <li>23. Develop a diagnosis of infrastructure resilience.</li> <li>24. Strengthen technical and human capacities on early warning systems at local and national levels.</li> <li>25. Integrate local-level early warning systems with national-level systems.</li> <li>26. Support building civil society capacities in disaster risk reduction.</li> </ol>
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At the end of Day 2, a Summary of the Sixth Arab Partnership Meeting for Disaster Risk Reduction over the two days was presented by Mr. Fadi Jannan, Deputy Chief of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction - Regional Office for Arab States (UNDRR-ROAS). During the open discussion, Her Excellency Ambassador Shahira Wehbe, Head of Natural Resources Sustainability and International Partnerships at the League of Arab States, reaffirmed that the Arab Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction must be organized within the framework of the Arab

Council of Ministers and under the umbrella of the League of Arab States through the Arab Coordination Mechanism for Disaster Risk Reduction as it is considered the framework mandated based on the Dhahran Summit to formulate statements to coordinate Arab action and announce united positions, including the Global Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction. Her Excellency also declared that the Arab Coordination Mechanism for Disaster Risk Reduction is the mechanism that must define cooperation frameworks to prepare for conferences in which Arab countries participate. Furthermore, Her Excellency commended the technical support offered by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction - Regional Office for Arab States (UNDRR-ROAS) and the need for such a support, calling upon the Office not to confuse the commitment of countries in formal frameworks with the technical role of the Office. In this regard, she stressed that one of the tasks of the League of Arab States at the regional level is to issue documents and related processes, hence the League of Arab States must adopt the Guidance Note for the Integration of Biological Hazards in DRR Action Plans and the League must also issue this Guidance Note. As the League of Arab States did not receive the presented documents to disseminate them to the Arab countries to express their opinion, Her Excellency expressed the disapprobation of the League to integrate the documents within the framework of the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction. In turn, Mr. Mohanty referred to the decision of the United Nations General Assembly when adopting the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015, which gave the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction the trusteeship of the Sendai Framework and of the organization of Regional and Global Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction every two years to follow up on the progress made in the implementation of Sendai Framework. Mr. Mohanty further clarified that all presented documents are up for discussion with all key stakeholders during the works of this Meeting and that notes will be taken and included in the documents versions to be shared with the Regional Coordination Committee for the Preparation of the Platform and disseminated to governments and all relevant partners and stakeholders.

In conclusion, Mr. Sujit Mohanty, Chief of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction - Regional Office for Arab States (UNDRR-ROAS), thanked all participants in the Sixth Arab Partnership Meeting for Disaster Risk Reduction over the two days, stressing the Office's willingness to continue the cooperation and coordination with all participating entities in the upcoming months to prepare for the Fifth Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and to ensure its success and the achievement of its contrived objectives.