



OFFICIAL PARTICIPANT – AFRICAN UNION

## SPOTLIGHT ON AFRICA

# Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Resilience

13<sup>th</sup> October 2021  
10:00hrs - 17:00hrs [+4hrsGMT]

Agenda  
**2063** The Africa  
We Want

#AUatExpo20 #TheAfricaWeWant  
[africaexpo2020dubai.au.int](http://africaexpo2020dubai.au.int)





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October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Terra Auditorium  
(Sustainability Pavilion)



**ASPIRATION 1**  
A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development



**Goal 03:** Healthy and well-nourished citizens



**Goal 05:** Modern Agriculture for increased productivity and production



**Goal 07:** Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities



## Background

As part of its participation at the World Expo 2020 Dubai, the African Union has put together a forward looking programme focused on the promotion of its Agenda 2063 implementation. The AU will organize several anchor events framed around Agenda 2063 priorities under the theme “Spotlights on Africa”. In particular, this event, will be organised in partnership with the United Arab Emirates government, AU Regional Economic Communities and United Nations agencies. Moreover, this event will offer the opportunity to engage with the Private Sector as well as Civil Society Organizations from the African continent, with the aim of ensuring greater African visibility over the 6-month mega event.

Since the adoption of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2004, the African continent has seen significant progress recorded throughout, in relation to disaster risk reduction and climate related issues. The strategy was later aligned to Hyogo Framework for Action in 2005. Succeeding Hyogo, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 brought in new momentum. In alignment with the Sendai, the African Union developed and adopted the Programme of Action for the implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa, in line with the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction. The PoA aims to achieve “substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries.”

Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS), which ensure people are prepared and ready to act in the event of a disaster, are one of the most

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effective measures that government can undertake to achieve substantial reduction of disaster losses. In that light, the PoA, as stipulated in the Sendai Framework, targets to substantially increase the availability of and access to Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people by 2030, and increase the number of countries with, and periodically testing, risk-informed preparedness plans, and response, and post-disaster recovery and reconstruction mechanisms.

However, achieving these targets would require establishment of agile and interactive early warning systems at all levels to facilitate mitigation, response, and recovery to increasing frequency and intensity of natural hazards.

Most Member States of the African Union have commenced work to develop individual MHEWS components in accordance with International standards, for example, establishing meteorological monitoring and Warning Systems in accordance with guidance and standards issued by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). However, development of those individual components, in isolation, does not guarantee that a timely warning can be given to those that need it, or that effective early action can be taken that will save lives, reduce losses, and protect the environment and development gains.

*In order to be effective, early warning systems must be:* **(i)** linked to anticipatory actions, preparedness, response and recovery processes, **(ii)** supported by sustainable financing, **(iii)** supported by comprehensive institutional and operational frameworks, and **(iv)** linked at all levels (local, national, and regional).



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Currently, MHEWS components are developed at Member State level by separate Ministries, Departments and Agencies, and are supported at Regional and Continental Level by different sectoral entries. In the absence of a MHEWS Framework, significant challenges arise when attempting to deliver an end-to-end warning system. Absence of a MHEWS Framework also leads to confusion about roles and responsibilities for MHEWS. Similarly, MHEWS, as observed in many African countries, fail due to lack of dedicated financing instruments to translate early warning into action.

In response to the current state of affairs, the African Union member states, African Union Commission and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) have initiated several initiatives to ensure MHEWS are linked to early action in recent years.

In 2012, the AU established African Risk Capacity Agency to work with member states to plan, prepare and respond to the effects of extreme weather events and other natural disasters through early warning tools, contingency mechanism and risk transfer solutions. 35 African Countries have signed the treaty establishing ARC. The latter has an affiliated company, ARC Ltd. that offers sovereign insurance policies to Member States against extreme weather risks and other natural disaster risks. Africa RiskView – the Technical Engine of ARC – is a software ARC innovation tool that allows countries to analyze and monitor their drought-related food security risk, define their participation in ARC using transparent criteria and monitor potential ARC payouts.

In addition, the AU Commission, in collaboration with UNDRR, is establishing continental MHEW situation that is to be linked to regional disaster operation centres being operated by the RECs. In light of increasing



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trans-boundary risks, putting these regional mechanisms in place is important to enhance regional and or continental response. Observing from the recent disasters on the continent, hazards such as droughts, floods, tropical storms and cyclones, pests and epidemics have constantly affected more than one country simultaneously. This calls for enhanced regional or continental response.

This event will showcase Africa's progress on MHEWS with focus on institutional arrangements and financing.

### Objective

This event aims to showcase Africa's efforts on disaster risk reduction with focus on linking MHEWS to early action through innovative disaster risk financing. The event will feature: (i) ongoing establishment of continental MHEWS situation for natural hazards; (ii) ARC's Africa RiskView; (iii) need for paradigm: from single-hazard disaster management funds to Multi-hazard disaster risk management funds. The event will:

- Promote Africa visibility in global stage
- Share Africa's best practices to contribute to global efforts in linking MHEWS to early action
- Generate views and recommendations from among the international audience to enhance efforts of AU member states on linking MHEWS to early action

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## I. AGENDA

Sessions	Duration	Time	Moderator
<b>Arrival and Registration</b>		<b>10:30 – 11:00</b>	<b>AUC</b>
AU Expo Welcome Video	tbc		
<b>A. Opening</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UAE Government Rep (TBD)</li> <li>AU Commissioner ARBE, <b>Amb. Josefa Sacko</b></li> <li>UNDRR Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction, <b>Ms. Mami Mizutori</b></li> <li>ARC Group DG and UN Assistant Secretary General, <b>Ibrahima Cheikh</b></li> <li>CIMA Rep (TBD)</li> </ul>	20 mins	11:00 – 11:20	<b>Mr. Harsen Nyambe,</b> <i>Head,</i> <i>Sustainable Environment Division,</i> <i>AU Commission</i>
<b>ARC Scene Setting:</b> ARC GROUP CORPORATE VIDEO	10 mins	11: 20 – 11: 30	
<b>B. Linking MHEWS to financing: ARC's Africa Risk View model</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Mr. Benard Onzima,</b> Head, Technical Support Division, ARC</li> <li>Q&amp;A (5 mins)</li> </ul>	30 mins	11:30 – 12:00	
<b>C. ARC Group Corporate Presentation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By Presenter: <b>Mr. Papazoumana Diarra,</b> Head of Contingency Planning, ARC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Showcasing ARC's entire work and smart partnerships:-</b> Highlighting its Group Strategy Approach including work on Outbreaks and Epidemics in context of COVID-19 pandemic, M&amp;E, Communications and Gender (25 Minutes)</li> <li><b>Call to Action/ Expression of Interest:-</b> Making a Case for additional smart partnerships and funding for ARC from Member States, RECs, Academia, CSOs &amp; Private Sector present (15 Minutes)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	40 mins	12:00 – 12:40	
<b>D. Lunch Break</b>	<b>65 mins</b>	<b>12:40 – 13:45</b>	
<b>E. AUC MHEW/EA Situation room</b>	30 mins	13:45 – 14:15	<b>Mr. Harsen Nyambe,</b> <i>Head,</i> <i>Sustainable Environment Division,</i> <i>AU Commission</i>
<b>F. Institutional arrangements for MHEWS/ EA</b> <b>Panellists:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Mr. Gatkuoth Kai,</b> Technical Coordinator, Disaster Risk Reduction, AU Commission</li> <li><b>Mr. Amos Makarau,</b> Director, WMO Africa Regional Office</li> <li><b>Ms. Cecilia Aipira,</b> Team Leader, Disaster Risk Reduction, Africa Region</li> <li>Q&amp;A (5mins)</li> </ul>	30 mins	14:15 – 14:45	



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<b>G. A paradigm shift from single-hazard to multi-hazards disaster risk management funds: How can this be accelerated in Africa?</b> <b>Panellists:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Amjad Abbashar</b>, Director, Africa Regional Office, United Nations Officer for Disaster Risk Reduction</li> <li>• <b>Dr. James Kinyangi</b>, Coordinator, CLIMDev Special Fund, African Development Bank</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Mahmoud Ahmed Amdihun</b>, IGAD/ICPAC</li> <li>• <b>Q&amp;A (5mins)</b></li> </ul>	15 mins	15:15 – 15:30	<b>Mr. Harsen Nyambe</b> , <i>Head, Sustainable Environment Division, AU Commission</i>
<b>H. Health Break</b>	<b>15 mins</b>	<b>15:15 – 15:30</b>	
<b>I. CIMA &amp; UNDRR</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of Africa road map for improving the availability, access and use of disaster risk information for early warning and early action, including in the context of transboundary risk management</li> </ul>	30 mins	15:30 – 16:00	<b>Mr. Harsen Nyambe</b> , <i>Head, Sustainable Environment Division, AU Commission</i>
<b>J. Interaction with Audience</b>	30 mins	16:30 – 17:00	
<b>K. Key Take Away and Closing</b>	10 mins	17:00 – 17:10	
<b>L. Exhibitions (AUC, UN, CIMA, ARC, Stakeholders)</b>		17:10 – 18:00	<b>All</b>

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