

**POSITION OF DELEGATES FROM AFRICAN COUNTRIES AT  
THE INTERNATIONAL DISASTER REDUCTION CONFERENCE  
(IDRC) DAVOS 2006**

**Desirous** of promoting mutual interest in the field of disaster risk reduction and management in Africa;

**Recognizing** that such cooperation shall promote and strengthen disaster risk reduction and management in Africa;

**Convinced** that strengthening cooperation will improve relations between African States and result in the creation of safer, disaster resilient communities;

**Taking cognisance** of the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), African Union (AU), New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Action Plan for Africa and the Hyogo Framework for Action;

**Conscious** of the various threats posed by natural hazards to lives and livelihoods in many communities in the African continent;

**Recognising** the ideals of IDRC Davos 2006;

**Acknowledging** the work of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) and other regional and global organisations in bringing to the fore disaster risk reduction issues in Africa;

**Determined** to reduce disaster risk on the African continent, the delegates from African countries at the IDRC Davos 2006 hereby resolve to:

1. Build capacity to forecast natural hazards and develop early warning systems for the continent as a whole;
2. Integrate disaster risk reduction within national development planning, policies and legislation;
3. Raise disaster risk awareness and promote advocacy programmes at community levels, schools, and other institutions;

4. Advocate meaningful involvement of the State at the administrative, policy and funding levels, in order to achieve the ideals of disaster risk reduction;
5. Strengthen the African Centres of Excellence charged with the responsibility of reducing disaster risk within the framework of sustainable development;
6. Use appropriate science and technology in disaster risk reduction in Africa;
7. Establish an integrated information management system for the entire continent, to be linked to other regional databases for effective information storage, retrieval and sharing;
8. Strengthen inter-governmental coordination mechanisms both at national and regional levels for effective formulation of policies on disaster risk reduction;
9. Integrate vulnerability reduction mechanisms into overall development and disaster risk reduction programmes on the continent;
10. Encourage good governance and best practices as necessary mechanisms for establishing sustainable and effective disaster risk management and disaster reduction programmes in Africa;
11. Foster gender sensitive programmes in order to develop disaster resilient communities;
12. Advocate increased national funding and international support to reduce vulnerabilities reflective of the needs of the continent;
13. Create synergy between traditional and indigenous knowledge and modern practices in designing appropriate methodologies and strategies for overcoming hazards and vulnerability; and,
14. Put in place appropriate mechanisms, taking into consideration the specific needs of the continent, for increased international assistance in financial, technical and capacity building programmes.

Whereas African countries appreciate the attention of the international community focussed upon its varied problems, typical stereotypes usually expressed in media and other fora do not represent the true Africa. In view of the above, we call for a proper representation of Africa.

It is imperative that African nations should evaluate the peculiar conditions and threats faced by the continent in the area of disasters and risk, and develop appropriate mechanisms for their prevention and mitigation.

In this connection, there is the need to develop a concerted and integrated work programme for the whole of the continent, and incorporate such formulae into the outcomes of international initiatives such as the IDRC and others, so as to form the basis of future actions in tackling natural hazards and other calamities.

This process has been initiated at the IDRC Davos 2006 by the delegates from African nations.

Davos, Switzerland

31 August 2006

For and on behalf of the African delegates to the IDRC Davos 2006:

- Algeria *B. Benoun*  
*Prof. D. Benouen*
- Kenya *Wilson Mwaniki*  
*Prof. Wilson M. Ngecu*     *Prof. Adon Nanyera*  
*M. S. Omanyi*
- Nigeria *Yamin Ayofe*  
*Senator V. K. I. Oyedero*
- Senegal *Aliou Diarra* *IP of Geo/Univ of Dakar*
- South Africa *[Signature]*  
*Director: African Centre for Disaster Studies.*
- Tanzania *Prof. Gabriel R. Kassenga* *[Signature]*  
*Director, Disaster Management Training Centre*
- Uganda *[Signature]*  
*Minister from Uganda*
- ZIMBABWE *[Signature]* *Equator*
- NAMIBIA *[Signature]* *University of Namibia*