



Establishment of Africa Youth Advisory Board on Disaster Risk Reduction (AYAB - DRR)

I. Background

Disaster risk drivers such weak governance, climate change and variability, and unregulated development exacerbate the occurrence and frequency of disasters. This results in human suffering and significant economic losses. The negative impacts seems to be increasing as the years goes by. Disaster risk reduction contributes to reducing the vulnerability of communities to hazards and safeguards development gains, thus risk-informed development which consequently contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Over the past decades, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Africa has been guided by the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (ARSDRR), which was adopted by African Union (AU) Heads of States and Governments in 2004. The implementation of the Strategy has been undertaken through the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the ARSDRR developed in 2005. It was subsequently extended in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015. Since 2015, global disaster risk reduction has been guided by the Sendai Framework. The framework was adopted by United Nations Member States at the 3rd UN World Conference for DRR in Sendai, Japan.

At the regional level, African Union member states have expressed their strong commitment to the implementation of the Sendai Framework by adopting the Africa Programme of Action (PoA) for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. The PoA seeks to achieve the global outcome in Africa as outlined in the Sendai Framework: “The 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 by 2030.

The PoA as part of its key component calls for the establishment of the Africa Youth Advisory Board (AYAB). This is not a surprise as, current estimates of the African continent is at 1.2 billion inhabitants with 60% of the population being below 35 years. Unfortunately, young people are disproportionately affected by disasters because of their inherent vulnerabilities, however, they can become agents of change when they are empowered and capacitated. The AYAB hopes to achieve this goal. The establishment of the AYAB is inspired by priority 2 ‘Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk’ of the Sendai Framework Action. The foundation of the board is also strongly influenced by the Youth Engagement Platform (YEP). This is to ensure coherence with the agendas of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and the UN department of Economic and Social Affairs (ECOSOC). These two UN entities have the agendas to by 2020, enhance collective

and meaningful youth involvement in DRR policy development, implementation, follow up and review of DRR Strategies.

II. Purpose

The establishment of AYAB will institutionalize the African Union working relationship with children and youth as major stakeholder groups in Disaster Risk Reduction on the continent. This will enhance meaningful engagement and participation of young African people in DRR activities and initiatives. The AYAB is envisioned to be an inclusive, open, and transparent platform for African youth to be engaged in continental/regional DRR policy design, implementation, follow up and review.

III. Scope of Work

The AYAB would champion the capacity building of African youth, design of youth sensitive policies, implementation, monitoring and review of DRR within Africa at all levels. The scope of work of the AYAB shall geographically cover DRR activities in East, West, South, Central and North Africa. The four priority areas of the AYAB and its regional representation reflects the PoA vision of implementation of the four priority areas of the Sendai Framework in Africa. These priorities are; understanding disaster risk, strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk, investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience and enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction. The AUC Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) through its DRR unit shall work closely with AU Youth Division to support functioning of the AYAB-DRR. DREA shall coordinate the activities of AYAB. The AU Youth Division shall play an advisory role on youth engagement.

IV. Composition

This call for expressions of interest is open to:

Nationality: Youth experts (not be more than 35 years of age) holding the nationality of a Member State of the African Union (AU) or youth-led or youth focused organizations who are passionate and actively involved in Disaster Risk Reduction activities.

Limits: Any formal or informal youth-led and youth-serving entities, as well as their members and individuals, may apply to join as members

Language: The official language of the board shall be English and French. Knowledge of other AUC official language would be desirable.

Duration: Membership of the AYAB lasts for two years.

Elections: Members are to be elected every two years at the margins of the African Regional Platform for DRR by the attending African youth

V. General Roles Of The AYAB

- i. Create and nurture a network between African youth, youth-led and focused organizations with decision-makers in order to reinforce AUC’s mission of meaningful engagement of young people in sensitizing communities on DRR.

- ii. Create and facilitate capacity building and empowering platforms for African youth to enhance and upscale their ‘agents of change’ abilities in DRR.
- iii. Work with national DRR focal points, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), African Union partners and other stakeholders to promote synergies and coherence in youth led DRR activities on the continent.
- iv. Ensure integration and streamline of the contribution of African youth actions to DRR activities at the national, regional and global levels; and
- v. Coordinate with the AUC, RECs and the AUC Youth Division to ensure that the objectives of the PoA are met as well as be involved in its implementation, monitoring and review of the PoA through youth engagement in DRR.

VI. To Perform The Above General Roles, The Following Specific Competencies Are Required

1. Candidates to be considered as REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES for East, West, South, Central and North Africa (2 for each region(1 male and 1 female), 10 Slots in total):

- Should demonstrate and show evidence of DRR youth activities within their relevant regions
- Should demonstrate or show how they plan to engage with the AUC, African Union Youth RECs, National and Local governments in creating or strengthening DRR strategies that are youth inclusive
- Should demonstrate and show their relationship to other DRR youth groups or youth networks (within and outside their regions) that they partner to demonstrate their network strength
- Should show how they plan to facilitate capacity building and knowledge exchange platforms within their region
- Should also show how they plan to work with the other members of the board to achieve its purpose.

2. Candidates to be considered under PRIORITY 1 - Understanding disaster risk (1 Slot):

- Should demonstrate and show evidence of scientific work in knowledge generation and management on hazards, vulnerability and exposure in DRR.
- Should demonstrate how they will leverage on Peri-Peri Universities network to build capacities of young scientists in DRR. This could be done by elaborating on activities with other academic networks already engaged with.
- Should show how they plan to facilitate interdisciplinary and intergenerational collaboration of young African scientists with established scientists in applying their existing and ongoing scientific research for evidence-based implementation, monitoring and follow up and review of the Sendai Framework.

- Should show how they plan to bring together young scientists and other groups, such as community actors and policy makers to identify gaps, make recommendations on good practices and emerging trends in knowledge management in DRR.
- Should also show how they plan to work with the other members of the board to achieve its purpose.

3. Candidates to be considered under PRIORITY 2 - Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster (1 Slot):

- Should show experience in policy formulation and implementation of youth inclusion in disaster risk reduction at any scale of governance
- Should show how they will collaborate with young politicians and political actors to advance the political will for DRR
- Should show how they will facilitate organisational and institutional capacity building for young people at different scale of government
- Should show how they will support advocacy and knowledge generation on disaster risk governance
- Should also show how they plan to work with the other members of the board to achieve its purpose.

4. Candidates to be considered under PRIORITY 3 - Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience(1 Slot):

- Should demonstrate knowledge in investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience
- Should have knowledge of financial instruments and have experience in proposal writing for funds for projects.
- Should also demonstrate how to they plan to promote young people initiatives in mitigation and adaptation measures as a way of investing in resilience.
- Should show how they plan to capacitate and share knowledge of young people on financial resources for DRR.
- Should also show how they plan to work with the other members of the board to achieve its purpose.

5. Candidates to be considered under PRIORITY 4 - Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction (1 Slot):

- Should demonstrate knowledge in preparedness and ‘Building Back Better’ in disaster risk reduction.
- Should show how they plan to work with relevant stakeholders to facilitate knowledge sharing and capacity building for and with young people in the preparedness phase of disasters.
- Should be able to create and manage a knowledge sharing and management platform to share lessons learnt and best practices with and for young people in DRR.
- Should show how they will facilitate intergenerational capacity building in DRR between youth practitioners and experienced DRR practitioners at different levels of engagement to prepare and ‘Build Back Better’ from Disasters.
- Should also show how they plan to work with the other members of the board to achieve its purpose.

6. Candidates to be considered under COMMUNITY BASED DRR (1 Slot):

- Should provide evidence of Community based DRR activities
- Should show how they plan to link youth activities at the community level with those at the national level;
- Should demonstrate experience and show evidence of knowledge of social media campaigns in DRR activities with relevant stakeholders
- Should demonstrate experience in organizing capacity building and knowledge sharing in DRR in communities
- Should also show how they plan to work with the other members of the board to achieve its purpose.

VII. Frequency of Meetings

The AYAB shall meet biannually alternating between physical and online meetings. Chairing the meeting will be assigned on a rotational basis to one of the members of AYAB. The chair will be supported by one other member who will serve as a secretary to write report of the meetings. The report should highlight work done, progress on current work and containing action points and decisions. The role of the secretary will also include sending follow up emails to members of the AYAB after each meeting.

VIII. Programme of work and reporting

The annual programme of work will be prepared by the members of the board on the basis of the profile of members and as described under “Scope of Work” of the current EOI. The programme of work will be in conformity with the PoA and the Sendai Framework. The AYAB shall issue biannual reports to AUC earmarking progress on work done

IX. Submission procedure and closing date

Young experts (not be more than 35 years of age) or youth-led or youth focused organizations meeting the basic selection criteria of AYAB should submit a complete application package to be considered for the board. A complete application consists of a detailed curriculum vitae (3 Pages maximum) and a motivation letter (2 pages maximum). In addition, proof of work, eg: social media links, blog posts, academic publications, opinion pieces, etc. on DRR can be submitted as an appendix to the application package. The submissions should be submitted to the following Emails: DianeA@africa-union.org and KoulaoA@africa-union.org , latest by 14th April 2019. The subject of the email should specific EOI Plus the specific position being applied for. For example: *EOI-AYAB – Priority 1* or *EOI-AYAB Regional Representative*. Incomplete or late submissions would not be considered. Young women and people with special needs are particularly encouraged to apply.