This is one of the side-events to be convened during the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment, in keeping with this year’s theme: *Restoring Humanity and Leaving No One Behind: Working together to reduce people's humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability.*

**Background and objectives**

Africa remains the region with the preponderance of humanitarian activity. The region continues to face growing humanitarian crises exacerbated by increased effects of climate change, conflicts and protracted dire humanitarian situations. Despite these challenges, or perhaps because of them, limited attention has been paid to investments in early warning and preparedness. The continent has made remarkable progress in its response to some major humanitarian crises, such as the to the Ebola epidemic, combating famine through early warning in drought-prone areas and the use of remittances to enhance the resilience of families affected by disasters.

Notwithstanding the progress made, more needs to be done, Africa still remains highly vulnerable to many natural and human-induced disasters, including conflicts, development projects, drought, food and water insecurity, flooding, infrastructural failures and industrial accidents. These growing and emerging challenges call for the transformation of the existing reactive humanitarian response into inclusive and proactive global humanitarian architecture fit for purpose. The African Union is closely working with partners towards this end as there is growing realization and evidence pointing the need to integrate disaster risk reduction into development and humanitarian response not only to minimize the impacts of disasters but also to enhance recovery and build resilience. The side event aims to show case the efforts the African Union in implementing the commitments of WHS under the Common Africa Position on Humanitarian Effectiveness and its 10-year Plan designed to restore dignity to affected populations and leave no one behind.

**Discussion Points**

Against this backdrop, the side-event will focus on the following suggested questions and discussion points:

1. The role of the AU, the RECs and African member states, communities in addressing the challenges and finding integrated durable solutions to human induced and natural disasters.
2. What are the immediate as well as long term action points for bringing about sustainable change that can tackle recurrent humanitarian crises?
3. How can we better coordinate early warning systems in the continent to prevent, prepare and effectively respond to crisis?
4. In light of the existing structural challenges such as protracted conflict, state fragility and violence African countries face, how can we prevent and address humanitarian crisis in the continent?
Intended outcomes/conclusions/recommendations

- Reaffirm that effective preparedness and prevention of humanitarian crisis can be achieved through sustainable investments targeting the root causes.
- There is paradigm shift in addressing humanitarian crises in the continent by focusing more on building resilience.
- Emphasize the need for effective coordination of existing early warning mechanisms which inform development and humanitarian interventions
- Preparedness is a key and commitment and partnership are vital in addressing the development gaps at national, regional and continental level

Format

(Co-)Chair(s):

- Mr. Olabisi Dare, Head, Humanitarian Affairs, Refugees Division, Department of Political Affairs, African Union Commission

Moderator:

- Chair, H.E. Amb. Boudjemaa DELMI, Permanent Representative of Algeria, and current President of the African Group

Panel composition:

- Mr. Olabisi Dare, Head, Humanitarian Affairs, Refugees Division, Department of Political Affairs, African Union Commission

Background Material

Website: https://www.au.int/

Contact

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