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CONCEPT NOTE

AFRICA MULTI-HAZARD EARLY WARNING AND EARLY ACTION SYSTEM (AMHEWAS)
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, 24-25 July, and Technical Working Group meeting 26-28 July, 2023,
WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

I.   Background

The African Union Commission developed the Africa Multi-hazard Early Warning and Early Action (AMHEWAS) Programme to contribute to substantial reduction in the rising disaster losses across the continent. The AMHEWAS Programme is inspired by rapid increase of multi-dimensional risks which requires multi-dimensional approaches. The programme provides an innovation in the implementation of multi-hazard early warning systems in Africa by adopting a multi-layered and networked approach to multi-hazard to engender seamless exchange of risk data at multiple scales. Key to achieving this seamless exchange of information is to support interoperability between continental, regional and national early warning systems

As a starting point to achieving this interoperability, the AU Commission, through financial support from Italy and UNDRR, has been implementing a project *'Establishment of Impact-based Early Warning for Early Action and Transboundary Risk Management Function of the African Union'* jointly with UNDRR and CIMA Research Foundation. The project has supported the development of the AMHEWAS programme and establishment of three situation rooms: one at the continental level in African Union Headquarters, one in African Centre for Meteorological Application for Development (ACMAD) in Niamey, Niger and one for IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC) in Nairobi Kenya. The three situation rooms are interoperable to generate disaster risk information for effective decision making.

 The AU Commission is working with the Regional Economic Community (RECs) to ensure that they have state-of-the-art multi-hazard early warning and early action situation room that are interoperable with the continental AMHEWAS situation room and national multi-hazard early warning situation rooms. The attainment of this interoperability function is a precondition to achieving seamless availability and access to multi-hazard early warning and risk information to the African public by 2030.

Achieving interoperability and capacity for transboundary risk management is complex. It required multi-stakeholders coordination and collaboration. The AU Commission, therefore, intends to establish a governance and coordination mechanism for AMHEWAS – noting that the success of AMHEWAS depends on accountability, transparency, cooperation and coordination among all actors supporting and or implementing multi-hazard early warning systems in Africa.

II.   AMHEWAS' governance and implementation mechanism

The AMHEWAS programme is governed within the broader AU's architecture. The Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (ARBE), under the leadership of the Commissioner of the department; and the Directorate of Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy (SEBE),

under the leadership of the Director of the directorate; and the DRR Unit in SEBE; handle the daily operations of the programme. The African Union Specialised Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (STC-ARDWE); and the African Union Permanent's Presentative Council (PRC) through its Sub-Committee on Environmental Issues provide oversight on the implementation of the programme. The RECs and MS lead the implementation of the programme at their respective levels.

In addition to the AU architecture, the programme governance will include AMHEWAS donors and implementing partners. Other actors working on multi-hazard early warning systems will also play critical role in the implementation of the programme. These actors will be involved in the coordination of the programme.

The AMHEWAS governance organized in two levels: AMHEWAS Steering Committee and AMHEWAS Technical Working Group.

a) AMHEWAS Steering Committee

The AMHEWAS Steering Committee is the programme's governing body that oversees the overall implementation of programme and sets the strategic vision for the programme. The AMHEWAS Steering Committee is chaired by the Member State Chairing the AU PRC Sub-Committee on Environmental Issues. The AU Commission through the Director of Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy, is the Secretariat of the AMHEWAS Steering Committee. Other members of the AMHEWAS Steering Committee include the AMHEWAS donors and implementing partners, RECs and Member States.

b) AMHEWAS Technical Working Group

The Technical Working Group is chaired by the Director of SEBE. The AMHEWAS Technical working group aims to facilitate coordinated implementation of the AMHEWAS programme. The working group is comprised of the MS, RECs, AUC, multi-lateral/bilateral partners, international organizations, representative of media, civil societies, academia, youth, women and other stakeholders supporting and or implementing multi-hazard early warning systems and anticipatory actions.

III. Organization of the inaugural session of the AMHEWAS Steering Committee and Technical Working Group

The two mechanisms are scheduled to be held from 24-28 July 2023 in Windhoek Namibia. The Programme Steering Committee shall be held from 24-25 July 2023 and the Technical Working Group shall take place from 26-28 July 2023.

The objectives of the AMHEWAS Steering Committee are:
- To discuss and adopt AMHEWAS Steering Committee's TORs
- To present the AMHEWAS programme and associated projects
- To consider the AMHEWAS annual progress report for 2022
- To discuss resource mobilisation strategies
- To approve AMHEWAS work plan 2023/2024

The objectives of the Technical Working Group are:
- To discuss and adopt the TORs for the group
- To take stock of implementation of multi-hazard early warning and anticipatory action in Africa
- To discuss and adopt the implementation plan (2023/2024) of AMHEWAS

IV. Venue
The two meetings shall be held in Windhoek Namibia. The actual venue of the meetings is being procured and information is to be made available in due course.

V. Programme

a) AMHEWAS Steering Committee (24-25 July 2023)

Time	Agenda item	Responsibility
	Day 1 - 24 July: Programme Steering Committee	
8:30-9:00	Registration/arrival of participants	AUC
9:00-9:30	Opening ▪ Director, SEBE-AUC ▪ Chair – AU PRC Sub-Committee on Environmental issues ▪ Representative – Government of Namibia	AUC
9:30-9:40	Adoption of the Agenda	PRC Sub-Committee on Environmental issues
9:40-10:00	Ice breaker: Knowing each other in the room	Italy
10:00-11:00	Setting the scene: AMHEWAS Programme and Associated projects	AUC
11:00-11:10	Family photo	AUC Communication Team
11:10-11:30	Health Break	All delegates
11:30-12:30	Discussions: AMHEWAS Programme and Associated projects	PRC Sub-Committee on Environmental issues
13:00-14:00	Lunch	All delegates
14:00-15:30	AMHEWAS Steering Committee TORs (presentation, discussions and adoption)	PRC Sub-Committee on Environmental issues
15:30-16:00	Health break	All delegates
16:00-16:45	AMHEWAS Progress report (presentation, discussion and adoption)	PRC Sub-Committee on Environmental issues
16:45-17:00	Wrap up – Day one	PRC Sub-Committee on Environmental issues
	Day 2 - 25 July: Programme Steering Committee	
9:00-9:30	Recap – Day 1	UNDRR
9.30-10:30	AMHEWAS Progress report: progress, challenges and opportunities (presentation, discussion and adoption)	PRC Sub-Committee on Environmental issues
10:30-11:30	Health Break	All delegates
11:30-12:30	Resource mobilization strategies (catalyzing investment for AMHEWAS amid fiscal constraints and changing climate and disaster risk context)	PRC Sub-Committee on Environmental issues
12:30-13:00	AMHEWAS Work Plan (2023/2024)	PRC Sub-Committee on Environmental issues
13:00-14:00	Closing and lunch break	

Programme

b) **AMHEWAS Technical Working Group (26-28 July 2023)**

Time	Agenda item	Responsibility
Day 1: 26 July		
08:30-09:00	Registration/arrival of participants	AUC
09:00-09:30	Opening ▪ Director, SEBE-AUC ▪ Representative – Government of Namibia	AUC
09:30-09:40	Adoption of the Agenda	Director, SEBE
09:40-10:00	Ice breaker: Knowing each other in the room	IGAD
10:00-11:00	Setting the scene: AMHEWAS Programme and Associated projects	AUC
11:00-11:10	Family photo	AUC Communication Team
11:10-11:30	Health Break	All delegates
11:30-12:30	Discussions: AMHEWAS Programme and Associated projects	AUC
13:00-14:00	Lunch	All delegates
14:00-15:00	Mapping existing early warning systems in Africa (good practices, challenges, and opportunities) and how can these initiatives be coordinated/or complement AMHEWAS and EW4All– breakout sessions	WMO
15:00-17:00	Presentation and discussions: Mapping existing early warning systems in Africa (good practices, challenges, and opportunities) and how can these initiatives be coordinated/or complement AMHEWAS and EW4All?– plenary	WMO
Day 2: 27 July		
09:00-09:30	Recap - Day 1	DIRAJ
09:30-11:00	AMHEWAS Technical Working Group TORs (presentation and breakout sessions)	AUC
11:00-11:30	Health break	All delegates
11:30-13:00	AMHEWAS Technical Working Group TORs (group presentations, discussions and adoption)	Director, SEBE
13:00-14:00	Lunch	All delegates
14:00-15:30	AMHEWAS implementation progress report (challenges and opportunities) ▪ AUC ▪ UNDRR ▪ IGAD ▪ ECOWAS	IFRC

	▪ ACMAD	
15:30-16:00	Health break	IOM
16:00-16:45	Panel discussion: Fast tracking implementing multi-hazard early warning systems in Africa (implication for AMHEWAS) Panelists ▪ SADC ▪ WMO ▪ IFRC ▪ UNOCHA ▪ MS (TBD)GNDR	IOM
16:45:17:00	Wrap up – Day 2	
Day 3: 28 July		
09:00-09:30	Recap – Day 2	AYAB
09:30-11:00	SOPs: AMHEWAS Situation Room (inputs by AMHEWAS TWG members) - breakout	CIMA
11:00-11:30	Health break	
11:30-13:00	SOPs: AMHEWAS Situation Room (inputs by AMHEWAS TWG members) –plenary	CIMA
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-15:00	Development and adoption of the implementation Plan of AMHEWAS (2023/2024)	AUC
15:00-15:30	Closing	