2-3 OCTOBER 2023, TUNIS

Under the Patronage of the Presidency of the Government of Tunisia

Arab-Africa Conference on Science and Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction

"Towards a Resilient Future: Science, Technology, Policy and Private Sector Nexus for Disaster Risk Reduction"

2 - 3 October 2023
Conference Palace, Tunis City - Tunisia

Programme

DAY 1: Monday, 02 October 2023	TIME	LOCATION
Morning Sessions		
Official Opening *(MC-GOT)* ***Welcome Remarks:*** • *Ms. Mami Mizutori, UN Special Representative to the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction, UNDRR* • *H.E. Mr. Moncef Boukthir, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Tunisia* • League Arab States • *H.E. Amb. Josefa L.C Sacko, COMDARBE, African Union Commission* ***Opening Remarks:*** Government of Tunisia • *H.E. Ahmed Hachani, Head of Government, Tunisia, (Speech delivered by H.E. Mrs. Leila Chikhaoui-Mahdaoui, Minister of Environment, Tunisia)*	09:00-10:00	Main Hall
Press Conference (Closed)	10:00-10:30	
Coffee Break	***10:00 – 10:30***	

Plenary Session 1: Context Setting: Challenges and Opportunities in the science-policy-private sector nexus for disaster risk reduction:

10:30-12:00   Main Hall

Moderator: Dr. Sujit Kumar Mohanty

- Status of Science and Technology in Disaster Risk Reduction in Tunisia, *Mrs. Leila Chikhaoui-Mahdaoui, Minister of Environment, Tunisia*
- Status of Science and Technology in Disaster Risk Reduction in the Arab Region, *Dr. Chadi Abdallah, Chair of Arab STAG*
- Status of Science and Technology in Disaster Risk Reduction in the Africa Region, *Dr. Eltson Eteckji Fonkeng, Chair of Africa STAG*
- Status of Science and Technology in Disaster Risk Reduction and Perspectives from the global level, *Dr. Rajib Shaw, Professor, Keio University, Japan*

Plenary Session 2: Application of methods and tools for risk-sensitive policy and practices

12:00-13:30   Main Hall

Moderato: Mr. Marco Massabo

- Global Assessment Report, *Ms. Rhea Katsanakis, GAR coordinator, UNDRR (Virtual)*
- Data Driven Risk Assessment, *Dr. Rouba Ziade Associate researcher, National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), Lebanon*
- Methods and Tools for Resilience Planning, *Dr. Igor Linkov, Adjunct Professor, Carnegie Mellon University, and Senior Scientific and Technical Manager, United States Army Corps of Engineers (Virtual)*
- Climate Risk Assessment to inform policy making, *Dr. Issack Tchuwa, Head of Earth Sciences Department in Ndata School of Climate and Earth Sciences, Malawi University of Science and Technology*
- Towards Resilience Assessment and improvement for disaster reduction: a concrete framework and case study, *Mrs. Narjès Bellamine Ben Saoud, Director, National School of Computer Science, Tunisia*

Lunch break   *13:30 – 14:30*

Afternoon Sessions

Plenary Session 3: Engagement of the private sector in Promoting Science-based disaster risk reduction

14:30 -16:00   Main Hall

Moderator: Mr. Amjad Abbashar

- Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), *Ms. Sarah Wade Apicalle, Head of Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagement Unit, UNDRR*
- Financial Instruments for Risk Reduction, *Mr. Mahmoud Burai,*

Chair of UAE Arise

- Sustainable Business Practices, *Mr. Hossam Elgamal, Co-Chair of Egypt ARISE*
- Cross-Sector Collaboration, *Dr. Rajib Shaw Asia STAG*
- The integrated program for resilience against natural disasters in Tunisia: Strengthening financial protection mechanisms for better resilience: knowledge of risks and complementarity between public and insurance instruments, *Ms. Jawaher bin Omar, Director General, Ministry of Finance, Tunisia*

Reception hosted by the Government of Tunisia	19:00 - 21:00	Ennajma Ezzahra Palace – Palace of Baron d'Erlanger – Sidi Bou Said

DAY 2: Tuesday, 03 October 2023	**TIME**	**LOCATION**

Morning Sessions

Unpacking the role of science-policy-private sector nexus in accelerating the implementation of the Mid-term Review of Sendai Framework outcomes

Thematic Session 1: Understanding disaster risks	09:00-10:30	Room No. 1

Moderator: Dr. Jalal Dabeek

- Partnerships and collaborations for better understanding and management of risks associated with rapid technological change, *Dr. Heba AlHariry, Arab STAG*
- The Use of science and technology in socioeconomic development: Opportunities and threats, *Dr. Salack Seyni, Regional Thematic Coordinator - Risks and Vulnerability to Climatic Extremes WASCAL*
- The use of AI in disaster loss accounting and development of risk information, *Dr. Hicham Ezzine GIS 4DS, Morocco*
- Assessment and Monitoring of natural disaster using Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS): Knowledge transfer from South Asia to Tunisia, *Mr. Mohamed Kefi, Assistant Professor, Water Research and Technologies Centre, Tunisia*
- The role of digital and communications technology in strengthening risk awareness and communication, *Ms. Fanny Langella, Public Information Officer, UNDRR*

Thematic Session 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk	09:00-10:30	Main Hall

Moderator: Mr. Zahi Chahine

- A coherent and integrated management of risks, *Dr. Dilanthi Amaratunga, Professor of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, Head, Global Disaster Resilience Centre, University of Huddersfield, (Virtual participation)*
- Addressing disaster risk reduction in fragile and conflict affected countries, *Prof. Wadid Erian, Cairo University, Advisor, League of Arab States*
- Addressing disaster risk reduction in fragile and conflict affected countries, *Dr. Ahmed Farage, Peace and Security Expert at Country Support Management (Virtual participation)*
- Using artificial intelligence in early warning services related to forest fires, Col Maj, *Dr. Hamadi LIRATHNI, Expert in disaster management, interior ministry, National civil protection office Tunisia.*
- The role of law enforcement and justice systems in enforcing disaster risk reduction measures*, Mrs. Wiem Sifaoui, Special advisor to the Minister of Environment, Tunisia*
- Gender-Responsive Disaster Risk Reduction for Science and Technology, *Ms. Nathalie Zaarour, Gender Inclusive and Women Empowerment Expert, Ms. Dorcas Kalele, AfSTAG.*

Coffee Break	*10:30 – 11:00*	

Thematic Session 3: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience: Role of private sector in supporting DRR investments

11:00-12:30   Main Hall

Moderator: Ms. Terry Kinyua

- Integrating risk reduction in public investment, *Dr. Dhanandjay Kawol, Senior Chief Executive for the Ministry of Local Government and Disaster Risk Management, Mauritius*
- Integrating DRR financing within sectoral investments, *Ms. Alissa Legenza, Founder and CEO, ATHENA, (ILS & ESG Asset Management), (TBC)*
- The role of private investment in providing innovative solutions for reducing climate related disasters, *Mr. Hossam Elgamal, Co-Chair of Egypt ARISE, and Dr. Ahmed Elmahdy, dean of the Information Technology and Computer Science School, Nile University*
- The role of private investment in providing innovative solutions for reducing climate related disasters, *Mr. Michael Sudarkasa, CEO of AFAP South Africa & Africa Business Group*
- What are the costs of non-action in disaster risk reduction, *Mr. Adel Ben Youssef, Expert in Climate change, digital economy and entrepreneurship, Tunisia*
- Challenges and opportunities in retrofitting existing infrastructure to withstand hazards, *Dr. Sarah Kasri University of Dauphine, France*

Thematic Session 4: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience: Forecast based financing

11:00-12:30   Room No. 1

Moderator: Dr. Mahmoud Burai (TBC)

- Evaluating the Effectiveness of Forecast-based Financing Initiatives: Forecast-based financing and Early warning system Interdisciplinary Perspectives, *Dr. Fadi Hamdan, Director General, DRM Centre, Lebanon*.
- Building Partnership for FBF implementation, *Dr. Rouba Ziade Associate researcher, National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), Lebanon*
- Forecast-based Financing: Mobilizing Climate Finance for Disaster Preparedness, *Mr. Thomas Smarczyk, German Red Cross, Germany*
- Forecast-based Financing: Mobilizing Climate Finance for Disaster Preparedness, *Ms. Aritiana faly, Sendai Focal Point, Madagascar*
- Innovative Funding Mechanisms for Climate Adaptation, *Dr. Alice Ncube, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, South Africa*

Thematic Session 5: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "build back better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction: Resilient and sustainable infrastructure	12:30-14:00	Room No. 1

Moderator: Dr. Wadid Erian

- Resilient infrastructure and de-risking investments, *Dr. Fadi Hamdan, Director General, DRMC, Lebanon*
- The role of the private sector in building back better, *Mr. Ahmad Riad, Egypt Arise*
- Three dimensional approaches to Nature-based Solutions with the DRR arena, *Dr. Elsa Sattout, Regional Programme Specialist, Ecology & Earth Science Programme, UNESCO Cairo Office*
- Incorporating the principles of inclusivity, environmental sustainability, and social equity in recovery and reconstruction, *Mr. Khalidou Mar, Ministry of Hydraulics and Sanitation, Mauritania*
- Retrofitting existing infrastructure for enhanced resilience, *Ms. Savina Carluccio, Executive Director, International Coalition for Sustainable Infrastructure*
- Harnessing technology and innovation for improved post-disaster recovery outcomes, *Mr. Gianluca Pescaroli, Associate Professor in Operational Continuity and Disaster Resilience, UCL*

Thematic Session 6: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "build back better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction: Effective & inclusive early warning systems	12:30-14:00	Main Hall

Moderator: Mr. Mohamed Ali Marouani

- Multi-hazard early warning for All, *Keynote from Ms. Mami Mizutori, SRSG, UNDRR*
- The Africa multi hazard early warning and early action system (AMHEWAS), *Mr. Aboubakar Diane, Senior Policy Officer for DRR, AUC*

- The role of artificial intelligence, machine learning, and big data in improving early warning capabilities, *Mr. Andrea Trucchia, CIMA Foundation*
- Crisis Management: Navigating Chaos with Cutting-Edge Data-Driven Technologies, *Mr. Mohamed Ben Aouicha, Head, Data Engineering and Semantics Research Unit, University of Sfax, Tunisia*
- The role of indigenous knowledge in DRR, *Dr. Djillali Benouar, Lecturer, University of Science And Technology Houari Boumediene, Algeria*
- Involving persons with disabilities in the design and implementation of early warning systems*, Ms. Rokiatou Diakite, Disability Expert, Mali, and Dr. Mustafa Attieh, Disability Consultant, England*

Lunch break	***14:00 – 15:00***	
Afternoon Sessions		
Closing Ceremony		
The Arab-Africa Call of Tunis on science, technology, policy and the private sector in Disaster Risk Reduction	15:00-16:00	Main Hall
Closing remarks: UNDRR, AUC, LAS, Government of Tunisia	16:00-16:30	Main Hall
Press Conference (Closed)	16:30-17:00	