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## **Kuwait Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction**

We, the ministers, heads of delegations and representatives of Arab States members of the United Nations and representatives governments regional and international local and governmental and non-governmental organizations participating in the Sixth Session of the Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the State of Kuwait during the period 9 to 12 February 2025, express our thanks and appreciation to the State of Kuwait, its Emir, its Government and its people, for hosting and organizing the Sixth Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. We also extend our thanks to the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction for their continuous efforts in supporting Arab countries to build their resilience to disasters.

## We declare the following:

- 1. We are full aware of the increasing frequency and severity of disasters of all kinds, which cause significant human and economic losses and limit the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Arab region.
- 2. We emphasize the objectives and priorities of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, of the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2030, of the outcomes of previous regional and international declarations

- and of the political declaration issued by the high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the mid-term review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- 3. We express our support for the transition from disaster management to comprehensive disaster risk management through practices consistent with sustainable development policies and in line with the priorities of the Sendai Framework 2015-2030.
- 4. We emphasize the need to provide the necessary and urgent support to the countries affected by the Israeli occupation, especially the State of Palestine, through effective contribution to supporting the efforts of the Palestinian government to rebuild the affected areas in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank through the relief and early recovery plan in the Gaza Strip prepared by the Palestinian government and regional and international organizations.
- 5. We emphasize the importance of benefiting from climate and desertification summits relevant decisions, including climate financing mechanisms, to improve prevention, preparedness, response and recovery from disasters in the Arab region.
- 6. We emphasize the importance of strengthening coordination and consultation between Arab countries through the Arab Coordination Mechanism for Disaster Risk Reduction (ACMDRR) to coordinate efforts with regional and global strategies and we appreciate the role of the Arab League in this field, and the inclusion of disaster risk reduction in the agenda of all ministerial councils under it in order to enhance risk governance and achieve resilience.
- 7. We emphasize the importance of developing a comprehensive approach that includes governments, civil society, academia, youth, vulnerable groups, the private

- sector and the media to reduce disaster risks in Arab societies.
- 8. We call for taking advantage of the results of the study carried out by the Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED) on forced displacement in the Arab region.
- 9. We call for increasing the use of science, technology and innovation to improve risk assessment and early warning systems, and to work on implementing the outcomes of the Arab-Africa Conference on Science and Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction. (Tunis 2023)
- 10. We express our support for the efforts of the Arab Science and Technology Advisory Group for Disaster Risk Reduction to provide scientific information and technical advice to decisionmakers in order to enhance regional and national disaster risk reduction activities.
- 11. We enourage the use of the United Nations Disaster Loss Accounting System for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- 12. We emphasize the importance of increasing investment in Disaster Risk Reduction activities in cooperation between the public and private sectors and civil society organizations, and the need to support countries to benefit from international financing mechanisms, climate change mitigation programs and green financing, and to take advantage of relevant funds.

We hereby call on Arab governments, partners and stakeholders to:

 Accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, the outcomes of regional and international declarations and the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the

- mid-term review of the Sendai Framework during the remainder of the Framework
- Strengthen Disaster Risk Reduction governance by establishing and developing clear roles and coordination mechanisms among stakeholders at the local, national and regional levels.
- 3. Increase financial investments in DRR, especially in resilient infrastructure projects, and strengthen public-private partnerships.
- 4. Develop and update integrated databases and statistics on disaster losses, and analyze and assess those risks, to support decision-makers in developing evidence-based policies
- 5. Use advanced technologies, including geospatial tools and data analysis, to improve risk mapping, early warning systems, artificial intelligence tools through the implementation of the outcomes of the Arab-Africa Science and Technology Forum, and we emphasize the importance of convening the forum periodically every two years.
- 6. Enhance collaboration among stakeholders in order to implement innovative solutions, including nature-based approaches, for disaster risk management.
- 7. Endeavour to promote periodic reviews of the progress made in implementing the Sendai Framework and the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- 8. Strengthen the role of governments and/or local authorities in the capacity to address and reduce disaster risks resulting from natural or man-made hazards within the framework of national disaster risk reduction strategies.

We, the ministers, heads of delegations and representatives of Arab States Members of the United Nations, and representatives of local governments, regional and international governmental and non-governmental organizations participating in the Sixth Session of the Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, continue our collective determination to reduce disaster risks, build resilient societies, protect lives and property and provide decent livelihoods for all segments of society.

Adopted by the Chairman of the Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction at its sixth session in the State of Kuwait on 12 February, 2025

## His Excellency Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior - Chairman of the Platform