

EIGHTH AFRICA REGIONAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION

Higher Education Contributions towards a Resilient Africa

10h00 -12h00 CAT : 16 November 2021

African Higher Education Institutions, Research Centers and scientific communities are playing an increasingly important role in advancing the field of disaster risk across the continent. Such institutions and networks provide support for developing capacity to produce expertise in which to conduct research, advise and implement DRR and climate change related activities, and help foster a culture of sustainability and resilience building based on science and indigenous knowledge.

However, despite their contributions towards a building a more sustainable and resilient Africa, such institutions are faced by a number of obstacles and challenges which hamper their efforts to reduce risk and enhance resilience. The ongoing Coronavirus pandemic has caused major disruptions to education and research, threatening to undo much of the progress made in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction.

This session aims provide a platform for representatives of the academic and scientific communities based on the continent to share their experiences, perspectives and aspirations, to identify both the challenges and opportunities they face, and promote further understanding and engagement between academia, science, practitioners and policy makers.



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16-19 NOVEMBER 2021

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TIME	ACTIVITY	LEAD SPEAKERS
11:00	Welcome and etiquette	Mr. Carinus de Kock
11:05	Opening Remarks – PERIPERI U Secretariat	Dr. Nico Elema
11:15	Presentation 1: Higher education contributions to DRR research, capacity development and risk informed Policy & Development	Prof. Gabriel Kassenga, Ardhi University
10:30	Presentation 2: Adaptation of DRR training and capacity building in a COVID-19 transformed world	Mrs. Patricia Zweig, Stellenbosch University
11:45	Presentation 3: Marginalisation of continental expertise and skills in addressing African risk issues	Prof Dewald van Niekerk, North West University
12:00	Presentation 4: Challenges and opportunities for higher education contributing towards enhancing resilience in Africa	Prof Djillali Benouar, University of Sciences and Technology Houari Boumediene
12:15	Panel session: How to enhance Higher education contributions to a resilient Africa'	All Presenters
12:50	Closing Remarks	Dr Nico Elema



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