

**UN HABITAT**  
**UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME**  
Programme des Nations Unies pour les établissements humains  
Programa de las Naciones Unidas para los Asentamientos Humanos

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Nairobi, 29 March 2017

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the joint establishment of the Technical Centre for Disaster Risk Management, Sustainability and Urban Resilience (DiMSUR) in December 2014 by the Governments of Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and the Union of Comoros, with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) as a facilitator, through the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Considering the active participation of SADC in the establishment of DiMSUR and its current position as member of the Centre's Executive Board (elaborated in Article 5.3, pp. 17-18 of the Charter), I believe that the formalisation of the relationship between DiMSUR and SADC would be an important step in fostering synergies and complementarity of action. In the 2014 Memorandum of Understanding, DiMSUR committed to "complement/reinforce the work of SADC DRR Unit" (Article II, 3, pp.6) and to establish and maintain "a partnership with the SADC DRR Unit and the southern African countries by providing technical support" (Article IV, 1, pp.7). DiMSUR is also aligned with the African Union support for a regional approach to address disaster risk management. For your ease of reference, I am hereby attaching relevant documentation, including the 2014 MoU, the DiMSUR Charter, and other reports and correspondence referring to SADC's implication in this initiative.

At its Fourth Session, recognising the leading role that SADC plays in guiding the regional development agendas and promoting international cooperation, the DiMSUR Executive Board requested me to make formal contact with Your Excellency, as SADC Executive Secretary, to propose the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between SADC and DiMSUR. To this end, the UN-Habitat technical team currently working as DiMSUR secretariat ad interim proposes a visit to SADC headquarters in Gaborone during the month of May 2017 to follow up on this and other potential collaboration.

We stand ready to respond to any questions or further actions in this matter. I have requested Mr. Mathias Spaliviero, Senior Human Settlements Officer and chief of the technical team (e-mail: [mathias.spaliviero@unhabitat.org](mailto:mathias.spaliviero@unhabitat.org), phone: +254 20 7624716) to be your point of contact on this issue.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

  
**Dr. Joan Clos**  
Under-Secretary-General and  
Executive Director

**H.E. Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax**  
Executive Secretary  
Southern Africa Development Community  
Gaborone, Republic of Botswana

**Note on Collaboration and cooperation between the Technical Centre  
for Disaster Risk Management, Sustainability and Urban Resilience (DiMSUR) and  
the SADC Disaster Risk Reduction Unit (DRR Unit)**

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has provided invaluable contributions to the creation of DiMSUR since the beginning of the Centre's establishment process. More specifically, a representative of the SADC Disaster Risk Reduction Unit has participated in the following events:

- The **First Regional Workshop** to discuss and endorse the process of establishing a Sub-Regional facility for disaster risk management in South-East Africa held in Lilongwe, Malawi, 2-3 February 2011. During this meeting, SADC accepted the invitation to become a member of the Steering Group for overseeing and guiding the Feasibility Study for establishing DiMSUR. More information on this workshop can be found in **Annex 4 - Lilongwe Meeting Proceedings**.
- The **Second Regional Workshop** to validate the feasibility study for establishing DiMSUR, was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 29 June to 1 July 2011. During this meeting, the SADC representative reaffirmed its support to DiMSUR and highlighted the importance of promoting complementarities between the Centre and the DRR Unit. More information on this workshop can be found in **Annex 5 - Johannesburg Meeting Proceedings**.
- The **First Session of DiMSUR's Executive Board**, organised as a side event during the 5<sup>th</sup> African Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction held in Abuja, Nigeria, on 12 May 2014. During this meeting, the representative of the DRR Unit highlighted SADC's engagement to promote DiMSUR as a permanent member of the Centre's Executive Board. More information on this meeting can be found in **Annex 6 – I EB Meeting Minutes**.
- The **Third Session of DiMSUR's Executive Board** was held in Maputo, Mozambique, on 27 and 28 October 2015. During this session, the representative from the SADC DRR Unit recommended that the relationship between SADC and DiMSUR is further explored and institutionalized, e.g. through an MOU. More information on this meeting can be found in **Annex 7 – III EB Meeting Minutes**.
- The **Fourth Session of DiMSUR's Executive Board** took place in Mauritius, on 29 November 2016. During this session, the representative from the SADC DRR Unit commended the development of the City Resilience Action Planning (CityRAP) tool by DiMSUR with UN-Habitat support, which enables local leaders to be in the driver' seat of the planning process. In terms of possible areas of collaboration, the SADC representative mentioned the following: (i) the SADC DRR Information Management System to be launched in 2017 as a platform where DiMSUR experiences could be shared; (ii) the complementary role of DiMSUR to the SADC DRR Unit to share experiences, promote knowledge and deliver training in the countries under its reach; and (iii) explore joint DRR fund raising. More information on this meeting can be found in **Annex 8 – IV EB Meeting Minutes**