



**People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
Ministry of the Interior, Local Authorities and
Urban Planning**

**Speech of the Minister of Interior, Local Authorities and
Urban Planning on
« Establishing the Continental Civil Capacity Mechanism for
Disaster Preparedness and Response »**

Algiers, December 8, 9th 2022

Ladies and gentlemen, civil protection officials and disaster managers in the member states of the African Union,

Ladies and gentlemen, representatives of the African Union Commission,

Ladies and gentlemen, representatives of international and regional organizations,

Mr. Director General of the National Institute for Comprehensive Strategic Studies,

Mr. President of the National Observatory of Civil Society,

Mr. Director General of the Algerian Agency for International Cooperation for Solidarity and Development,

Mr. Director General of National Security,

Mr. Director General of Civil Protection,

Mr. Governor of Algiers,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

You are welcome

First of all, I welcome the guests of Algeria and express my sincere thanks and gratitude to every one who accepted the invitation to attend the activities of this very important meeting, as it is considered as an opportunity to discuss issues of common interest, especially those related to risks rising from natural disasters striking our continent, and the extent of collective readiness to face them and limit their effects, to protect the peoples of the region and its inhabitants, and their public and private property.

On this basis, came the initiative of the President of the Republic, Mr. Abdelmadjid Tebboune, during the fortieth session (40) of the Executive Council of the African Union, held in February 2022, to propose the establishment of a continental capacity mechanism for disaster preparedness and response in Africa

An initiative like this is to strengthen the continent against the various challenges, through finding solutions that allow mitigating crises effects resulting from major risks, taking into account the specificities and needs of each country separately, including qualifications and the extent of preparedness for such disasters.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

Algeria has always attached importance to the field of protecting lives, property and the environment. Its constant endeavor to enhance confrontation with dangers, disasters and climate issues is based mainly on proactive action, through a number of steps such as the continental preparedness to activate early warning of multiple hazards, as well as a pledge to implement the principles and commitments of the Nairobi Statement, in addition to testing approaches that enhance the capabilities of countries in order to face disaster risks at the continental level, and discussing Algeria's proposal regarding the establishment of a mechanism for continental civil capacities for disaster preparedness and response, as many African countries, for example, rely on international capabilities in Relief operations, while these capabilities are possessed by neighboring countries within the continent.

The regional experience of disaster risk management has increasingly demonstrated the inadequacy of the national capacities and efforts exerted by countries to deal with them on context characterized by clear effects and consequences of climate change and transboundary disasters. Therefore, the mobilization of resources and the synergy of efforts has become a very important matter, and an ideal means to deal with the risks of disasters in a more efficient and rapid manner.

Distinguished Ladies, Distinguished Gentlemen,

Algeria is among the countries that are exposed to natural disasters, such as floods, forest fires and earthquakes. Despite the material and human losses recorded, we were able to draw lessons and learn from experiences and expertise, which allowed us to develop and improve our preventive and operational equipment to confront major dangers.

As an example, after the Boumerdes earthquake, which occurred in 2003, the Algerian government recorded rich national programs to develop the

capacities of the institutions in charge of managing disasters, especially the civil protection which has created specialized services in the management of major risks, sea and air rescue, emergency and disasters management, Synotechnical and underground rescue teams, search and rescue teams in difficult sites, chemical and biological hazard intervention teams, mobile convoys to fight forest fires.

On the international level, the Algerian civil protection teams have participated in the intervention and response to many natural disasters that affected friendly and brotherly countries, including Mexico earthquake in 1985, the India earthquake in 2001, the Iran earthquake in 2003 and 2005, Nepal earthquake 2015, forest fires in France 2003, floods in Sudan in 1987, floods in Yemen in 2008, and the explosion of the port of Lebanon in 2020, In this regard, the Algerian civil protection team for search and rescue in urban sites is classified as heavy class by International Search and Rescue Advisory Group of the United Nations (INSARAG) in 2017, which qualifies the Algerian team to intervene in accordance with modern international standards.

Distinguished Ladies, Distinguished Gentlemen,

This meeting, which Algeria is hosting, seeks to crystallize a common and consensual vision in the financial, legal and structural fields, to establish this project and embody it on the ground of African Union countries.

In the end, I have no doubt that the discussions that will take place on the aforementioned issues will be fruitful, and lead to a set of recommendations, that will receive special attention from the leaders of our countries, as well as the attention of various international and regional

organizations in this field, with the aim of making our surroundings more secure and stable.

I wish you success in your work