



## Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Building for Youth Leaders in Africa



**Programme Dates:** December 18-23, 2014

**Participants:** Six young leaders from Madagascar, Mozambique & South Africa and two United Nations-related guests from Kenya.

**Coordinators:** NGO Peace Boat, in consultation with UNISDR Regional Office for Africa

**Venue:** Peace Boat's passenger ship, *The Ocean Dream*

- *Embarkation point:* Maputo, Mozambique (Dec 18)
- *Disembarkation point:* Cape Town, South Africa (Dec 23)

### **Objectives:**

- **Promote the UNISDR's "Making Cities Resilient" campaign** through engaging the next generation of African DRR leaders and implementing in-port programmes (E.g. press conferences, symposiums, round-table discussions).
- **Build capacity of young African DRR leaders** through providing the place, time and opportunity to share best practices, expand networks and gain tools/knowledge related to DRR and sustainable development of African cities.
- **Strengthen African regional cooperation on DRR** through connecting individuals and organisations from different countries with diverse perspectives, experiences and expertise.

## Overview

In December 2014, Peace Boat partnered with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) to carry out the "Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Building for Youth Leaders in Africa" Programme.

Six outstanding young leaders from Madagascar, Mozambique and South Africa, along with two United Nations-related special guests from Kenya, joined Peace Boat's 86<sup>th</sup> Global Voyage as the ship sailed from Mozambique to South Africa.

Combining workshops, seminars, presentations and a field visit, participants explored some of the most pressing issues in Disaster Risk Reduction, and identified ways in which youth can take a leading role in making communities more resilient.

## Programme Outline: Key Sessions

<b>Day 1</b> (Maputo)	Participants arrive in Maputo, Mozambique
	Embarkation, Ship Tour, Orientation & Welcome Dinner
<b>Day 2</b> (Maputo)	Introduction to Peace Boat and Peace Boat Disaster Relief Volunteer Center
	Maputo Field Visit – "DRR and Cross-cutting Themes in Mafalala"
	Ship Departure Ceremony
<b>Day 3</b> (Onboard)	Recap of Maputo Field Visit – Key Learning Points and How to Apply in Future Actions
	Participant Presentations on Projects and DRR in Home Countries
	Exchange: Introduction to Japanese Culture
	DRR, Making Cities Resilient Campaign and the 10 Essentials
	Presentation to Peace Boat Passengers
<b>Day 4</b> (Onboard)	Local Government Self-Assessment Tool and other UNISDR Resources/Tools
	Africa DRR Youth Network – Ways for Youth in Africa to Effectively Engage in DRR
	Great East Japan Earthquake & Tsunami - DRR in Japan
	Working Session: Develop Individual Action Plans
	Dinner with Peace Boat Guest Educators
<b>Day 5</b> (Onboard)	DRR and Cross-cutting Themes
	DRR-Sensitive Tourism
	Working Session: Developing Group Action Plan, Ocean Dream Declaration & Africa Resilient Youth Network
	Tour of the Ship's Bridge with Captain
	Main Presentation to Peace Boat Passengers
<b>Day 6</b> (Cape Town)	Ship docks in Cape Town, South Africa
	Press Conference/Symposium: Peace Boat, UNISDR, Cape Town City Office & Cape Town Disaster Management Centre
	Programme Completion Ceremony
	End of Programme

## **Key Achievements**

### ➤ **Formation of the “Africa Resilient Youth” Group**

A network dedicated to furthering DRR across Africa was established from this programme, consisting of youth leaders from Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique and South Africa.

### ➤ **Establishment of the “Ocean Dream Declaration”**

The “Ocean Dream Declaration” – a group action plan and summary statement - was established and agreed upon by all members of the Africa Resilient Youth. (See excerpt from the declaration below).

*We, the group of the Africa Resilient Youth, have decided to take up individual and collective responsibility to implement activities to support efforts aimed at reducing risks related to disasters.*

*We commit to;*

1. *Join the Africa DRR Youth Champion Network*
2. *Organise a Social Media Campaign*
  - *Use social networks to spread information related to DRR (E.g. Selfie Campaign)*
  - *Create a Hashtag and include twitter handles of organisations that are relevant*
  - *Set up a Facebook Page*
  - *Contact and establish relations with the Central America Resilient Youth*
  - *Showcase youth from Africa doing DRR every month for 12 months*
3. *Sign up as Advocates for the Making Cities Resilient campaign*
  - *10 Days for 10 Essentials Campaign (Hashtag, twitter campaign on social media)*
4. *Persuade 6 local governments to sign up for MCR campaign and follow through with monitoring mechanisms, such as the Local Government Self-Assessment Tool, by the end of 2015*
5. *Hold one meeting every two years with members of the Africa Resilient Youth*

### ➤ **Establishment of Individual Action Plans**

Each participant created a specific and measurable action plan to implement upon completion of the programme, in the aim of strengthening DRR and enhancing resilience in their home countries.

### ➤ **Connecting Youth from Africa to WCDRR in Sendai**

This intensive training has interested the participants in getting involved with the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in March 2015 in Sendai. As a result, some representatives from the group have confirmed that they will attend. This representation will help to connect the participants to the larger, global DRR movement and to the implementation of the post-2015 framework.

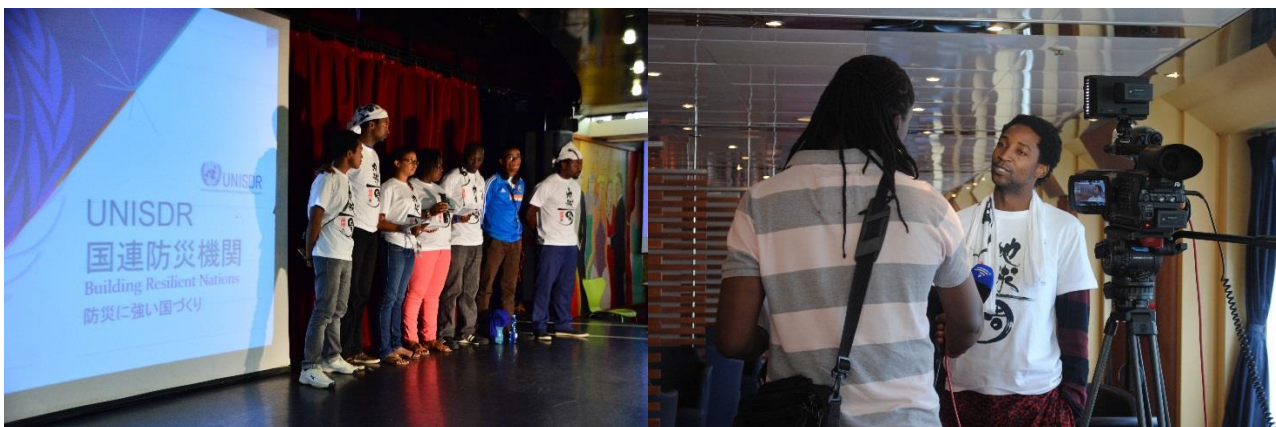
## Conclusion



In partnership with UNISDR, Peace Boat was able to successfully bring together some of the brightest young leaders from across Africa to work on reducing disaster risk in the region.

Armed with knowledge, resources, and a new international network, these young leaders are eager to make an impact. In order to ensure coordination, communication and collaboration after disembarking from the ship, the participants formed the "Africa Resilient Youth" (ARY) network, and have created both group and individual action plans to implement after returning home

As we approach the 3<sup>rd</sup> UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, the participants will continue to take action and raise their voices in order to be part of the global conversation on DRR, in the belief that youth participation is crucial to a truly inclusive and participatory process. As global leaders renew their commitments to reducing disaster risk in the coming decades through the post-2015 framework, these youth leaders will continue to make an impact and help achieve resilience at all levels of society.



### About Peace Boat, UNISDR and the "Making Cities Resilient" Campaign

Peace Boat, as a partner for the UNISDR's "Making Cities Resilient" campaign since May 2014, has committed to serving the campaign as:

- a **Messenger**, with its physical presence able to raise awareness in the ports we visit
- a **Venue** for delivering education and training programmes, and
- a **Vehicle** to bring people and expertise to different regions of the world.