

Call for Sessions
The 2nd Eastern Africa Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Action

Date: 28 to 30 October 2026

Venue: Mombasa, Kenya

Background

The 2nd East Africa Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Action (EADP-2) will be held as a as a hybrid event, bringing together up to **300 in-person participants** and an additional **2,000 virtual participants** joining plenary sessions.

EADP-2 will be held under the theme **“Transforming Risk into Resilience: Institutionalizing Anticipatory Action through Localisation, Multi-Stakeholder Coordination, Sustainable Financing and Evidence-Driven Policy.”**

Parallel sessions are a core component of EADP-2. This call invites proposals for **20 parallel session slots**. We encourage a diverse range of stakeholders to apply, including Governments, Regional Policy Bodies, Private sector, Humanitarian and Development actors, Financing Institutions, community-based actors, Research and academic organizations, and Media & communication practioners.

EADP-2 will focus on the following interconnected sub-themes (see details in the [concept note](#)):

Sub-Theme 1: Learnings from AA delivery in multi-hazard, multi-risk contexts in Eastern Africa

Rationale: Several AA activations have occurred in Eastern Africa since 2024 across different countries and organizations. This sub-theme will provide an opportunity to examine the varied experiences and lessons learnt, including innovations and evidence from past activations and non-activations, to identify practical solutions and shared pathways for more effective anticipatory action across the region.

Sub-Theme 2: Localizing Anticipatory Action for Enhanced Community Resilience

Rationale: Anticipatory action is most effective when it is led and owned by local actors, is context-specific, and integrated into local risk management systems. Localisation ensures that vulnerable populations are at the centre of co-design, co-implementation, and decision-making processes, and that anticipatory interventions are culturally appropriate, accessible, and sustainable.

Sub-Theme 3: Evidence-Based Early Warning and Information Systems

Rationale: Reliable, timely, and actionable early warning information is the foundation of effective anticipatory action. Despite progress, gaps remain in forecast skill, data availability, sub-national coverage, and integration between information systems managed by meteorological services, government sectors, humanitarian actors, and end-users. Strengthening early warning systems is critical for expanding anticipatory action to cover multiple hazards and contexts.

Sub-Theme 4: Strengthening Policy, Governance and Coordination Mechanisms

Rationale: Institutionalizing anticipatory action requires clear policy frameworks, governance structures and coordination mechanisms, at national, regional, and global levels. Effective coordination ensures efficient use of resources, avoids duplication, and enables collective action across humanitarian, development, climate, and government sectors.

Sub-Theme 5: Innovative and Sustainable Financing for AA

Rationale: Sustainable financing is essential for scaling anticipatory action beyond pilots. While anticipatory financing has grown, it remains largely donor-driven, short-term, and fragmented. Transitioning to predictable, multi-year financing through regional and national systems, and innovative financing mechanisms including climate finance, is critical for long-term sustainability and government ownership.

Session proposal guidelines

Proposals are welcomed for parallel sessions that are relevant to any of the sub-themes indicated in the concept note. Kindly review the [EADP-2 concept note](#) for key discussion points under each sub-theme. Please [submit your proposal using the online form](#) by **20th May 2026**.

Evaluation and selection process

The EADP-2 Organizing Committee will evaluate session proposals based on the criteria below. Session leads will be informed about the outcome of their proposal by **8th June 2026**.

Requirements

Please note the following requirements when submitting your session proposal.

- The session proposal must state the sub-theme it is addressing and refer to relevant discussion points that would be covered (see the [EADP-2 concept note](#))
- The design of the session must encourage dialogue to come up with concrete outputs and action points, which will feed into the EADP-2 Declaration. See section below for “**Further considerations to improve your session**”.
- Each organization can only be listed as the lead for one session
- Organizers are encouraged to co-organize sessions with other organizations
- Each proposal must include a 200-word summary of the main theme and expected outcomes of the session. These will be used to prepare the official report for the event. Please use [the session proposal template found here](#).

Evaluation criteria

- **Relevance:** Is the session clearly linked to anticipatory action? Does it address EADP-2's overall theme on institutionalization and is it clearly linked to a specific sub-theme? From which key discussion point does it address the sub-themes (see the [EADP-2 concept note](#))
- **Quality:** Are the session objectives clear? Will the proposed session design deliver on those objectives?
- **Diversity:** Diversity of speakers and perspectives will be scored positively. As a minimum, all sessions must include:
 - more than one organization
 - women
 - local actors, communities, or people at risk of disasters, where possible

Session duration and format

Parallel sessions will be allocated between **1-hour and 1-hour 30mins**. The session formats can include presentations, panel or fishbowl discussions, games, ignites, participatory debates, television style interviews, world cafés, short workshops, or any other format you can come up with.

Session (co-)design

This year we introduce a 'sandpit' approach to session development, bringing prospective session leads, facilitators and speakers together in interactive pre-event webinars to:

- learn about EADP-2's concept note and session evaluation criteria
- learn about best practices for participatory session design
- network and collaborate to co-design diverse sessions and avoid duplication

Kindly plan to join the session proposal development webinars (see key dates below), that will focus on:

1. Review of the concept note
2. Brainstorm with others on potential sessions to encourage co-design:
 - Is someone already working on your idea? Get in touch with them to explore collaboration.
 - Is your idea not raised yet? Add it so that others can get in touch with you to collaborate (or at least ensure their idea is different!)
3. Co-design of session proposals for submission using the session proposal template by **20th May 2026**.

Roles and responsibilities of session leads

The leads for parallel sessions are responsible for:

- coordinating the (co-)design of the session,

- submitting a proposal **by 20th May 2026**
- securing moderators/facilitators and speakers for the session
- attending (and ensuring their session team attends) pre-event briefings
- providing information to the event organizers in a timely manner
- keeping session details up to date via the [EADP-2 event page](#)
- taking notes on key issues and action points from their session that will feed into the EADP-2 Declaration

EADP-2 Format and Language

The language of the 2nd East Africa Dialogue Platform is English and sessions should be designed for an in-person event.

Room setup

All breakout rooms will be set up with:

- projector and screen
- microphones and speakers
- flipchart and pens
- facilitation pack (pens, post-its, coloured card, etc.)
- tables and chairs (please indicate your preferred layout – cabaret or theatre)

Key dates

Please [submit your proposal using the online form](#) by **20th May 2026**.

Date	Activity
27th April 2026	Call for sessions goes out
12th May 2026	Call for session sensitization webinar and reminder
20th May 2026	Deadline for session proposal submission
19th June 2026	Decision on accepted sessions is communicated including possibility to reorganize or merge with similar sessions
3rd July 2026	Deadline for session merging/ reorganization
31st July 2026	Final compilation of sessions
15th Sept 2026	Check-in with session leads on preparation progress
28 – 30th Oct 2026	Eastern Africa Dialogue Platform

Further considerations to improve your session

1. Relevance to EADP-2's objectives

Explain how the session will enable participants to achieve one or more of the EADP-2 objectives, and touching on these key areas:

- **discover** the key lessons, including successes and pain points as well as emerging issues, from anticipatory action activation and delivery in the region, considering compounding risks and complex contexts.

- **learn** about how anticipatory action is being institutionalised into national disaster risk management and other relevant systems as well as into the humanitarian programme cycle / humanitarian and development programming.
 - **identify** opportunities for localisation, multi-stakeholder coordination, sustainable financing and evidence-driven policy in the Eastern Africa region.
 - **discover** new and innovative tools and approaches to address challenges faced by practitioners, policy makers and local actors towards institutionalization of AA.
 - **discuss** innovative approaches to foster better collaboration, partnerships, financing, evidence and research to institutionalize anticipatory action.
- 2. Promote open discussions, critical debates, and constructive solutions**
Parallel sessions should allow participants to have honest, open conversations about core issues rather than revisiting common talking points. They should enable speakers to present ‘two sides of the story’ and allow participants to hear differing opinions, highlighting the lessons learned through successes and failures.
 - 3. Strengthen collaboration**
Sessions should be designed to bridge the gaps between the humanitarian, climate, development sectors and/or to connect science, policy, and practice. They should stimulate joint learning and enable new collaborative approaches to tackling anticipatory action challenges.
 - 4. Embrace diversity and inclusion**
Parallel sessions must include perspectives from local actors, communities and/or people at risk of disasters and must avoid ‘all male panels’. Diverse voices (across all characteristics) should be fostered wherever possible, including as experts in subjects unrelated to their diversity. We encourage collaboration across organizations in co-design, development and delivery of each session.
 - 5. Promote innovative solutions**
The anticipatory action community includes many innovative ideas and entrepreneurial approaches, and we welcome proposals that showcase these.
 - 6. Creative and interactive**
Parallel sessions should use creative approaches to engage participants in meaningful learning and knowledge exchange. They should be designed to spark new ideas and encourage active participation of both online and in person audiences.

Please note:

The EADP2 is a self-sponsored event, and individuals are encouraged to ensure that they can cover their costs of participation. The organizing committee can, upon request, provide an invitation letter to enable you to secure funding.

Contact

If you have questions, please contact the EADP-2 Organizing Committee Secretariat by sending an email to rtwgaa@igad.int. Further information is available on [the event page found here](#).