



VI Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas

June, 20th – 22nd, 2018. Cartagena, Colombia



GOBIERNO DE COLOMBIA



Cartagena Declaration

Third High-level Meeting of Ministers and Authorities on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030 in the Americas and the Caribbean

1. We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations participating in the Third High-Level Meeting of Ministers Authorities and on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in the Americas and the Caribbean during the 6th Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas (RP18) held in the city of Cartagena on June 20th, 21st and 22nd, 2018:
2. *Recognizing* the need to continue strengthening national and regional platforms organized by the region's countries with the objective to make progress on disaster risk reduction;
3. *Emphasizing* the importance of increasing knowledge about the phenomena that cause the loss of lives and damage to infrastructure in our territories that do not recognize administrative, economic, social or environmental boundaries;
4. *Reaffirming* the multi-disciplinary nature that the disaster risk approach requires, and the impacts generated by adverse events on the economy of the Americas and the Caribbean;
5. *Highlighting* the need to have information that supports decision making with respect to Disaster Risk Reduction, financial protection, preparation for disaster management and post-disaster recovery processes;
6. *Recognizing* the need to continue developing effective regional and national campaigns as instruments for public awareness and education, as well as to promote a culture of disaster prevention, resilience and responsible citizenship, generate understanding of disaster risk, support mutual learning and share experiences; and encourage public and private stakeholders to actively engage in such initiatives and to develop new ones at the local, national, regional and global levels;



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7. *Acknowledging* the experiences of the region's different countries in the implementation of the Regional Action Plan for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in the Americas and the Caribbean;
8. *Convinced* of the importance of strengthening cooperative relationships and collaboration between our countries and the need to continue encouraging the participation of donors and international organizations to support these actions; and of the need for every country to invest in keeping its infrastructure and early-warning systems operational for disasters, and making it sustainable;
9. *Recognizing* that the coordinated work helps us to address common priorities and challenges as a region in the area of Disaster Risk Reduction and to achieve the Sustainable Developments Goals –SDG- of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development related to this field;
10. *Recognizing* the disproportionate impact of disasters on women and girls, children and youths and other vulnerable groups, and their importance as agents of change, as well as the need to apply an equitable, participatory and inclusive approach to disaster risk reduction in order to reduce social, economic and psychological impact of such events;
11. *Recognizing* the need to consider indigenous communities in the event of disasters while integrating their traditional knowledge into relief and aid activities through a participatory approach;
12. *Recognizing* the importance that States strengthen their institutional frameworks in order to integrate disaster risk reduction into development measures, making nations and communities resilient to disasters;

We Ministers and Heads of Delegation, highlight the importance to:

1. *Provide continuity* to the implementation of the Regional Action Plan for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in the Americas and the Caribbean and address the proposed responsibilities as part of the development agendas in our countries, in line with the relevant goals and areas of



the 2030 Agenda, Habitat III and, as applicable, actions to implement the Paris Agreement;

2. *Commit to strengthen* through systematic organization within the internal management processes, the institutional platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction in order to generate coordination spaces for actions between local and national governments, the private sector, academic sector and civil society in recognition of the multidisciplinary and interinstitutional nature of Disaster Risk Reduction with the goal of increasing and promoting resilience in the region;
3. *Promote*, in collaboration with sub-regional, regional and global mechanisms through mutual cooperation strategies, joint research into phenomena that potentially cause losses in the region, and exchange of best practices and experiences in relation to disaster risk reduction in accordance with the guidelines included in the Regional Action Plan;
4. *Promote* awareness and knowledge among adults and children, as appropriate, related to a culture of disaster prevention, resilience and responsible citizenship;
5. *Commit to make progress* on monitoring the Regional Action Plan in order to assess its effectiveness and the response by the region's countries to the planned initiatives and establish follow-up arrangements, in line with the baselines to be assessed in the context of the 7th Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean to be held in 2020 in Jamaica;
6. *Recognize* the impact recent disasters have had in the Americas and the Caribbean, particularly the impact of natural hazards, highlighting the urgent need to strengthen national efforts, regional cooperation and partnerships, including public-private partnerships, in order to make progress on the implementation of the Regional Action Plan and the Sendai Framework targets in accordance with the national needs and priorities of the affected sub-regions;
7. *Take note of* the declaration of civil society members and grassroots and women's organizations in this 6th Regional Platform, that in collaboration with public institutions provide practical knowledge and guidance in the application of normative frameworks, standards and plans to reduce disaster risk and facilitate inclusive disaster risk reduction for all society;



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8. *Call on* the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction to continue providing institutional support for the implementation, monitoring and review of disaster risk reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean in collaboration with relevant regional and sub-regional organizations;
9. *Reiterate* our commitment to achieve the Sendai outcome of substantial reduction of disaster risk and loss of life, livelihoods and health, and particularly to reduce mortality and the number of people that are affected by disasters, as well as the resulting economic losses from disasters, including by investing our own domestic resources in planning and preparedness;
10. *Make an appeal* to continue broadening existing efforts and best practices in the region to integrate disaster risk reduction in all of the sectors and promote support to the private and public sectors with the goal of uniting efforts against disaster risk and damage to critical and productive infrastructure;
11. *Promote* a less vulnerable region with more resilient communities through involving governments and government control agencies with the goal of positioning Disaster Risk Reduction as a public policy priority at the national level and with an increased impact in local areas;
12. *Recognizing* that during the occurrence of a catastrophic event the mobility of people with disabilities, people with serious and chronic diseases and older adults may be limited, and that special attention to the needs of these individuals is crucial to protect their lives and fundamental rights, efforts should be taken to provide for their safety, protection and well-being, including through the implementation of inclusive risk management policy according to national context;
13. *Strengthen* the development and dissemination of methodologies and science-based tools that facilitate the timely implementation of measures of prevention and preparation as well as identification and communication of the losses caused by disasters through online monitoring platforms that are designed for this purpose and adopted for the monitoring of the Sendai Framework;
14. *Encourage* Member states and relevant actors in accordance with their respective mandates and priorities to actively participate in the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Management to be implemented between the 13th and 17th of May 2019, in Geneva, Switzerland;



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15. *Invite* Colombia as the host country of the 6th Regional Platform to deliver the present Declaration during the 2019 Global Platform as a contribution from the region to the implementation of the Sendai Framework;
16. *Call* on countries to develop and strengthen disaster risk reduction plans and strategies at the national and local levels, in line with the global goal (e) of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the priorities identified in the Regional Action Plan for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in the Americas and the Caribbean;
17. *Invite* countries in the region to consider the possibility of including the examination of progress in the application of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030 as part of the integrated and coordinated monitoring processes in their countries of the United Nations conferences and summits, including the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the four-year review cycles when necessary, and taking into account the contributions from the Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean.

Adopted on the 22nd of June 2018 in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia.