



Fifth Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas

March 7 - 9, 2017 | Montreal, Canada | #SendaiAmericas



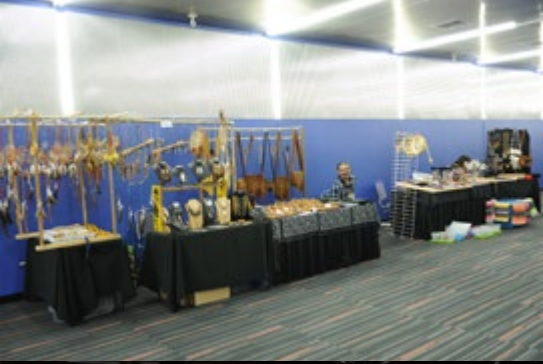
Towards Risk Informed Sustainable Development

Montreal 2017 – Proceedings

Canada 

 UNISDR
The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction







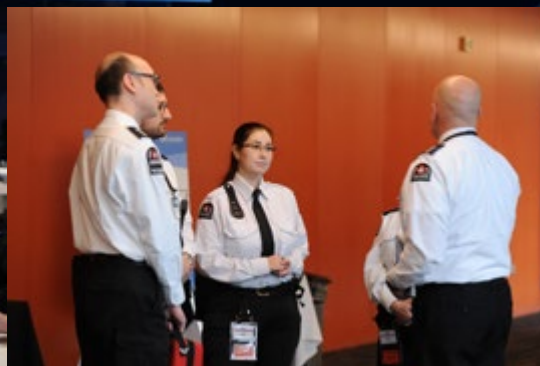


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Executive Summary

The Government of Canada hosted the United Nations (UN) Fifth Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas (RP17) that was held in Montreal, Canada, on March 7-9, 2017. The RP17 brought together some 900 participants from across the Americas, with representation from national and local governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, mayors and parliamentarians, local communities, Indigenous peoples, and leaders from business, academia and science.

The 3-day event under the theme “Towards Risk Informed Sustainable Development”, included four plenary sessions, nine parallel sessions, a “Marketplace”, multiple side-events, an Indigenous art exhibit as well as craft fair, and an Ignite Stage. The RP17 included two innovative initiatives: the launching of a Youth Video Challenge in the Americas; and the hosting of a Public Forum with discussion topics that aligned with the Platform’s agenda and priorities. Also, a new element of the RP17 was a High Level Dialogue Session that brought together Ministers and High Level Authorities to discuss implementation of the Sendai Framework 2015-2030 in the Americas.

Sessions

Across the theme of “Towards Risk Informed Sustainable Development”, the RP17 brought together 90 expert panelists from the public sector, non-governmental organizations, academia, volunteers and private sector, who presented the challenges and the best practices in disaster risk reduction (DRR) for the region. Four plenaries and nine parallel sessions were held, along with six side meetings. For more details regarding the program, visit the website for the agenda and the virtual brochure.

Second Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities

The second Ministers and High Level Authorities Meeting was held on the third day of the RP17. Participants from 32 countries in the Americas, UN agencies, inter-governmental organizations, Canadian federal and provincial Ministers, and Indigenous Leaders came together to:

- Discuss the Montreal Declaration and the Regional Action Plan (RAP), which were developed through consultation and negotiation in advance of and during the RP17;
- Discuss countries’ national priorities, challenges and gaps;
- Discuss regional activities that could support national priorities over the medium-term; and
- Assess progress towards Sendai Framework implementation; in particular attaining Target E (Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local DRR reduction strategies by 2020).

The key outcomes of this meeting were the approval of the Montreal Declaration and the first ever RAP for the Americas – see annex for copies of these documents.

Official Statements

During the Official Statements session, 16 countries and 19 organizations delivered their formal views on implementation of the Sendai Framework and progress towards building community resilience. For the detailed list of countries and organizations, visit the website.

Public Forum

To complement the Regional Platform, a unique side event called the Public Forum was held at eight sites across Canada and North, Central and South America and the Caribbean. The Public Forum provided a selection of targeted results oriented workshops, which aligned with the program of the Regional Platform, and were open to everyone, including the public. These sessions allowed individuals to participate in meaningful dialogue on DRR at the global and hemispheric level.

The themes for the Public Forum included: climate change impacts, health and DRR; Indigenous communities and DRR; gender equality; human rights and DRR; DRR and resilience; community based DRR; role of civil society; sustainable development; financial costs and DRR; private and public collaboration; and science and technology solutions.

Indigenous Presence

The United Nations defines “Indigenous communities, peoples and nations” as those which, having a historical continuity with pre-invasion and pre-colonial societies that developed on their territories, consider themselves distinct from other sectors of the societies now prevailing on those territories, or parts of them.

The Canadian Constitution recognizes three groups of Indigenous (or Aboriginal) peoples: First Nations, Inuit and Métis. They have unique and distinct histories, languages, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs.

Given the unique place of Indigenous peoples in Canada, and the strong presence of Indigenous communities across the Americas, there was a concerted effort to ensure Indigenous concerns and considerations were reflected as an integral part of the RP17.

The event was opened with a blessing and ended with a traditional closing by Indigenous Elders. There was a parallel session organized by the Governments of Canada and Mexico on “Indigenous Peoples and DRR”. A more detailed summary of that parallel session is contained in this report.

The Government of Canada also partnered with Ashukan Cultural space to present “A Walk through the Territories”, an art exhibit with a mix of traditional and contemporary art from all three Indigenous groups.

Art was available for purchase and artists were on-site along with story boards detailing the history and importance of Indigenous art. Drums and other cultural artifacts including a collection of Inuit games were also on display. Elders from the three Indigenous groups in Canada were present to talk with attendees about Canada’s Indigenous peoples, shared their teachings, and discussed issues related to DRR from their unique points of view. The foyer of the Regional Platform had an Indigenous Marketplace of craft vendors where jewelry, clothing and other arts and crafts were on sale.

March 8, 2017 was the International Women’s Day, a time to celebrate the talents and achievements of women around the world. In honour of this day, an event celebrating Indigenous women artists showcasing a variety of traditional dances and music occurred, and brought all of the cultures together.

Ignite Stage

The Ignite Stage was a space where RP17 delegates had up to 20 minutes to present projects and/or initiatives on DRR related subjects. The objective of the Ignite Stage was to complement and expand the range of topics discussed at the RP17 beyond those presented in the plenary and parallel sessions and side events. Seventy (70) presentations took place. Please visit the website for the detailed list of Ignite Stage presentations.

Exhibition/Marketplace

The RP17 had an exhibition space identified as the “Marketplace” which provided an opportunity for 22 organizations/stakeholders to showcase their work related to DRR. It showcased major projects, tools, services, networks and good practices that support the implementation of the Sendai Framework. For details, please refer to the annex.

Youth Video Challenge

Unique to this Regional Platform was the introduction of a Youth Video Challenge aimed at engaging young people in the Americas. Youth between the ages of 18-34 who live in the Americas were asked to participate in the Youth Video Challenge by submitting a 30-60 second video responding to the following question: “How would you improve DRR in your community?” Over 50 videos were received from young people who offered a fresh perspective as they understood and recognize that the actions of individuals and communities can help reduce the impact of disasters and improve resilience. The winner, Mr. José Emilio Páez Morales, from Chile, was invited to the RP17, and his video was presented during the opening ceremony.

UNISDR Photos Contest Exposition

A DRR photo contest was launched across the Americas. The selected photos were posted at the United Nations Office for DRR (UNISDR) and the Disaster Preparedness Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean websites, and shown in an exposition format during the Regional Platform.

The winner, Mr. Carlos Roberto Márquez Ramos from Salvador, was invited to the RP17 to present his photo and related story.

Conference Application

To enable the connection of delegates through technology, a conference application (APP) was created as a communication tool for the delegates. The APP provided information on the Regional Platform activities including, a virtual program of events with a schedule, speakers, maps, weather, links to restaurants, survey and chat capability. This tool helped enhance communication and information sharing while supporting a green environment.

Overview and Concept of the RP2017

Member States of UN have reaffirmed their continued commitment to reduce disaster risk and losses by adopting the “Sendai Framework for DRR 2015 - 2030 at the Third UN World Conference on DRR held in March 2015 in Sendai, Japan. The Sendai Framework is a 15-year non-binding agreement, which recognizes that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector and others. It aims for the following outcome:

“The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries”.

Public Safety Canada, on behalf of the Canadian Government, hosted the RP17 with the support of the UNISDR, through the Americas Regional Office. The RP17 brought together key stakeholders and actors involved in DRR from throughout North, South and Central America and the Caribbean. It was a multi-sector participatory forum, which reflected the commitments and views of governments (national, subnational and local), intergovernmental organizations, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, community organizations, scientific and academic institutions, the private sector, donors and the media.

The focus of RP17 was to identify how governments, ministers, civil society leaders, technical and scientific institutions, private sector, and the media could drive the implementation of activities and actions to meet the expected targets of the Sendai Framework in the Americas, while building capacity in the region.

The program for the Fifth Session encompassed a number of activities including plenaries and parallel sessions, multiple side events, the Ignite stage, the United Nations photographic exhibition, the Public Forum, the Marketplace, the Indigenous art exhibition, cultural performance and craft fair, and the Youth Video Challenge. Unique to this Regional Platform was a “Public Forum” that allowed broader public participation of subjects that align with the issues discussed at the RP17.

This Fifth Session was held in Montreal, Canada from March 7-9, 2017. Approximately 900 delegates attended, including ministers, policy makers, practitioners, experts and disaster risk managers. The RP17 and the Ministers and High-Level Authorities meeting marked the first opportunity for governments and stakeholders in the Americas to discuss and agree on a RAP to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the Americas. The RAP identifies the priorities of the DRR agenda for the next two years for the Americas region.

Key outcomes of the RP17 are:

1. Montreal Declaration;
2. RAP to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the Americas;
3. Chair Summary;
4. Proceedings of the RP17 for DRR in the Americas; and
5. Recommendations of the Americas Region for the 2017 Global Platform.

Objectives of the RP17

1. Identifying approaches and viable mechanisms for the implementation of the RAP;
2. Further integrating DRR and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) in the context of development planning aiming towards “a risk informed sustainable development”;
3. Strengthening the role and capacity of the various members of stakeholders, including the private sector in the implementation of the Sendai Framework;
4. Actively integrating civil society and community networks;
5. Taking stock of the progress made in the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the Americas Region, including stakeholders’ commitments;
6. Sharing knowledge and new tools to strengthen national and local resilience to disasters, including lessons learned in resilience building from the recovery phase;
7. Reviewing the proposed monitoring system for the Sendai Framework, specifically regarding the seven targets to be reached by all Member States;
8. Aligning linkages with other UN bodies and World organizations to ensure coherence with other global processes (Sustainable Development Goals {SDGs} and CCA) and identifying specific areas for follow-up action to be reflected as contributions to the Global Platform and the SDG’s process at the national level;
9. Recognizing and strengthening gender specific leadership in DRR throughout the Americas; and
10. Recognizing and strengthening the role of Indigenous knowledge and practice in DRR throughout the Americas.

The RP17 in Numbers

- 4 Plenaries
- 9 Parallel Sessions
- 90 speakers
- 6 Side events
- Approximately 900 delegates
- Origin of the delegates:
 - Local (Greater Montreal Area): 9%
 - Province of Quebec (outside Montreal): 5%
 - Canada (Outside the Province of Quebec): 37%
 - International : 49%
- 32 out of 35 Countries in the Americas were represented in addition to representation from numerous territories
- Over 40 Ministers and Vice-Ministers attended the Ministerial meeting
- 70 Ignite presentations
- 20 Exhibiting organizations
- Over 50 submissions for the Youth Video Challenge
- Public Forum in 8 locations in Canada and Colombia



Detailed Session Summaries

Opening Ceremony

Opening remarks¹ by the Honourable Ralph Goodale Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada

Good morning everyone. My name is Ralph Goodale, the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness for Canada, and I welcome everyone to Canada, especially all of our guests from around the American hemisphere.

Bienvenidos, bienvenue, and welcome to the Fifth Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas. I am very pleased, over these next three days, to join more than 1,000 delegates from over 50 countries and territories within North, South and Central America and the Caribbean. Canada believes very much in multiculturalism and in the work of the vital organizations like the United Nations.

On behalf of all of us, let me begin this Regional Platform by thanking our partners at the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, for helping us put together what I believe is a comprehensive, exciting and inspiring program over the next three days. And I'm honoured to note that we are gathered today at the meeting point of

¹ Please note that all opening and closing remarks have been checked against delivery

various Indigenous peoples and First Nations, including the Algonquins and the Mohawks; the Inuit and the Métis people are also with us here today. And I want to thank them for making us feel so welcome.

2017 marks the 150th anniversary of the confederation of four provinces that began the formation of Canada in 1867. And our 150 years as a country has shown that Canada is no stranger to issues like disaster response and preparedness, which is the subject of this meeting. That is due, in large part perhaps, because we are the world's second largest country geographically, spanning six time zones from east to west.

We also enjoy the world's longest coastline. We have 15 distinct and separate eco zones in Canada with a climate that ranges from the High Arctic down to the same latitude as the state of California. And like many of our hemispheric partners here today, we experience a full range of natural and man-made hazards. Most recently, that was evident in the ice storm that hit our Atlantic provinces a few weeks ago.

Evident as well last year in the beast of a wildfire that swept through Fort McMurray in Northern Alberta, and obvious as well in the rail disaster in 2013 that devastated the community of Lac Mégantic in Quebec.

In our relatively brief existence as a country, Canada has built substantial resilience to all of the threats that come our way, from great fires and floods to tornadoes and droughts, hurricanes and earthquakes, to pandemics of influenza. But beyond the capacity of any one country, we in the Americas are all part of the modern collective commitments of 187 countries under the United Nations' Sendai Framework for DRR.

Those commitments are to substantially reduce the loss of life and the damage to health and livelihoods from disasters, commitments that help us make sure that we all understand accurately the risks and the vulnerabilities and our capacity to cope with them, and commitments that help ensure that we're all on the same page learning from each other and collaborating whenever and wherever we can.

That same commitment to multi-partner collaboration has recently helped us here in Canada to develop the first iteration of our federal floodplain mapping guidelines. These evergreen documents will help us better address overland flooding, which is Canada's costliest hazard, will strengthen our floodplain mapping right across the country; and more details on these Canadian guidelines will be forthcoming during this Regional Platform.

We're also at work in Canada on an inclusive set of federal-provincial-territorial consultations toward a modern, comprehensive, all hazard, and pan-Canadian emergency management (EM) strategy. But let me put aside our specific Canadian activities for a moment because our gathering today comes at a point when some countries are just recovering from some of the very adversities that we are here in Montreal to discuss.

Our friends in Chile, for example, have very recently experienced heavy rains and landslides in the Andes Mountains, only a short while after seeing a chain of wildfires that unleashed devastation on a scale never seen before. California too had a brutal summer of wildfires in 2016 that left hundreds of homes and many thousands of acres destroyed, and then through this winter, reports of heavy rain and flooding in California. And we all remember last year's Hurricane Matthew that brought destruction to both the Caribbean and the Southeast United States.

Our thoughts are, of course, with the families and the loved ones of all those who've lost their lives in these disasters. And of course, our deepest appreciation and admiration goes to the first responders of all kinds who came to the rescue.

It is remarkable and highly valuable that all countries have this regular venue, the Sendai Framework and the Regional Platforms to discuss the opportunities that we share and much of the content here is broadcast worldwide simultaneously and online. We need to make very good use of our time together to move forward on a robust Regional Action Plan, a plan that could increase the open exchange of data, science, research and technology among us all that can save lives worldwide, a plan that is grounded in the Sendai framework's guiding principles, that can help us strengthen how we organize, prepare, budget and govern, and how we engage critical partners like those invaluable volunteers. And a plan that can help us use our collective influence to increase the numbers of countries and territories and organizations that do have strategies in place to reduce the risk of disasters.

Over the course of this Platform through the next three days, announcements will be made about indicators responding to the priorities that we have set out in our RAP, and together, I am absolutely confident the work of these three days will arrive at our goal for a collective outcome enshrined in what we will call the Montreal Declaration to be presented to the global platform in Cancun later on this spring.

I want to wish you all a very successful meeting. I want to thank Minister Coiteux from the Government of Quebec, and Ms. Samson from the City of Montreal for being with us here this morning. Their participation in and support for this platform is deeply appreciated.

And now, to move us forward in a good way, to get this platform started properly and appropriately, I want to call on four indigenous representatives of Canada to offer a prayer and to launch our discussion.

And may I call forward Mrs. Rose Wawatie, from the Algonquin Nation, Mr. Kevin Deer of the Mohawk Nation, Mr. Jim Desrochers of the Métis Nation, and Mr. David Segolak of the Inuit peoples to launch our platform with a prayer. And may I say to the Elders thank you for being here.



Traditional welcome by Mrs. Rose Wawatie Representative of the Algonquin Nation

Welcome everybody. My name is Rose Wawatie Bodwe, I am a proud Algonquin Anishinabek. Born and raised in Rapid Lake and I am a member of Kitigan-Zibi First Nation. First of all, it is an honour for me to be here today to welcome the world to our home and native land, to our beautiful country called Canada, which in my Algonquin language, means a safe haven.

This area called Montreal was shared territory by Mohawks and Algonquin nations and it is my understanding that we still shared this territory today. As I look around me, I see beautiful faces. I sense warm and I know this room is filled with brilliant minds. We are all here to fulfil our roles, big or small, to work together in unity. As the keepers of this land we call Mother Earth, we are all responsible for ensure a healthy and safe planet for future generations.

In carrying out this responsibility in my culture, we first give thanks to the Creator for the abundance of natural gifts placed on Earth for our survival and our lives. I will now go to give thanks to the Creator in my language.

I will translate a little bit of my prayers. Giving thanks to the Creator on Mother Earth for the animals, the trees, the water, the four directions, four colours. Praying for the sun, the moon, the stars and the fire. Help to live a good and healthy life. Work together in unity. Be kind and love one another. Grant everybody a safe journey at the end of this gathering.

I wish you all enjoyable and safe stay in our beautiful country called Canada.

Miigwetch.



Opening remarks by Regional Chief Craig Mackinaw Assembly of First Nations

Tawaw kahkiyaw, okimâwak, nâpewak, iskwewak, kêhtêak, oskâyak. Okimaw piyisiw awasis nitishkason. Miyo kisikaw anoch.

Ministers, Dignitaries, Many thanks to the Mohawks of Kahanawake, on whose territory we are meeting today.

Indigenous peoples are among the most marginalized peoples, and the most likely to suffer serious and extreme impacts of natural disasters. Hundreds of First Nations households are forcibly evacuated every year due to flooding, wildfires or other extreme events. The effects of dislocation are far-reaching: on mental and physical health, on harvesting rights, on food security, on education and are particularly devastating for young people, Elders and women. To understand the severity of this, consider that several First Nations in Manitoba, including Lake St. Martin First Nation, remain displaced from floods which occurred in 2011. In fact in 2015, more than 4,500 First Nations citizens in Canada remained displaced from their homes due to flooding.

Article 5 of the International Law Commission's draft Articles of State Responsibility in emergency situations, states that human rights must be respected in emergency situations. The Commission specifically calls for states to protect and promote the inherent dignity of the human person and states that countries are obligated to ensure disaster responses occur in a non-discriminatory fashion.

"The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the Declaration) is the most comprehensive instrument elaborating the rights of Indigenous peoples, and should be the key starting point for any consideration of both individual and collective rights. Although the Declaration does not explicitly address DRR, several of its provisions have implications for the promotion and protection of Indigenous peoples' rights in this area, and can provide guidance for the design and implementation of sound DRR strategies and interventions.

The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which Canada has pledged to adopt and implement, also addresses the right of Indigenous peoples to participate in DRR processes. Articles 19 and 32, which address free, prior and informed consent, can also provide guidance in the context of DRR. In applying these articles, it becomes clear that States have the obligation to consult with Indigenous peoples and to seek to obtain their free, prior and informed consent concerning risk reduction measures that may affect them. Risk reduction is more likely to be successful if indigenous decision-making processes and traditional knowledge are respected.

In the regional context, this is one of the reasons the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is so critical. The Declaration provides an articulation of the minimum standards of treatment for Indigenous peoples – a floor, not a ceiling. The obligations of the American Declaration, regarding education, health, culture and language are more important in emergency situations because these are the periods when Indigenous peoples are most vulnerable.

How do we best promote meaningful disaster and risk reduction? First, by closing the gap between Indigenous peoples and other peoples in society. One of the greatest forms of risk posed to First Nations is the existence of inadequate infrastructure, which is more vulnerable to any form of extreme weather event. Imagine a First Nation that is flooded. The majority of already deteriorated houses become further infested by mold. This, in turn, leads to chronic illnesses such as COPD and other respiratory illnesses caused by inhaling mold. Young people become displaced from their homes, often relocated to hotels and motels outside of their home communities and away from their schools for indefinite periods. Often moving from one overcrowded situation to another, they encounter significant obstacles to re-enroll into, settle into and experience success in new schools. All in all, the impacts of natural disasters exacerbate Indigenous peoples' daily lived experiences.

All countries must focus on assessing and addressing the infrastructure deficit in Indigenous communities. However, addressing the infrastructure deficit is not enough. Many, and indeed most, Indigenous peoples used traditional knowledge and traditional technologies to ensure resilience to extreme weather events. Countries and Indigenous peoples must work together to implement solutions based on traditional technologies and traditional knowledge. Our cultures are not artifacts of a long-forgotten past. No. Indeed they are the key to a resilient and sustainable future for us all.

If we work together to promote, advance and implement Indigenous cultures, technologies and knowledge, while developing more sustainable and resilient infrastructure for Indigenous peoples, we can achieve a just and lasting reconciliation between Indigenous peoples and states. A future founded on fulfilment of fundamental human rights, resiliency and sustainability.

Thank you



Opening remarks by Robert Glasser United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction

Minister Goodale I know has left, but will be back later, Public Safety Canada, Mr. Martin Coiteux, Minister of Public Safety Quebec, Ms. Anie Samson, Vice-President of the Executive Committee, City of Montreal, distinguished Indigenous elders, distinguished Ministers and Vice Ministers, distinguished delegates of UN member states of the Americas and national Sendai focal points, representatives of intergovernmental and international organizations – you can see I'm from the United Nations with the introductions – colleagues from the United Nations, representatives of stakeholder groups, civil society, Mayors, the private sector, academia, women's groups, parliamentarians, media representatives, ladies and gentlemen. That was the hardest part of my job.

It is a really great honour for me to be here today to address you at this opening ceremony of the Fifth Regional Platform for DRR in the Americas. I'd like to start by expressing my sincere thanks to the Government of Canada for hosting this important gathering and also for their many enlightened initiatives in the area of disaster risk more generally.

This is the first Regional Platform in the Americas since the UN World Conference on DRR hosted by Japan in March two years ago, at which this really remarkable agreement, the Sendai Framework for DRR was adopted. The framework emphasizes the importance of moving from managing disasters to managing disaster risk, from essentially just waiting and responding to humanitarian disasters – and we've clearly seen there's inadequate resources to meet the growing need to try to get out in front to focus on prevention.

And that is the only way we're going to achieve the targets set in the Sendai framework of reducing disaster mortality, the number of people affected, the economic losses and damage to critical infrastructure by the deadline set in that agreement, 2030.

Disaster events, as the Minister pointed out in his presentation, over the last 12 months here in the Americas have highlighted how challenging it's going to be to achieve those targets. Hurricane Matthew last October was the first category 5 Atlantic hurricane in almost 10 years, and was a stern test of the region's preparedness for an event, actually an event we're likely to see much more of, or similar events in the future as a result of climate change.

In Haiti alone, there were 546 officially confirmed deaths and 128 people missing, which is truly disturbing when you consider the enormous aid effort in the country following the mega disaster after the 2010 earthquake. It also underscores how important it is for governments and aid donors to accelerate efforts to improve multi-hazard early warning systems, a topic that I know it will be discussed at this meeting and also the focus of a two-day conference at the Global Conference on DRR in Cancun in May.

Hurricane Matthew also caused damage estimated to be in excess of \$15, US \$15 billion as it cut a swath across Haiti, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, the Bahaman Archipelago, the Southeastern United States and the Canadian Maritimes. It's a further reminder of the toll which disasters take on scarce resources, which should be better invested in productive areas such as health and education, particularly in low and middle income countries which can least afford these losses. Our Indigenous elders, in the meeting before coming here, commented that it is very important go be humble in the face of nature in planet Earth, and there's nothing that enables us to appreciate that more than when we face the power of an earthquake or a tsunami or enormously powerful natural and other disasters that should remind us of that.

In Haiti, economic losses were estimated at US \$2.78 billion or 32% of GDP, and this is a country where over 55% of the population lives below the poverty line. In terms of the region's effort to build resilience to disasters, it was really heartening to note the concerted effort made in many countries in Latin America to reduce the impact of the 2014 to 2016 El Niño and subsequent relatively mild La Niña.

This was a major slow onset disaster event which intensified an ongoing drought in Central America affecting over three and a half million people. There were also floods such as those experienced in Asuncion, Paraguay and affecting 15,000 families. However, the event was not as severe as previous episodes in the 80s and 90s and several countries had preparedness plans in place. Just to mention a few that I'm aware of in Costa Rica, in El Salvador, in Guatemala, Honduras, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru as well in Central America allocated significant budgetary support to preparing for El Niño.

It's efforts such as these that we must now build on as we prepare to meet the first deadline of the Sendai framework, the substantial increase in national and local DRR strategies by 2020, that, these strategies will lay the foundation for a decade of concerted action on reducing disaster losses.

I'm sure the outcome of this Regional Platform will give added impetus to these efforts which were already signaled in the outcome document from the first meeting of Ministers and high level authorities on the implementation of the Sendai framework which I attended last June in Paraguay.

I want to recall in particular the guidance document, outcome document from Asuncion. Among other things, the guidelines called for the adoption of a set of progress indicators in accordance with the indicators recommended by the open-ended intergovernmental working group, which was this intergovernmental group that developed the indicators for each of the targets set in the Sendai framework, and those indicators were adopted, by the way, last month by the general assembly.

My own view is that adoption of these indicators to track progress on achieving the seven targets of the Sendai Framework is a tremendous achievement and a vote in favour of global accountability to achieve the reduction in disaster risk.

As we look toward the 2020 deadline, we must ensure close coordination and coherence with other international agreements and processes, including the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, and of course, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change because climate risk, and there's a very close connection much overlap between climate risk and disaster risk more broadly.

There's a clear opportunity to avoid duplication of effort by ensuring that the plans for climate change adaptation and DRR complement each other and make the best use of available resources, as well as reducing the burden on member states to report against these international frameworks that have been set up.

We also recognize that reducing greenhouse gas emissions is arguably the single most urgent global disaster risk treatment because without those efforts, our other efforts to reduce many hazards and risks those propose for, to communities, oppose to communities will be overwhelmed over the longer term. The government of our host country, Canada, is leading the world in this endeavour, following its pledge to cut greenhouse gas emissions 30% from 2005 levels by 2030 and a plan introduced last October to put a price on carbon.

The pledges made at the Paris Climate Conference, COP21, will only get the world halfway to where we need to be in order to keep global warming at less than two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Of course, you don't have to accept the very convincing science of climate change to realize and appreciate and support the need to reduce disaster risk more broadly. Otherwise, we're going to see a further escalation if these greenhouse gases aren't reduced in weather and climate related disaster events, severe storms, droughts and floods fueled by rising temperatures and rising sea level with cascading impacts on the risk of fires, food security, and as we've seen in Syria and in Darfur and in many places around the world, even conflict.

Already, we know that these hydro meteorological events have doubled over the last few decades and now account for 90% of all disasters caused by natural hazards. Climate change adaptation and mitigation are inextricably linked to DRR and we should not lose sight of that as action plans are developed to achieve the Sendai framework targets.

The Regional Plan of Action you will adopt this week will help and guide national and local governments in their efforts to strengthen the links between the 2030 agenda, climate change adaptation and DRR as national and local DRR strategies are developed or further refined in line with the Sendai framework priorities over the next four years.

This work is important for the rapid urbanization taking place across the region, which brings with it new challenges for risk governance and disaster risk management. As I'm sure everyone in this room appreciates, Latin America and the Caribbean is the most urbanized region in the world; some 80% of the population lives in its 16,000 cities and towns. And this figure will grow to 90% in just a few decades.

An urban environment built with due consideration for appropriate land use and planning means a city or town that is more resilient to hazards and they're less likely to experience disaster. All too often, rural-urban migration results in marginalized settlements where poor people are forced to live in precarious conditions below unstable hillsides or on the banks of rivers prone to flooding. This is the case in less developed countries. It is also the case in developed countries where people are also living in marginal communities and with particular hazards and prone to flooding.

The new urban agenda, this is the result of this major international meeting organized by UN Habitat, was adopted at this meeting highlights and recognizes the importance of disaster risk and the Sendai framework and commits to strengthening the resilience of cities and human settlements, development of quality infrastructure, spatial planning and implementing integrated age and gender responsive policies and plans, and eco based, ecosystem based approaches.

The strengthening of the Making Cities Resilient Campaign in the Americas will ensure that both the Sendai framework and this new urban agenda are reflected in local efforts to reduce disaster risk, leveraging the fact that something like 50%, actually over 50% of the 3,500 cities that have committed to this campaign are located here in the Americas. Well managed, hazard resistant cities offer great opportunities and access to basic services, including health and education.

I just want to say a couple of other comments, make a couple of other points before concluding. The first is about young people. Young people are the lifeblood of any urban community and the Sendai framework recognizes the need to include them fully in the work of disaster risk management.

And I'm really glad that the organizers of this meeting have chosen to recognize the importance of young people through both the video youth challenge and the resilient youth blog. And they will be also recognized quite fundamentally at the Global Platform in Cancun.

On behalf of the UN Secretary General, and the UNISDR, I'd like to close by once again expressing my deep appreciation to the Government of Canada for hosting this important event and to our supporters, Global Affairs Canada, United States Agency for International Development, Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, and the Food and Agriculture Organization. The last Regional Platform played a really pivotal role in shaping this global Sendai framework and I'm sure that the key substantive outcomes of this Regional Platform, including the regional plan of action that will be agreed will help bring us closer to a disaster resilient future where the focus is on existing the levels of risk and avoiding the creation of new risk.

And those outcomes will reaffirm the region's leadership, this region's leadership on disaster risk management and be an important, really, actually a fundamental contribution to the Global Platform for DRR which will be hosted by the Government of Mexico in May of, May of this year.

So thank you very much. I'll look forward to participating in as many of the conversations as possible. I appreciate the fact that you've travelled more or less great distances and that your time is busy and that you have highlighted disaster risk as a priority in your work. I think that's a good investment.

Thank you very much.



Opening remarks by Mr. Martin Coiteux Minister Public Safety Quebec and Responsible for Montreal Area

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the Honourable Ralph Goodale, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada; Mr. Robert Glasser, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for DRR; Ms. Anie Samson, Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee of the City of Montreal and Chair of the Commission de la sécurité publique (Public Safety Board); Craig Mackinaw, Regional Chief of the Assembly of First Nations; the ministers and representatives of the various American States; and all of our distinguished guests.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all on Quebec soil, right here in our beautiful city of Montreal, which this year celebrates its 375th anniversary. Quebec is proud to welcome the representatives of more than 50 nations to the Fifth Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas. In fact, our host city, Montreal, is the first Canadian city to be selected to join the Rockefeller Foundation's network of 100 Resilient Cities. Its membership in this group is without a doubt a fitting recognition for the efforts it has made to reduce disaster-related risks.

The Platform, which starts today, will enable us to discuss and share ideas and information on how to better prevent disasters and reduce their related risks. Building on our experience and our various national realities, we will initiate a dialogue here in Montreal on all sorts of issues. From our practices, we will learn to more effectively prevent disasters and their impacts.

In fact, Quebec has often had to deal with major disasters. Three in particular come to mind, which caused significant damage and, unfortunately, loss of life. There is the Saguenay Flood, which resulted in 10 deaths and hundreds of millions of dollars in damages. Then, there is the 1998 Ice Storm, which left a large number of Quebec residents without power and, as a result, without a source of heat during the long winter months.

And then, there is the Lac-Mégantic rail disaster, in which 47 people lost their lives, plunging the entire nation into mourning. As with many other parts of the Americas and the world, Quebec has had its share of disasters, particularly those that are climate-related.

When a disaster occurs, whether it be related to climate change or not, municipalities are the first respondents to be called upon to act. This is why we believe that all municipalities must be properly prepared to deal with disasters. The Government of Quebec is thus working closely with all Quebec municipalities to help them apprehend the risk of disasters and further their resilience to climate change.

For example, a few weeks ago, the Government of Quebec announced that it will contribute more than \$127 million in financial aid to the Ouranos Research Consortium.

Increased knowledge of climate risks will help governments and municipalities to better prepare for, and prevent, the risks of tomorrow. The Government of Quebec places considerable importance on disaster risk prevention and reduction. To that end, we have already taken action associated with the international vision of DRR.

This vision is reflected in Quebec's 2014–2024 Emergency Management (EM) Policy. This policy is directly based on the priorities and guidelines established by the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015. It also perfectly reflects the objectives, principles and priorities for action defined by the Sendai Framework 2015–2030.

In short, Quebec's 2014–2024 EM Policy is based upon two founding principles, namely that civil protection constitutes a shared responsibility between the citizens, the municipalities and the government and that it needs to be addressed in a global and integrated approach. Furthermore, one of the five guidelines of Quebec's policy is precisely to enhance our knowledge of risks.

As I pointed out earlier, it is a key element on which most civil protection actions need to be based upon. It is by improving our knowledge of these risks that we will better prevent, reduce and ensure an adequate response to disasters.

Quebec also actively contributes to achieving the objectives of the Sendai Framework, and I can assure you that we will continue to take part in this collective effort to reduce the risks of disasters. I hope that our dialogue on the different ways of achieving these objectives is both productive and rewarding.

I wish you all a great event and a pleasant stay in Montreal.



Opening remarks by Ms. Anie Samson Vice-chair of the Executive Committee of the City of Montreal and responsible for public safety and citizen services.

Ladies and gentlemen, good morning everyone.

Welcome to the Fifth Regional Platform for DRR in the Americas. The City of Montréal is honoured to receive experts from across the continent and to see so many with us here today. We hope that this meeting will allow us to make great strides in understanding the major risks that our cities, countries and planet are facing.

If I may, I'd like to say a few words about Montréal. This is an international city, a city of the United Nations and a leader in urban resilience. It was here that the United Nations chose to establish the headquarters of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the International Civil Aviation Organization. Montréal actively participated in the 2015 Paris Climate Conference, as well as in the United Nations Summit on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development in Quito last year.

Since 2014, Montreal has become the first Canadian city to be part of the network of 100 Resilient Cities, an initiative of the Rockefeller Foundation. The fact that our city was chosen by such an elite group is a testament to the concrete commitment of the municipal government. Indeed, the network's 100 member cities have embarked on a process to better understand disaster risks and to better protect their populations. And since we joined, we have continued to reflect on the challenges that lie ahead. We want to serve our citizens as best we can, without ever forgetting the most vulnerable among them.

To do so, we share our best practices with other cities around the world and we learn from theirs—in the same way that you will share your experiences while working together to develop a RAP for the Sendai Framework. All of you here today know the crucial nature of this framework better than anyone else. The strategies you will define will mitigate the impact of natural disasters in the future. They will no doubt prevent significant economic losses and, above all, save lives. This is all the more important in the current context, because we know that disasters

are likely to be more frequent and more severe over the next few decades.

Their effects will also become more complex, for several reasons: one reason is our dependence on information and communication technologies in all aspects of our lives and organizations. Various socio-economic factors must also be considered, such as population aging, poverty, racial tensions and unemployment among immigrants. Climate change, which increases the recurrence and severity of natural disasters, is still a major concern.

For example, Montréal experienced a major meteorological event in January 1998 – one the greatest natural disasters in Canadian history. When the ice storm bore down on Eastern Canada and New England for five consecutive days, it left a thick layer of ice on roads, houses, trees and power lines. It was after that incident that the City of Montréal founded its Civil Security Centre and it has since continued to invest in upgrading its infrastructures. The Centre's actions are guided by Specific Response Plans that respond to the main risks in our city, be it pandemic influenza, extreme heat, flooding, major water shortages or severe storms.

When a major winter storm affects the mobility and safety of Montrealers, for example, we proceed in a systematic way. The City of Montréal has set up a snow removal coordination unit, a Specific Response Plan for severe storms, and technological tools to inform citizens of snow removal activities. We have also developed All-Hazard Plans to respond to unpredictable events. As we increase our knowledge of risk reduction, we are aware that individuals need to be informed of the dangers and what to do when they are faced with them. The Montréal Civil Security Centre ensures that we now integrate those notions into various city projects. This cross-cutting approach breaks down barriers and allows us to go beyond the emergency response. We are planning ahead for disasters in order to minimize their impact and reduce vulnerabilities.

Last year, in order to implement even more effective risk prevention and mitigation measures, Montréal created a Resilience Office. This new entity seeks to anticipate disruptions and mitigate their effects, as well as help better recover afterward. To this end, the Office is currently working on an Urban Resilience Strategy that will strengthen the ability of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses, and systems in Montreal to withstand all kinds of disasters. This strategy, which will be tabled in 2017, will increase collaboration among our stakeholders. By working together, they will be better able to anticipate problems and improve our ability to learn from disasters and innovate accordingly. Thanks to this synergy between its various services, the City of Montréal will find sustainable solutions for its territory.

Of course, it is by sharing your experiences and best practices that you will find solutions for the Americas during this and future platforms.

I wish you a very pleasant and productive stay in Montréal. Thank you.



Opening Remarks Video by the Honourable Justin Trudeau Prime Minister of Canada

Hello and welcome to Canada. We're delighted to host the Fifth Regional Platform for DRR on behalf of the United Nations and to welcome you from across the Americas.

Réduire les risques de catastrophes est crucial pour nous tous. Nous nous rassemblons pour partager nos meilleures pratiques et nos solutions les plus innovatrices pour informer les politiques et les programmes que nous développons.

I wish you all a productive three days and hope you enjoy the festivities going on to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary and the 375th anniversary of the City of Montreal.

Merci

Thank you all



Que fait votre secteur envers la compréhension de la réduction des risques de catastrophes. Défis. Solutions. Exemples.

Rôle	Conférencier	Organisation
Moderateur	Dr. Fernando Muñoz Carmona	
Secteur gouvernemental	Dr. Daniel Lebel	Natural Resources Canada
Secteur ONG	Dr. Lauren Augustine	Academies nationales des Sciences
Secteur universitaire	Mr. Luis Carlos Martínez Medina	REDULAC
Secteur municipal	Maireesse Graciela Ortuzar Novoa	Municipalidad de Lampa, Chile
Secteur privé	Dr. Gary Nestler	IBM

How is your sector addressing the understanding of disaster risk reduction? Challenges. Solutions. Examples.

Role	Speaker	Organization
Moderator	Dr. Fernando Muñoz Carmona	
Government Sector	Dr. Daniel Lebel	Natural Resources Canada
NGO Sector	Dr. Lauren Augustine	National Academies of Science
Academic Sector	Mr. Luis Carlos Martínez Medina	REDULAC
Community Sector	Mayor Graciela Ortuzar Novoa	Municipality of Lampa, Chile
Business Sector	Dr. Gary Nestler	IBM

Cómo está su sector abordando la comprensión de la reducción de riesgos de desastres? Desafíos. Soluciones. Ejemplos.

Papel	Participante	Organización
Moderador	Dr. Fernando Muñoz Carmona	
Sector gubernamental	Dr. Daniel Lebel	Natural Resources Canada
Sector ONG	Dr. Lauren Augustine	Academies Nacionales
Sector académico	Mr. Luis Carlos Martínez Medina	REDULAC
Sector municipal	Alcaldesa Graciela Ortuzar Novoa	Municipalidad de Lampa, Chile
Sector privado	Dr. Gary Nestler	IBM

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Plenary 1

Understanding the Risks in the Americas

Panel

Moderator: Mr. Fernando Muñoz Carmona, Colombia

Speakers:

Ms. Lauren Alexander Augustine, National Academies of Science

Dr. Gary Nestler, IBM

Ms. Graciela Ortuzar Novoa, Mayor, Lampa, Chile

Mr. Daniel Lebel, Natural Resources Canada

Mr. Luis Carlos Martínez Medina, University Network for Latin America and the Caribbean for Reducing Disaster Risk

Objective

Discuss the respective and shared roles of government, academia and private sector in understanding risks in the Americas and disseminating associated knowledge and expertise into communities. This involves disseminating associated knowledge and expertise into communities to advance regional collaboration and integration to share risk assessment methods including access to open data and risk assessment tools.

Measurable Outcome

1. Using the Regional Platform APP prior to the meeting to compile a list of existing best practices, methods and tools to better understand, evaluate and estimate exposure, vulnerability and hazards in the Americas.
2. By March 2018, build on this list to include information gathered during the session and future identification of open data sources.

Session Summary

The Understanding the Risk in the Americas session was moderated by Fernando Munoz Carmona, a seismologist and risk communicator from Colombia. An audience of approximately one thousand delegates proved enthusiastically receptive to the key messages delivered by the session panelists on their respective and collaborative roles on understanding and disseminating knowledge and expertise on risks. Below is a brief description of the key points from the talk show discussion. From the outcome of the panel discussion, it became evident that the DRR perspective is changing in a positive way.

Daniel Lebel, Director General of the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) at Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) discussed how a traditional, geo-science knowledge-generation institution, like the GSC, has evolved from description; knowledge representation; applied knowledge (hazards); knowledge of communication/exchange (risks) to knowledge dissemination. Traditionally, geological surveys generated geoscience knowledge independent from other perspectives of knowledge (e.g., social, human). Historically, delivery of scientific products to the users was done without much of a follow up with these stakeholders. The accepted idea was (and still is in many places) that others are responsible for the implementation of DRR knowledge. This is changing.

Without forgetting their main role as generators of rigorous, pertinent scientific knowledge, the GSC and NRCan, is now engaging in articulation; setting up partnerships with different sectors of society and different levels of government in order to generate, communicate and implement geoscience knowledge. Knowledge developed in such a fashion is now available for earthquakes, landslides, volcanoes, etc.

The second speaker, Lauren Alexander Augustine, Executive Director of the US National Academies of Science, challenged participants with a meta-analysis of what the Understanding of DRR is about. She talked about the different “scales” of this understanding and the need for “aligning” those scales for effective DRR actions. She informed us about the dissonances and implications of direct interpretation and application, for example; of international and federal mandates, guidelines, protocols, among them, and at the local scale. Ms. Alexander mentioned how her agency is addressing this situation by focusing at the community scale on four tenets: 1) understanding and communicating risks; 2) measuring resilience, obtaining data, indicators; 3) building diverse

stakeholder coalitions and; 4) sharing information. Ms. Augustine also highlighted the important role of NGOs, and how their heterogeneity and capability of accessing different audiences and resources could play in convoking and articulating different perspectives. Finally, Ms. Augustine said that actions needed for effective DRR will require “setting priorities, identifying key decision makers, and building the efforts out to have short-term and long-term elements for community resilience and DRR.”

As Executive Director of University Network for Latin America and the Caribbean for Reducing Disaster Risk (REDULAC), Luis Carlos Martinez Medina, leads a group that represents the Institutions of Higher Education networks, international cooperation agencies and members of the academic community for Latin Americas and the Caribbean. He discussed some of the greatest challenges the academic sector faces when working on DRR. One of them is to generate and sustain internal and external demand for the involvement of the academic sector in the field of DRR. On many occasions, involvement of the academic sector highly depends on the political commitment of individual entities such as a university president or an academic council. Mr. Martinez Medina noted that it is important to create the conditions for internal and external demand in order to facilitate the generation, communication and implementation of DRR knowledge by academic institutions. He informed the audience about initiatives that REDULAC is carrying out, such as the awarding of research grants for academic institutions in Latin-America and their active political participation in different scenarios to comply with the Sendai platform for DRR.

The comments delivered by Mayor Ortuzar from Lampa Chile grounded many observations. Many of her comments sharply resonated with what all of the panelists had presented. She emphatically indicated how well-intentioned measures, directives, mandates proposed at the international and national level were but very seldom expressed in a manner to accommodate political and administrative context at the community scale. She agreed with the issues of scale and alignment as mentioned earlier by Ms. Alexander. She insisted on the need for academic and government institutions to reach out and make a profound presence and impact with local levels of government. Mayor Ortuzar also emphasized the need that any articulation, such as collaboration, co-creation and coordination take place in a clear regulatory and political/policy context, thus reinforcing aspects of legitimacy for such articulation. For Mayor Ortuzar, all who are involved with DRR must understand and exercise their rights and duties.

Finally, Gary Nestler, Senior Executive Manager, IBM, highlighted some of the most important challenges associated with the understanding of DRR. His focus was particularly on the alignment to implement programs help to understand DRR with the use of high technology, including technologies that help understand the enormous amount of structured and unstructured data to inform DRR. These challenges include: 1) Speed: the

need for time expedience; 2) Situational Awareness: the need for a “complete picture” for critical decision-making, facilitating in the process, articulation and sharing; 3) Consequence Management, the obligation of making well informed decisions and managing the consequences of an incident and or reduce risks and; 4) Decision Making: how stakeholders are being held to a different level of accountability when making final decisions. Mr. Nestler noted that “Collaboration, Co-Creation and Coordination” are all critical components to make the right decision at the right time with the right resources.

During informal conversations prior to the panel, the moderator encouraged panelists to share ideas, and to ensure a talk show discussion that reflected the interdependent roles they effectively managed in DRR as a group. In today’s world of DRR, there are intrinsic characteristics of hazards and contextual factors that constitute risk that need to be understood, communicated and exercised with rigor and responsibility in a participative and transparent environment. In addition to the fruitful exchange of perspectives during the panel, the discussion created the conditions for possible future collaboration amongst the panelists and the audience.

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en las Américas



Réduction des risques de catastrophes, changement
climatique et développement durable

M. David Grimes
M. Rodney Martínez
M. Roy Barboza Sequeira
M. Ronald Jackson
Mme Matilde Mordt

#ResilienceForAll #SendaiAmériques

Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change and
Sustainable Development

Mr. David Grimes
Mr. Rodney Martínez
Mr. Roy Barboza Sequeira
Mr. Ronald Jackson
Ms. Matilde Mordt

#ResilienceForAll #SendaiAmericas

Reducción del riesgo de desastres, cambio
climático y desarrollo sostenible

Sr. David Grimes
Sr. Rodney Martínez
Sr. Roy Barboza Sequeira
Sr. Ronald Jackson
Sra. Matilde Mordt

#LaResilienciaEsDeTodos #SendaiAméricas

Plenary 2

Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change and Sustainable Development

Panel

Moderator: Mr. David Grimes, Environment and Climate Change Canada

Speakers:

Mr. Ronald Jackson, Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency

Ms. Matilde Mordt, United Nations Development Program

Mr. Roy Barboza, Central American Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters
Mr. Rodney Guillermo Martínez Güingla, Marine Sciences Department at Instituto Oceanográfico de la Armada (INOCAR)-Ecuador

Objective

Identify opportunities to enhance integration across DRR, CCA and sustainable development domains in the Americas.

Measurable Outcome

Produce a list of best practices and/or tools that are used or could be used to better integrate and streamline DRR and sustainable development in relation to climate variability and change.

Session Summary

This session explored the challenges and opportunities of integrating the disciplines of DRR, climate change adaptation and sustainable development. Of particular significance to this issue is the historic decision in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to place the environmental dimension at the same level as the social and economic dimensions, thereby reflecting the overwhelming evidence that they are intricately linked.

Weather and climate-related risks are connected to informed sustainable development, DRR and climate-smart decision making

Risk Management permeates the 2030 Sustainable Development agenda, the Paris agreement and the Sendai Framework, to which the Humanitarian Summit and Financing for Development could be added. These global agendas reinforce each other.

Moving away from a traditional response-focused approach to disasters, to one which takes into account the underlying social constructs of risk – the risk drivers and unsustainable development models – is needed to bring a real transformation on the issues of poverty, exclusion and marginalization.

A comprehensive and orderly approach is needed to achieve meaningful results. Governments at all levels must work together in a more integrated way. Knowledge, education and empowering populations to make the right decisions for their protection and to better prepare also provide significant opportunities for improvement.

Climate information is critical in this respect. Considerable progress has been achieved in translating climate information, in particular with respect to the El Niño phenomenon, into decisions. The focus however has been mostly on response and on major urban centres, and less on prevention and rural areas where vulnerability to natural hazards is also significant. With signs of a potentially resurging El Niño which, as the recent one has shown, can have consequences felt even beyond the Americas, this is an issue the DRR community should follow closely.

Climate change represents a significant threat to human security and the importance of social policies in addressing risks cannot be understated in this context. There is a need for gender sensitive social policies that

will move the populations that are most vulnerable out of the cycle of poverty and vulnerability, and enable these populations to effectively cope and recover from the shocks associated with climate change. It is important to be reminded that DRR initiatives can also have unforeseen adverse impacts on communities if they are implemented indiscriminately.

In the Caribbean, both DRR initiatives and Disaster Risk Management initiatives are reflected in the construct of the Caribbean risk reduction strategy – the Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) strategy. Focusing on the SDGs will help build resilience by addressing the underlying risk drivers – vulnerability and exposure – that are beyond the traditional risk management approach.

Reactive management will always be needed to address residual risks, but preparedness and response plans should include recovery actions that increase resilience. Integrated Risk Management is key to addressing risk in a coherent way. The challenge is to foster linkages and communication between these communities of practice.

Integrating social and poverty reduction policies and programs with the sustainable management of natural resources, risk prevention and climate change strategies are another key element to achieve our goals.

Risk management used to be an intrinsic part of the culture of indigenous populations. As such, coping with natural hazards was part of their life and they were in some way better prepared to cope.

Family, school and work are part of the core social environment of all and are the primary places where caring values can be demonstrated and transmitted. Actions driven by human values effectively contribute to improve the quality of life for all, and in this sense to increase resilience as well.

While core cultural values remain a fundamental pillar for resilience, society has changed considerably and with these changes the natural ability to cope with natural hazards has disappeared, or is no longer adequate.

A modern approach to increase resilience requires that people's awareness and knowledge of risks be raised and blended with traditional knowledge. A balance must be struck between knowledge, control and governance which are the key tools at our disposal to effectively change behaviour. Legislation and enforcement have an important role to play in keeping risks in check, but they must be combined with other tools such as tax incentives, insurance and building codes, that can be used to foster responsible practices that reduce risks, and to deter malpractices that increase risks.

Information management is an area where considerable progress could be made. Climate change is happening now and requires immediate attention, integrating local knowledge of threats and vulnerabilities with the use of appropriate tools, such as land management. By compartmentalizing, we are creating barriers to achieving the goal of increased resilience.

The Climate Shocks Vulnerability Index provides a good example of how institutional barriers between the social and climate domains can be overcome, with startling results. This index which was implemented in Dominican Republic measures the vulnerability of households to extreme weather events. It is unique in that it brings together both vulnerability and climate change. By providing institutions with a common understanding of priority areas, it enables the development of poverty reduction policies with climate change adaptation and disaster risk management strategies. In 2015, when tropical storm Erika hit the Dominican Republic, the index enabled the quick provision of relief to the populations in greatest need.

A recent stock-taking report in Latin America and the Caribbean has shown that many countries have established joint platforms for their DRR and climate change adaptation communities to share hazard and risk information. Cuba has gone a step further and is the only country with an integrated platform, which stands as a best practice.

A group of countries in Central America has also been working with UNISDR to harmonize their approaches to implement the Sendai Framework, showing that integration is possible on a larger scale. Their effort was reflected in a number of key actions such as engaging the private sector and the mayors of implicated municipalities, facilitating cross-border circulation of personnel and equipment during emergencies, and cross-jurisdictional exercises.

The stocktaking report cited above has also revealed that the propensity to work in silos constitutes the primary barrier to the effective management of risks, followed by bureaucratic organizational processes and lack of political will. This points to the need for a change in mindset that puts the goal of resilience at the forefront. Structures which enable collaboration are also important, but they are not sufficient in their own to make collaboration happen - a change in mindset is key.

Key Messages

We may be less able to cope with disasters now than we used to be. The consequences are related to issues such as climate change and El Niño events which pose significant threats to civilization.

Achieving resilience is a responsibility for all of us – not just for governments and experts.

While integration is possible, it requires deliberate thought and action at all levels and across all sectors – individual, industry, municipal, state, national and international. A key challenge is how an appropriate cultural and social framework can be established to guide action for integrated risk management.

Addressing the underlying risk factors is key to reduce vulnerability. There are opportunities across the entire suite of policies (environmental, economic, and social) to create incentives for addressing DRR, CCA and Sustainable Development.

Various tools exist that are at our disposal, including education and the underlying knowledge derived from science, pilot initiatives, targeted studies, as well as indigenous tradition.

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Atelier sur l'innovation pour la réduction des risques de
catastrophes – Solutions scientifiques et technologiques
Format Café du Monde

Dr. Mark Williamson

<http://cssexercisetools.info/html/drr/>

#ResilienceForAll

Innovation for Disaster Risk Reduction Workshop
Science & Technology Solutions – World Café format

Dr. Mark Williamson

<http://cssexercisetools.info/html/drr/>

#ResilienceForAll

Taller de innovación para la Reducción del Riesgo de Desastres
Formato World Café - Soluciones de ciencia y tecnología

Dr. Mark Williamson

<http://cssexercisetools.info/html/drr/>

#ResilienceForAll



Plenary 3 Innovation for Disaster Risk Reduction Workshop Science & Technology Solutions – World Café Format

Panel

Moderator: Dr. Anthony Masys, Defence Research and Development Canada

Speakers:

Dr. Mark Williamson, Defence Research and Development Canada

Ms. Barbara Carby, University of West Indies

Douglas Cardinal, Visionary and World Master of Contemporary Architecture

Objective

Share information on science and technology (S&T) gaps for the four Sendai Framework priorities.

Measurable Outcomes

1. Create and distribute through the DRR Tools and Best Practices APP – of a list of science and technology (S&T) tools to reduce gaps and to build regional capacity.
2. Development of a network of S&T collaborators across regions and establish a standing working group on S&T.

Session Summary

This plenary session focused on the application of design thinking and visualization to support DRR solutions. A World Café format was adopted for this session, which entailed a whole group interaction method focused on conversations. A Café Conversation is a creative process for leading collaborative dialogue, sharing knowledge and creating possibilities for action in groups of all sizes. The environment is set up like a café, with paper-covered tables for four supplied with refreshments. People sit four to a table and hold a series of conversational rounds lasting from 20 to 45 minutes about one or more meaningful questions.

World Café format facilitates:

- a. Convening diverse perspectives and skill-sets to create a more holistic understanding
- b. Providing a creative and stimulating environment, encouraging out of the box thinking and innovative solutions
- c. Reducing hierarchy and empowering newcomers, creating opportunities for disruptive thinking
- d. Breaking through constraining factors (e.g. risk intolerance, silos, resource flows)
- e. Creating user-centered solutions through co-creation

As this plenary event was expected to have upwards to 1000 participants, the World Café approach was modified to accommodate these numbers. This enabled collaborative places where stakeholders with diverse perspectives engage in a workshop process to understand complex problems and design new approaches and solutions. This workshop was about breakthroughs and not problem focused but solution focused. In small groups, the teams actively discussed the disaster experience from which solutions emerged. These were captured (visual thinking) on the tables (table size paper) and shared via 'uploaded selfie' of work.

Emergent themes captured by the visual synthesis include:

- Understanding Black swan events and persistent threats to support DRR
- Integrated approach to DRR: private public collaboration

- The role of S&T in support of:
 - Sustainability
 - DRR
- Strategic positioning of DRR S&T through foresight, M&S and dialogue
- The value of local 'indigenous' knowledge as part of the S&T solution oriented dialogue
- The requirement for across community and regional collaboration in sharing S&T tools and best practices
- The requirement for evidence-based DRR policy rooted in S&T to support accountability and transparency
- The value of human centered design in capturing the salient 'empathic' details of the disaster
- The value of shared foresight tools and outputs

A DRR S&T tool APP was developed by CSS that captures tools and best practices to support DRR. The tool (APP) was launched at the plenary session.

The intention is to finalize the DRR tool and send to UNISDR for their dissemination.





Alertes publiques et avertissements précoces

Moderatrice: Dr. Kate Moran
 Julia Chasco
 Pr Sergio Barrientos
 Shelly Bradshaw
 Horace Glaze
 Tim Trytten

#SendaiAmériques

Public Alerting and Early Warning Systems

Moderator: Dr. Kate Moran
 Julia Chasco
 Prof. Sergio Barrientos
 Shelly Bradshaw
 Horace Glaze
 Tim Trytten

#SendaiAmericas

Alertas al público y sistemas de alerta temprana

Moderador: Dr. Kate Moran
 Julia Chasco
 Prof. Sergio Barrientos
 Shelly Bradshaw
 Horace Glaze
 Tim Trytten

#SendaiAmericas

Plenary 4

Public Alerting and Early Warning Systems

Panel

Moderator: Dr. Kathryn Moran, Oceans Canada

Speakers:

Mr. Sergio Barrientos, University of Chile Seismological Service

Ms. Shelly Bradshaw, Trinidad and Tobago Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management

Ms. Julia Chasco, Meteorology and Society Department of Argentina's National Meteorological Service

Mr. Guillermo Gonzalez, Minister-Director of the National Prevention, Mitigation and Disaster Relief System, Nicaragua

Mr. Tim Trytten, Alberta Emergency Management Agency

Objective

Discuss the rapidly developing field of hazard early warning and public alert dissemination.

Measurable Outcomes

1. Define the need to have an authoritative source for issuance of public alerts for public safety purposes.
2. Agreement by the panel on the need to use common standards and protocols for transborder and regional data-gathering and alerting.

Session Summary

A large and enthusiastic audience gathered for the final plenary session of the Regional Platform to discuss the linked issues of early warning and public alerting. The session took the form of a structured question-and-answer session covering the key issues.

Dr Moran as moderator defined early warning and public alerting, and then invited each panelist to introduce themselves briefly:

Professor Sergio Barrientos is a seismologist, director of the earth sciences department at the National University of Chile. His institute is the official organ in Chile for earthquake information and alerts, and he has a particular interest in the development of early warning systems, particularly for earthquake and tsunami hazards.

Ms Shelly Bradshaw champions the cause with her national meteorological service & seismic research centre to drive early warning and public alerting discussions, and to formalize standards and procedures.

Ms Julia Chasco is a sociologist with the Meteorological Service of Argentina, who seeks to understand the user needs and the way end-users use information, in order to improve weather alerts. She works with the World Meteorological Organization to improve the definition of regional alerting needs.

Mr Horace Glaze is responsible for coordination activities with groups such as telecoms companies and EM and response. He is working on public alerting with his national meteorological service and water resources agency. He notes the challenges of integrating municipal and national level activities and the issue of dissemination, and recognizes renewed interest from stakeholders and private sector in supporting efforts in public alerting.

Mr Tim Trytten demonstrated a proposed Common Alerting Tone for Canada. He sees his role as reaching out to public help understand issues of safety, alerting and EM. He notes the exciting links between government, EM practitioners and the population, and advocates the approach of Stop! Listen! and Respond to tone! as the first step in successful alerting. It is critical to create awareness in people so that they trust and follow alert instructions. To assist this, alerts need to be short sharp messages. He notes there are currently two types in use

in Alberta, an immediate alert for imminent danger: e.g. earthquakes, forest fires, and an Amber Alert for missing children. He emphasizes the need to use all channels for communication, not just text-based systems, examples including web, social media, radio, TV, billboards. DRR occurs when alerts reach people with information that is trusted and valuable.

The session then proceeded with a series of questions and answers, which panellists responded to, based on their expertise and interests.

Q Advances in technology have led to many solutions that can be employed by public authorities to alert the public to life threatening situations and provide instructions for actions they should take. These technological advances have also had the effect of giving a public voice to everyone. Consequently amateurs and enthusiasts have been known to take it upon themselves to disseminate their own warnings and alerts through social media channels. Who should be identified as a trusted source for the information in alerts and to what extent should this be regulated? Who are the decision makers in your jurisdiction regarding when an alert is to be issued?

Mr. Trytten noted that it takes time to build trust. Governments can be big and slow, whereas social media is fast. Government needs to learn to be quick or the void will be filled by others. Alerting needs to be fast, but traditional government communications can be slow. Alberta is an example of a decentralized model: 400 communities can issue alerts that are broadcast immediately. Bringing alerts to the community level lets them be fast.

Ms. Bradshaw indicated that in Trinidad and Tobago, discussions have been growing on early warning and public alerting. Provision of open data by the Meteorological Service has led to 'armchair meteorologists', amateurs creating unnecessary concern in the public domain through social media, while trusted sources have been slower in communicating information to the public. Through dialogue there is growing agreement from public sector that national entities should be the voice behind alerts. Government needs to help the public to understand that national entities should be the trusted sources. Slow progress is being made to integrate disaggregated systems at local level and national level system using SMS with the inherent constraints of the technology. There is a slow but steady move to common standards and integrated approach to public alerting systems which marry all of this.

Professor Barrientos highlighted that in Chile, by contrast, alerting is highly centralized. There are a few technical entities each responsible for a specific hazard: meteorological, volcanic, tsunami, fire, earthquake which supports the national EM agency, ONEMI. These entities provide the necessary information for ONEMI to distribute. For Chile, 98% of fatalities are due to earthquakes and tsunamis, so there is particular wariness for these hazards, particularly since the Feb 2010 earthquake that killed 500 people and caused much damage. There has been

huge progress in strengthening and developing early warning systems to forewarn and to provide education which is also necessary. It is not enough to alert – one needs to train people on how to react and respond. Responsible agencies are well-recognized so authority is not an issue.

Q Many of the situations which threaten the public and are the subject of alerts affect multiple jurisdictions, for example a hurricane approaching the Caribbean. To what extent is cross-border cooperation desirable or necessary when it comes to issuing alerts, particularly for large scale/fast moving events? What are the technical challenges and how do you foresee this evolving in the coming years?

Mr. Trytten explained that events don't respect political boundaries. The first step is to identify people in the EM world who you can trust across the border – personal contact is key. Second comes process. For example, Alberta is working with British Columbia and Saskatchewan and signed formal agreements to share practices and resources, after all, we are all in this together. Third is technology, standard practices, exchanging phones numbers before the disaster and sharing technology. Some communities sit right on the border and need working arrangements or simple process for info sharing. That leads to cooperation for coordinated response. Technical challenges are simpler than process and people. If processes and people issues are fixed, technology will follow.

Mr. Glaze noted that the people component comes first. Cross-border integration is not just desirable, it is absolutely necessary. Some small countries are like towns in Canada or Chile. Additionally, at the local level, a river may have its upstream in one municipality, downstream in a different one. In a flash food, communities need to work together - you help your neighbour. Formal agreements can help to formalize 'gentlemen's agreements'. There is also a warning element to transborder issues, for example upper area instruments measure flow data which needs to be communicated downstream – we need to think about sharing data when acquiring data. All of this needs engagement pre-disaster.

Q Not all phenomena cause the widespread destruction of a hurricane. In fact, many significant disasters are quite localized to a single district, state or province. What are the challenges for public alerting when dealing with highly localized events?

Ms. Chasco said that we have technology gaps for local weather events - we need to invest to detect local events. We need data after the fact to identify severe cases, to understand and improve early warning. We also need to generate local capacity.

Often early warning systems are set up at a national level, without considering the need for local government to understand the information, yet it is the local government that is impacted directly.

We need to prepare so that they get information for preparedness or response. Often we get technology to allow detection but local governments don't have the infrastructure to support it. We need to share data, it isn't useful in silos, it needs to be shared and integrated to give an overall picture. Local governments have a real challenge to improve broadcasting systems.

Ms. Bradshaw articulated that technology exists but infrastructure locally can't support localization, so a bulletin is issued to the whole country even if the event only impacts the north and not south. We need to move to regionally targeted alerts so communities understand how to respond appropriately. Sometimes we meet complacency, so that warnings are not heeded properly. People need to be sensitized and sensitive to messages, and helped to develop a clear perception of risk, since risk perception is sometimes not so accurate.

Q A public alert or early warning can only be effective if it successfully reaches the public that are at risk. How do you go about increasing the reach of alerts? How do you forge strategic partnerships (TV-radio, telecom-smartphones, private/highway billboards, others). What needs to be done to reach communities with minority languages?

Mr. Trytten said "Go to the people". If people are on social media, use social media. This challenge is exciting and constantly evolving. We need to get directly to the consumer. Radio & TV are always standard vehicles but we need to use what people have. Language is an issue always - alerts need to be comprehensible.

Mr. Glaze noted to get as close as possible. For an island state, everything reaches entire island. We sometimes rely on telecoms providers to broadcast within specific area, and we need stronger partnerships with telecoms providers. There is a concern about spamming, but in the end it is a public safety issue. We worked with regulators on a 2015 Act which mandated my office to issue alerts, and mandates broadcasters. Telecoms legislation and regulators need to come on board. We have a proposal to use billboards at traffic signals, and people are interested in coming on board.

Q How do we measure our successes? This is a question that is always asked of public officials. It is a particularly challenging question in the case of public alerting as invariably even successful alerting is associated with enormously destructive events. How should issuers evaluate the effectiveness of their public safety measures? How can alerts be effective across populations, including amongst vulnerable groups?

Ms Chasco added that we need to be constantly communicating. It is the only way.

Professor Barrientos noted we must not forget the value of education in areas which don't hear an alert. How to educate? How to react? In Chile we teach people who live on the coast that if an earthquake is strong expect a tsunami, so get out of there. Such education can be a complementary tool to alert systems. How do we evaluate success?

We need metrics, and the early warning system needs to be constantly assessed. The public also needs educated on alerts and false alarms.

In closing, the moderator summarized the key points arising from the session:

- Recognizing the importance of authoritative sources of warnings and alerts, it is important to have clarity on those authoritative sources, defined in a manner that is well-understood by the public. If necessary this may require filling of gaps in legislation and policy, recognizing that in many jurisdictions, policy lags behind technology and evolving practice.
- Common standards and open data exchange are key contributors.
- Alerts must be tailored to support a broad range of different user groups, including recognizing regionally specific requirements, and must fit into the constellation of media we live in.
- We should seek to share technology, to create mechanisms to learn collectively from past events, and to continually improve best practices.
- Lastly, although the technological and policy enablers are critical for success, in the end successful early warning and public alerting is about people – social science.

Cinquième Plateforme régionale sur la
Réduction des risques de catastrophes
des AmériquesFifth Regional Platform for
Disaster Risk Reduction
in the AmericasQuinta Plataforma Regional para la
Reducción del Riesgo de Desastres
en las Américas

Cibles mondiales du Cadre de Sendai

Pour la première fois en ce qui concerne le DRR international, le Cadre de Sendai établit des cibles internationales précises afin de mesurer le progrès par rapport aux quatre priorités. Voici les sept cibles mondiales.

- 1. Réduire nettement, au niveau mondial, d'ici à 2030, la mortalité due aux catastrophes, de sorte que le taux moyen de mortalité mondiale pour 100 000 habitants pendant la décennie 2020-2030 soit inférieur au taux enregistré pendant la période 2005-2015.
- 2. Réduire nettement, d'ici à 2030, le nombre de personnes touchées par des catastrophes, partout dans le monde, de sorte que le taux moyen mondial pour 100 000 habitants pendant la décennie 2020-2030 soit inférieur au taux enregistré pendant la période 2005-2015.
- 3. Réduire, d'ici à 2030, les pertes économiques directes dues aux catastrophes en proportion du produit intérieur brut (PIB).
- 4. Réduire nettement, d'ici à 2030, la perturbation des services de base et les dommages causés par les catastrophes aux infrastructures essentielles, y compris les établissements de santé ou d'enseignement, notamment en renforçant leur résilience.

Sendai Framework Global Targets

For the first time in international DRR, Sendai sets specific international targets, to measure progress against the four priorities. The seven global targets are:

- A. Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower average per 100 000 global mortality between 2020-2030 compared to 2005-2015.
- B. Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030, aiming to lower the average global figure per 100 000 between 2020-2030 compared to 2005-2015.
- C. Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030.
- D. Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030.

Objetivos mundiales del Marco de Sendai

Por primera vez en el ámbito de la Reducción del Riesgo de Desastres, el Marco de Sendai establece objetivos mundiales específicos para medir los avances logrados con respecto a cuatro prioridades. Los siete objetivos mundiales son:

- A. Reducir considerablemente la mortalidad mundial causada por desastres para 2030, y lograr reducir la tasa media de mortalidad mundial por cada 100 000 personas en el decenio 2020-2030 respecto del período 2005-2015.
- B. Reducir considerablemente el número de personas afectadas a nivel mundial para 2030, y lograr reducir el promedio mundial por cada 100 000 personas en el decenio 2020-2030 respecto del período 2005-2015.
- C. Reducir las pérdidas económicas causadas directamente por los desastres en relación con el producto interno bruto (PIB) mundial para 2030.
- D. Reducir considerablemente los daños causados por los desastres en las infraestructuras vitales y la interrupción de los servicios básicos, como las instalaciones de salud y educativas, incluso desarrollando su resiliencia para 2030.

Parallel 1

Implementation and Measurement of the Sendai Framework and linkage to Sustainable Development Goals

Panel

Moderator: Mr. Carlos Iván Márquez Pérez, Director General, National Unit for Disaster Risk Management, Colombia

Speakers:

Mr. Marc Gordon, United Nations Sendai Monitoring Unit

Ms. Stéphanie Durand, Public Safety Canada

Mr. Joaquín Roa, Minister of the National Emergency Secretariat of Paraguay

Ms. Emily Wilkinson, Overseas Development Institute, Risk and Resilience Programme

Mr. Carlos Picado, Comisión Nacional de Emergencias

Objectives

1. To present recommendations of the UN Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on indicators and terminology, and the International Inter-agency Expert Group-Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the measurement of the global targets of the Sendai Framework and the SDGs. A proposed Sendai Framework Monitoring System will also be presented, which will include aspects of the proposed analytical functions as well as levels of application at the national and regional levels.
2. Review the status of data for monitoring the global targets of the Sendai Framework for DRR and for establishing national baselines (national readiness). This will include consideration of potential opportunities for regional collaboration.
3. Discuss the linkages between development agendas, and in particular the common work to be undertaken inter alia by national statistics offices in reporting on the indicators associated with them, governance structures, and opportunities to achieve efficiencies as we work towards implementation, including the “Global Partnership for disaster-related data for sustainable development 2017-2025” which will be proposed at the upcoming 2017 Global Platform for DRR.
4. Recognition of the need to support the application of statistical rigour and standards, and the integration of disaster-related data in official statistics by the international statistics community. As well as recognition of the need to support reporting capacity for the non-statistical data of the Sendai Framework. The recognition will be reflected in the summary of the session and included in the Chair’s summary and in the recommendations to be put forward by the Americas region to the 2017 Global Platform for DRR. Discuss the rapidly developing field of hazard early warning and public alert dissemination.

Measurable Outcomes

1. Receive and integrate feedback from the Regional Platform for DRR in the Americas in preparation for the 2017 Global Platform for DRR in the development of the Sendai Framework Monitoring System and the state of data readiness to report on the global targets of the Sendai Framework and the SDGs.
2. Receive comments for consideration in the development of a “Global partnership for disaster related data for sustainable development 2017-2025” including the establishment of a regional group that will support this planned Global partnership in the Americas.

Session Summary

The session highlighted the commonalities between various international agreements, namely the Sendai Framework, the SDGs, and the Climate Change Adaptation (CCA). There are synergies between these international agreements, namely the goal to increase resilience.

It was noted that governments must have the political will to invest in supporting the implementation of these frameworks. In fact, although nations signed on to these non-binding agreements, it was suggested that governments enforce their implementation and to make them binding at the national level through policy and law, to align with national priorities. Nations need to observe the relationship between the Sendai Framework, the SDGs, and COP21, but to apply them at the national level, to strengthen community resilience.

The targets of the Sendai Framework and the SDGs can be clustered and nations can calculate the cost in meeting these targets.

But, the implementation of the Sendai Framework does not lie with the governments alone. There needs to be a whole-of-society approach to DRR initiatives and in the implementation of these international frameworks. Strong civil participation is crucial to the success of achieving the goals set out in these frameworks.

Open, shared data sources; records; and common terminology are important in advancing and measuring success of the implementation of these international frameworks.

The Americas need to continue to work towards the monitoring of these international commitments. There is a need to move from theory to practice, and to collaborate so that we can share best practices.

Finally, when measuring impacts of these international frameworks, we must be able to generate effective actions, to be flexible, and to develop new policies, reflecting our unique and changing risk landscape.

Carlos Ivan Marquez Perez

It is a concern for the entire world. We will look into environment and animals also, because it is not only about people. We have to look at each region, and timely information that is relevant to indicators so governments can move to concrete actions. We need to define how we are going to do that, including looking at data necessitated to achieve our goals.

Marc Gordon

The development of metrics to measure global progress was an extensive process, a vast consultation was made. Seven indicators are being used. The development of standards and methodology to process and report statistical data has been a major accomplishment. Moving forward: data readiness review, technical guidance, upgrade of Sendai Framework to help gather and use statistical data.

Stéphanie Durand

We looked at how we advance at measuring progress from a whole-of-government perspective. One of the challenges is how we capture relevant data. Ensuring that we capture all these data requires coordination, coalition of the willing, and to project a coherent picture. We look to include indicators to our EM strategy, and how we can partner with other initiatives that are complementary, and work together as multidisciplinary approach is key. We have a good foundation to advance that work.

Our priorities: reducing mortality, effect globally, costs of disasters (including the productivity toll and other costs), reduce damage and building resilience to Critical Infrastructure (CI), build to a new normal and take this opportunity to advance resilience. We have to learn from our successes and what has not worked. We need to understand the science so we can innovate. We work to understand what the past has told us (e.g. Canadian Disaster Database). We want to better understand data and the impact of disasters so we can better anticipate mitigation initiatives to be made.

We are working closely with the private sector to better assess the impact on society. Understand, better prepare and mitigate. Define what are the CI we need to protect. All sectors have a role to play. We focus on whole-of-society capacity and capabilities. Building the data, understand the evidence is what we are working on with all our partners, including academia, volunteers, private sector, and all levels of government.

Joaquin Roa Burgos

Paraguay worked on interconnections between the SDGs and the Sendai Framework. The architecture of the process looks like a house with its foundation, its roof, etc. Foundation is national interest, the institutionality has to be strong and secure to implement the process. Paraguay implemented the Framework objectives in an organic way. We took into account poverty.

It is very important to include DRR in the political agenda. National interest will affect in the implementation of the Framework. We cannot work in silos. The process to transmitting information is key, not only to government. All sectors have been institutionalized (water, energy, education, etc.). The political will is extremely important not just to provide support and information but the make sure that DRR measures are included.

We need to get a consensus of interests. The political and the technical have to be on the same page. We worked on both components to have a comprehensive approach. We are also working on the financial component with our budget. DRR needs to be budgeted. We see with Ministry of Finance to integrate it in our public policy. Public investments are necessary to reduce risks. We have to make sure it is all incorporated in the national interest policy.

Emily Wilkinson

Emphasized how important resilience is within the Framework. Building resilience is the outcome of our efforts. We need to focus on a range of disasters. How can we bring coherence in the implementation of the four frameworks?

1st recommendation: national actions deliver resilience across frameworks; are these agencies aware of other frameworks? How can this platform be aligned with other platforms (e.g. climate change)?

2nd recommendation: ensure delivery on one framework is consistent with attainment of others; if we have ambitious targets, what do we really want to prioritize?

3rd recommendation: incentivize coordination and collaboration; lots of resources can be saved with synergies, we have an opportunity to see how we can include poverty into our considerations;

4th recommendation: map, assess and coordinate finance for resilience; identify costs to reach the targets; key steps need to be done to understand finance considerations;

5th recommendation: track progress jointly together to better inform decision making; lots of information is available, possibility to better interlink this information.

Carlos Picado

The goals are the same for the three frameworks. The major challenge for the Sendai Framework is that there has to be a way to measure the implementation of these goals. Countries need to have a national strategy according to the Sendai Framework. We need a consistent and measurable approach.

We do not apply the same to all countries. SDGs are different, and we have to adapt them to each country. Costa Rica developed a public policy document which includes the same outcome of the Sendai Framework, and is linked to climate change. We developed a results-based planning model. We measure both good management and the impact. The management is about planning properly, assigning resources, providing information, spreading knowledge, etc.

Our policy framework is also based on 15 years. It has five axes for action to respond to three pillars of EM. Two policy documents were developed, one for the long term and one for the short term. It is important to link between priorities and goals that are being sought in the national policy. Each action has a specific

outcome, which is measured by indicators proposed by the Sendai Framework. There is a chapter that deals with measurement and follow-up, and it needs to be legally validated. There are committees which ensure the implementation of the policy and report on how goals are met. Results are reported annually, which supports accountability. A check-point timetable was created including indicators, and these are adjusted to reflect reality.

Questions and Comments Period

Q Mexico representative: How can we ensure enforcement to strengthen laws? It is an ethical, moral, and legal obligation that we have?

Mr. Roa Burgos responded that we look at lessons learned from disasters. International frameworks need to be adapted to national reality.

Q International Bank representative: The problem that we have is that risk management is linked to political cycles in our countries, so there is more or less activity in DRR depending on the political context. What can be done internationally to make sure that DRR is done before the disaster happens? Countries that are more exposed have more pressure. What can you do as a government when a shoreline will not exist in 20 years? How are governments assessing the value of these disasters?

Mr. Gordon explained that we have to reinforce the importance of determining national targets; we need to bring it to the electorate level, and look at the international perspective. We have lots of data but poor information. We need to move from data to tools that can inform decision making.

Ms. Durand noted that rising cost is forcing governments to look at alternate ways, to look at the impact of inaction and return on investment with mitigation. The Sendai Framework provides tools and approaches to quantify progress; looking at a mix of solutions, how to sensitize the public, to empowering different segments of the society who contribute to the solutions.

Mr. Roa Burgos said we need to find solutions through strong public structures and participation.

Q from Quebec Public Health representative: We do not have to contend only with the losses of life because the number of affected people is wider (e.g. railway accident and explosion in Lac-Mégantic). How do we estimate the scale of the impacts of a disaster to include the collateral victims?

Ms. Durand said that we need to have a multidisciplinary approach to take into account various factors to estimate the costs, and the side effects must be considered. This will be a part of dialogues with the various levels of government, the voluntary organizations, etc. It represents certainly a challenge but we are going to find the best approach for our environment in Canada. We shall have to think about it more in detail when we analyze indicators.

Mr. Gordon articulated that it is difficult to effectively monitor those impacts. It is a work in progress, the intention is to have guidance on this, and we are looking into this.

Q Chile representative: How do you finance policy? We haven't accomplished everything with Hyogo. Is there a transition between the two steps?

Mr. Picado noted that the issues raised by Hyogo are still of interest. We have used a lot of Hyogo in our policy development. You cannot measure suffering and anxiety, the hurt people feel with losses. Sciences still have a lot to contribute, humans are social and not material, and this dimension was covered.

Key outcomes

- Political and government willingness to adopt policies is key.
- The Sendai Framework brings indicators that provide a road map to reach goals.
- The development of data, records and common terminology are important. All this merit a great deal of discussions so we can come up with more harmonized criteria.
- The Sendai Framework monitoring needs to be continued. We need to monitor commitments.
- Learning from others, from their strengths and weaknesses, still needs to be developed.
- Is it important to maintain a relationship with COP 21.



Parallel 2

Innovations in Financial Resilience and Risk Financing

Panel

Moderator: Mr. Paul Kovacs, Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction at Western University

Speakers:

Mr. Roy Wright, United States Federal Emergency Management Agency

Ms. Kathy Baughman McLeod, Oceans for the Nature Conservancy

Mr. Rubem Hofliger, Swiss Re

Mr. Jonathan Serrano Venancio, Mexican Ministry of the Interior

Mr. Andres Quevedo, Ministry of Finance of Colombia

Mr. Luis Alton, World Bank

Objectives

1. To understand how governments across the region are developing programs to reduce the economic impacts of disasters, support communities and engage the private sector in this endeavour.
2. To understand the challenges of implementation and share best practices in encouraging better risk management strategies from national governments to sub-sovereign governments and communities.
3. To learn how international development organizations are transforming their approach to humanitarian aid through the implementation of risk transfer protocols and programs to reduce the lag time in recovery funding post-event.

Measurable Outcomes

1. Identify different risk financing mechanisms that could be considered by countries.
2. Identify challenges governments face in funding recovery efforts and the inflection points for developing holistic financial management systems to address these challenges.

Session Summary

The Innovations in Financial Resilience and Risk Financing session included a diverse group from the US and Mexican Governments, the World Bank, the Nature Conservancy and Swiss Re.

The key takeaways were quite clear – first, the speed and quality of recovery from a natural disaster is unequivocally enhanced by having robust financial mechanisms and strategies in place.

Second, transparency in risk identification and quantification leads to better communication and risk management. Lastly, collaboration amongst various levels of government, the agencies within them and the private (re)insurance markets and other sectors is paramount to reducing often immeasurable economic hardships across various economies.

Both the US and Mexico discussed the genesis of their various insurance programs (US National Flood Insurance Program and Mexico's National Disaster Fund), how they've evolved over time and how they are bringing the "know-how" of the private market to reduce the economic impact of disasters on their citizenry. The importance of insurance programs helps manage exposures and encourages risk reduction behaviour. As the US representative pointed out, "A strong pricing signal is the most powerful communication tool to managing risk."

The World Bank outlined how it works with various governments across the globe to help them design and build robust financial risk management strategies to improve their economic trajectories and ultimately reduce poverty. This is done through collaborative risk assessment, risk modelling, mapping and the arrangement of financial

solutions to move the fiscal liabilities away from the government balance sheet. The concept of sovereign risk pooling, by which multiple countries are joining their resources to maximize their capacity to engage the private market, is gaining in prominence and effectiveness, as seen in Haiti after Hurricane Matthew.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) brought a different and new angle to the conversation in discussing the value of nature in reducing risk to populations. For example, did you know that a vibrant coral reef can reduce a wave's energy by up to 97%? This can be critical in tropical cyclone exposed areas. As such, if these natural assets protect communities, they have a risk reduction and economic value. TNC is working with the private market to protect these natural assets and encourage their safekeeping through innovative insurance solutions.

Finally, Swiss Re discussed the role of the private market in helping governments around the globe manage these exposures through risk transfer mechanisms. The partnership between the private and public sectors is critical as they bring different value to the equation. The public sector can establish frameworks, regulation and the environment needed to succeed in this space, but the private sector can offer its financial capacity and technical expertise to build innovative solutions to the most vexing financial circumstances governments are exposed to. Swiss Re highlighted that the gap between insured and total economic losses globally from natural disasters is large and growing. In fact, 70% of disaster losses globally are uninsured and therefore fall on the back of governments which are forced to make uncomfortable and often unpopular choices after these inevitable shocks.

Pre-financing these disasters can help through various financial mechanisms. This space is growing quickly and the innovations are evolving with the changing landscape to address the needs of communities around the world.



Parallel 3

Building Resiliency: Indigenous Peoples and Disaster Risk Reduction

Panel

Moderator: Mr. Todd Kuiack, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

Speakers:

Ms. Nuvia Mayorga Delgado, National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples, Government of Mexico

Mr. John C. Scott, United Nations

Dr. Evan Adams, First Nations Health Authority

Ms. Madeline Redfern, Mayor of the City of Iqaluit

Mr. Sergio Cabañas, Incident Command Centre, Guatemala

Ms. María Diocelinda Iza Quinatoa, Movimiento de Mujeres de Sectores Populares Luna Creciente, Ecuador

Ms. Kim Tallbear, University of Alberta

Mr. Moyses Hernández, Group Con aroma de café-X, San Pedro Pochutla, Oaxaca, Mexico

Objectives

1. To identify culturally appropriate best practices for Indigenous peoples to engage in the design and implementation of policies, plans and standards related to DRR that align with Sendai Framework.
2. To facilitate awareness and discussion on DRR strategies, challenges, and best practices amongst Indigenous experts and the larger DRR community.
3. To provide a platform to raise the issues which will inform discussions related to Indigenous peoples at the 2017 Global Platform for DRR.

Measurable Outcome

Collect input into the creation of an international Indigenous Disaster Information Network that will further work on Indigenous DRR and ensure that Indigenous experts have a mechanism to share knowledge and best practices.

Session Summary

An array of experts, scholars, practitioners and Indigenous community members from all over the Americas participated in this parallel session and shared best practices on DRR in Indigenous communities. Four Indigenous Elders (from Canada's Inuit, Métis, Algonquin and Mohawk communities) also attended the session and provided their input.

During this parallel session, best practices as well as challenges in regards to Indigenous peoples' engagement in the design and implementation of policies, plans and standards related to DRR were shared. Several concrete examples and case studies from all over the Americas were discussed. The uniqueness of the challenges faced by Indigenous communities in regards to DRR was highlighted (e.g. Indigenous Communities in Northern Canada compared to Indigenous communities in South America).

The Indigenous component had a very strong presence all along the Regional Platform, whether that is as a result of this parallel session or through other activities such as the cultural performance honouring Indigenous women and girls, the significant involvement of four Indigenous Elders or the Indigenous cultural room. This contributed to raise awareness on the crucial role Indigenous Partners play in the larger DRR community. This strong Indigenous component as well as the success of the parallel session will help raise issues which will inform discussions related to Indigenous peoples at the upcoming 2017 Global Platform for DRR.

The International Indigenous Disaster Information Network was introduced during the Parallel session and many experts from all over the Americas provided comments and suggestions as to how to strengthen the design of this new tool and how to better implement/promote it. This is still a work in progress.

It was recommended that further discussions on the International Indigenous Disaster Information Network take place before and during the Global Platform in order for the project to move forward. Continued engagement with Indigenous representatives is also crucial to further develop this initiative as it relies on the co-existence of Western science and Indigenous/traditional knowledge.



Parallel 4

Empowerment of Women and Girls and Gender Equality in Disaster Risk Reduction

Panel

Moderator: Ms. Melanie Goodchild, Waterloo Institute for Social Innovation and Resilience

Speakers:

Ms. Carmen Moreno, Inter-American Commission of Women

Ms. Dinoska Yadira Perez Garcia, Honduras Standing Committee on Emergencies

Dr. Virginia Clervaux, Turks and Caicos Department of Disaster Management and Emergencies

Ms. Relinda Sosa, Plataforma Comunitaria Comité y Redes de Honduras "Wagucha"

Ms. Jacinda Fairholm, United Nations Development Program

Ms. Esmé Lanktree, Canadian Red Cross

Objectives

1. Promote women's empowerment and gender equality in all phases of DRR and disaster risk management (DRM) by sharing knowledge and providing stakeholders with tools and best practices to reinforce and build capacity in the Americas.
2. Identify some existing gaps and line of actions, particularly in the planning and design phases of DRM.
3. Propose practical options to bridge these gaps, and develop clear recommendations for actions to advance the empowerment of women and gender perspective in DRM and DRR.
4. Recommend areas to consider further action, discussion or study on this theme.

Measurable Outcome

Develop a list of existing platforms and tools, best practices and policy recommendations that support the empowerment of women and gender equality in all areas of DRR that will be shared with organizations at all levels across the Americas.

Session Summary

The panel was co-hosted by Global Affairs Canada and the Organization of American States. It included expert speakers from across the hemisphere, including Central, South and North America, as well as the Caribbean. The panel offered insights from various perspectives, including:

- Indigenous People's representation by the moderator - Melanie Goodchild, Senior Indigenous Research Fellow and Ambassador, Suncor Fellow, The Waterloo Institute for Social Innovation and Resilience
- A non-governmental viewpoint - Esmé Lanktree, Program Officer, Public Health in Emergencies and Training, Canadian Red Cross
- A hemispheric viewpoint - Carmen Moreno, Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women, Organization of American States
- A multilateral viewpoint - Jacinda Fairholms, Project Manager, United Nation Development Programme (UNDP)
- A national government's perspective - Dinoska Perez Garcia, Director of Social Projects and Management Unit, Comité Permanente de Contingencias (COPECO), Honduras
- A small island and developing states / regional (Caribbean) perspective - Virginia Clerveaux, Director of the Department of Disaster Management and Emergencies (DDME), Turks and Caicos
- A grassroots community perspective - Relinda Sosa, Community leader, Confederacion de Mujeres por la Vida y el Desarrollo Integral (Conamovidi), Peru

These experts and activists explored gender equality and women's active participation as agents of change, community leaders, and decision-makers in all phases of DRR – from preparation and mitigation, to response and rebuilding – all key elements of the Sendai Framework for DRR.

Some of the many insights and recommendations put forward by the panelists included:

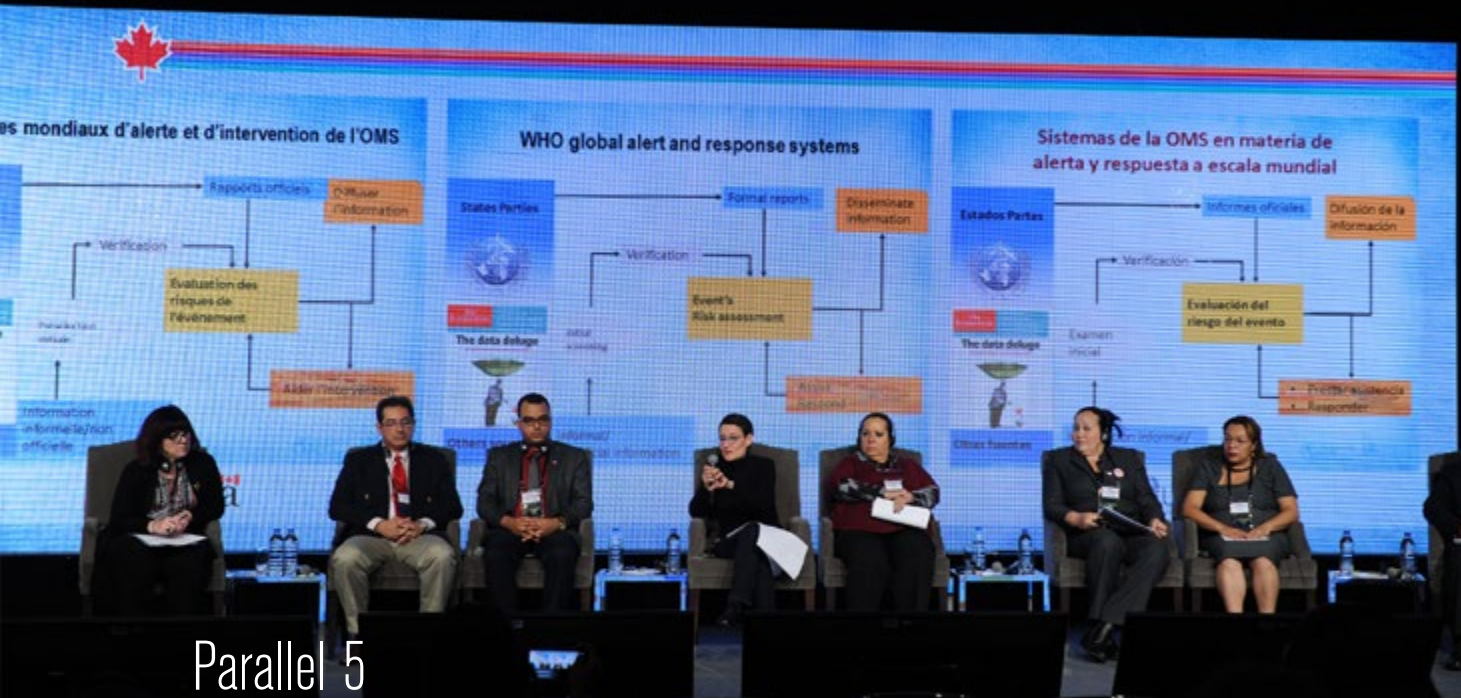
1. An important gap that must be bridged by governments at all levels is ensuring that policy and legislation governing disaster management recognizes the importance of gender in DRR.
2. Data collection and analysis undertaken by DRR actors must take gender into account for DRM programming to be targeted and effective for women and men, boys and girls.
3. Women should not be perceived as inherently vulnerable.
4. Socio-economic and underlying development issues and inequalities must be analysed and understood as root causes of vulnerability differentials.
5. Rights-based approaches to inclusiveness in DRM decision-making processes should go beyond a simple acknowledgment of rights, and recognize the value of women as agents of change, community leaders, and holders of valuable local knowledge.
6. For women and DRM actors to make full use of local knowledge, efforts must be made to provide women with the resources and empowering tools they require.
7. Women's appreciation of community needs and local knowledge should be considered along the full spectrum of DRM, not just with respect to disaster response. Women must, for example, be included in public policy decision-making at local, national and regional levels.

Practical ways of addressing these issues were put forth by the panellists including, inter alia:

- making better use of knowledge transfer through youth in order to reach and empower mothers and their families, particularly in contexts where language barriers exist due to migration;
- addressing underlying inequalities, including through advocacy, to reduce risk and positively affect vulnerability differentials; and
- including both men and women in all stages – including early warning systems training, as was successfully done in Honduras.

Policy recommendations, best practices and actions are being gathered and compiled into a toolkit to be shared with stakeholders in the hemisphere through existing mechanisms and organizations.

The sizeable audience actively participated in the discussion, adding a great deal of comments, questions and viewpoints.



Parallel 5

Intersections of Health Security and Disaster Risk Reduction

Hour 1 – Understanding Health in Multi-Hazards Risk Management

Hour 2 – Building Health Capacity and Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction

Panel

Ms. Elaine Chatigny, Public Health Agency of Canada

Dr. Ciro Ugarte, Director of the Department of Health Emergencies of the Pan-American Health Organization / World Health Organization

Speakers:

Hour 1

Dr. Jose Luis Cruz Raposo, Dominican Republic Ministry of Public Health

Dr. Celso Bambaren, National University of San Marcos

Dr. Roberta Andraghetti, Pan-American Health Organization

Hour 2

Lcda Josefina Arellano, Executive Secretary of the Technical Advisory Group of the National Committee for Evaluation, Diagnosis and Certification of the Safe Hospital Program, Mexico

Ms. Sharleen DaBreo, Director of the Department of Disaster Management, British Virgin Islands

Dr. Jenny Hernández, Honduras Secretariat of Health

Objective

To advance health action under the Regional Platform's RAP on DRR.

Measurable Outcome

Identify two health actions in the Regional Platform's for DRR in the Americas RAP.

Session Summary

The RP17 brought together health delegates from across the Americas to discuss efforts to reduce disaster risks to health posed by natural and human-induced hazards.

Recognizing the significant role of the health sector in the Sendai Framework, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) co-hosted an interactive parallel session on the Intersections of Health and DRR and discussed key themes related to the implementation of the America's health sector Plan of Action for DRR 2016-2021, adopted by Ministers of Health of the Americas in September 2016.

The overall objective and outcome of the conference was met as the approval of the Montreal Declaration and RAP included more than two actions related to health to meet the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030 commitments.

The panel discussion had a robust question and answer period, which provided for a passionate fact-based discussion on the importance of health in DRR. The session had six speakers and was co-lead by Ms. Elaine Chatigny, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Security Infrastructure Branch at PHAC, and Dr. Ciro Ugarte, Director, Health Emergencies Department, PAHO.

The key take away messages of the PHAC-PAHO panel session were to:

- Inform and utilize comprehensive and honest all-hazards risk assessment to understand how capacity impacts vulnerability and how, specifically, vulnerable populations, can be identified and considered in planning efforts in advance of catastrophe;
- Work with other sectors to inform comprehensive considerations into risk analysis well before an event occurs so as to institutionalize response governance and, also, ensure that human health considerations are paramount when responding;
- Recognize how integrating efforts and funding in terms of climate change and DRR has led to the health sector leadership in the Americas and how health infrastructure renewal can lead to community resilience at psychological as well as physical levels; and,

- Recognize that health is a “bridge to peace” in many countries suffering extensive violence. For example, in 1985, in the midst of a civil war in El Salvador, hostilities ceased for three days to permit the implementation of a vaccination campaign for children, an event that was repeated each year during the war. This initiative, which became known as “Days of Tranquillity”, has been implemented in Uganda, Lebanon, Sudan, the former Yugoslavia, and later in Sierra Leon. Participants were asked to reflect on this in the context of leadership and to note that, despite the horrors of conflict, each year disease kills more people than armed conflicts in these countries.

A summary of the session was also included in the PAHO Newsletter and includes a detailed summary of each presentation.

- At a high level, integration was a theme that emerged from all speakers, and is particularly relevant for the Health Professionals (HPs), we move forward with climate change and adaptation as a new policy focus, as well as with routine program modernization in the coming years. Noting the emergence of the health sector as a global leader in DRR, and as stressed in the earlier part of the report, the following were important themes:
 - Cooperation between all levels of government
 - Integration of knowledge bases (e.g., local and scientific)
 - Innovation across sectors (e.g., security, DRR specialists, response professionals, and environment)
- This was especially true in consideration of engagement at the local and community level, as well as between operational and policy communities.
- Building from this health sector perspective and in consideration that Canada and most other countries negotiated the Paris Climate Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Action on DRR and the SDGs, there is an important role to play for a cross-cutting dialogue (both within the health sector as well as across other sectors) on the topic of disaster risk management.
- These three UN-Frameworks address critical global and national issues and provide a basis for the national and global 2015-2030 agenda. Intersecting issues addressed include people, health, poverty, disaster resilience, the economy, sustainable development and others and which comprise a broad range of intersecting issues for our present and future populations.
- Such decision making processes are informed by science – the natural sciences, engineering, space science, social science and humanities and health. Furthermore, S&T innovations (e.g., such as vaccines, mobile medical platforms, satellite technologies, telecommunications, Earth observation, modern architectural design, etc.) support the implementation of the Sendai Framework and therefore the work of UNISDR.
- To this end, the importance of ensuring the health agenda is informed from these other cross-cutting

sectors, increased dialogue across the health portfolio and other sectors both intramurally and extramurally will be important towards providing sound evidence based decision making that addresses the upstream disaster risk challenge.

- Some Key Themes for Integration were noted:
 - Global, regional, national commitments: There is a recognized need to bring resilience, climate change and risk management paradigms together to address sustainability, climate change and risk reduction. There is an opportunity to review the indicators that are included in each of the frameworks/goals and identify common indicators (for horizontal activities as well as for the HPs) as PHAC monitors progress on investments made in climate change and EM planning. This integration can be applied across the FPT landscape and with Public Safety Canada colleagues as related to Public Health Emergencies of International Concern, as well as work to support the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change.
 - Local, regional and national risk management: The role of local (municipal) level insights into risk management planning was highlighted throughout the session (emphasizing the importance of scale, and the need to integrate planning across the local to regional to national levels to inform EM plans and encourage resilience). This could be a lesson learned for Canada and PHAC in finalizing and further informing the FPT Emergency Response Protocol. Many speakers highlighted the importance of aligning data and evidence, and evaluating data by the scale of the decision making process. This includes health data and is especially important for pandemic planning.
 - Sector networks: It was clear during the session that speakers who had lived through major disasters, and those who were implementing innovative approaches to adapt to climate change/reduce environmental footprints/prepare for future emergencies highlighted the importance of working with a variety of stakeholders.
 - This can also be a lesson learned for PHAC as it works towards the broader objective of continuous improvement of plans for public health emergencies of international concern with Public Safety Canada and GAC colleagues - that it could perhaps identify additional stakeholders to involve in ad hoc or more formal working groups to map existing stakeholders and new stakeholders in the development of a rigorous EM plan for Canada (e.g., incorporating flood risk mapping elements led by Environment and Climate Change Canada and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's AgriRisk programs in identifying potential at risk/vulnerable areas across Canada; involvement of Indigenous communities in the participatory discussions for EM plan development at the local to inform regional to inform national efforts; inclusion of Health Canada's drinking water quality assessment group in the assessment of water treatment plant resiliency following various emergencies, as safe clean drinking water is critical following a disaster/emergency domestically and internationally).

The panel session closed with a discussion on the stark and dangerous challenges of delivering health interventions (such as immunization) in violence prone areas. Presenters explained the challenges, strategies, and unlikely partnerships required to ensure that people in violence-prone areas have access to medical care they need, and that health professionals have the information, tools, and capacities to provide these services.



Parallel 6

Sendai Framework Inclusion of Volunteers in Social mobilization for Disaster Risk Reduction

Panel

Chairman: Mr. Walter Cotte, Columbian Red Cross

Co-host: Ambassador Alejandro Daneri, Argentina White Helmets

Moderator: Mr. Jean Pierre Taschereau, Canadian Red Cross

Speakers:

Ms. Debora Hendrickson, Aviva Canada

Mr. Roger Zambrano, Ecuadorian Red Cross

Ms. Katleen Mompoint, Haitian Civil Protection

Objectives

1. Showcase volunteers as drivers of change in DRR.
2. Engage in peer-to-peer (at institutional level) learning and experiences through group discussion.
3. Identify actions that encourage volunteerism and strengthen their role in community DRR.

Measurable Outcomes

1. Identify and share a list of concrete activities to increase active participation of volunteers, and the civilian population in DRR actions and specific Sendai Framework Priorities for Action.
2. Draft and share key messages that advocate governments (national and local) to integrate community volunteers into national DRR plans, policies and structures.

Session Summary

The session showcased volunteer experience from a diverse range of organizations and contexts in the Americas.

Walter Cotte, Regional Director of the International Federation of the Red Cross, provided an overview of volunteering from a global humanitarian perspective. Alejandro Daneri, President of the Argentinian White Helmets, presented the perspective of the construction of a volunteer organization that reinforces the sense of citizenship volunteering.

This followed an intervention by Roger Zambrano, Disaster Risk Management Coordinator from the Ecuadorian Red Cross who shared the experience of how volunteers contribute to the disaster preparedness, particularly in seismic risk and their rapid response to the earthquake of 2016. Katleen Mompoin, from the Haitian Civil Protection Directorate continued to reinforce the roles and contribution of volunteers in terms of preparedness and response to both the 2010 earthquake and Hurricane Matthew's impact of 2016.

Discussions in three workgroups were rich and lively, working towards identifying key messages that could be used to support the expansion, strengthening and value of volunteer in the Americas. Themes that emerged included:

- There is rarely a shortage of volunteers; the issue lies more in the methods and approach used to engage and position them prior to a disaster.
- Volunteers are proxy agents and connectors to all sectors of society.
- The critical nature of leveraging local support, networks and knowledge to engage local 'good will' and 'buy-in' was outlined. Volunteers play a key role in making those connections and explaining the rationale behind decision making in all components of DRM.

- If organizations and volunteers coming into an area do not make key local connections by respecting and incorporating the cultural and social roots of a community, progress will be stymied.
- DRM response needs to be anchored in an all-of-society approach.
- More digital literacy is being sought with volunteers and this can prove to be a challenge.
- Increasing volunteer contributions would be more successful if the volunteer networks in each country were more effectively joined.
- Need to place a greater emphasis on the importance of changing the mindset to seeing people in a disaster as agents of change and not victims, particularly women, and working as coordinated networks.
- Victims often transition from affected person to responders, engaged actors and agents of change.
- Where there is a younger demographic, this can assist in leveraging technology.
- Having volunteers self-register and identify their skills so coordinating agencies like the Red Cross could leverage those skills and use them in the most effective ways is important.
- The importance of having volunteers engaged in all levels of the DRM was emphasized as a critical piece.
- Strong corporate and government role in increasing volunteer engagement and making employees agents of change through programs such as providing employees time off to volunteer, matching donations etc.
- Private corporations can also team up with volunteer agencies and train employees in disaster volunteer programs so they can be mobilized quickly in the event of a disaster.
- The importance of linking corporate social responsibility with voluntary organizations was emphasized.
- Look at what has worked around the world; too often we try and reinvent the wheel.

Participants then engaged in group work to answer three questions and feedback was provided to the plenary:

1. Key messages to advocate before governments
 - Volunteers play an important role in supporting local disaster risk management systems in response, inclusive of disaster risk reduction actions.
 - Volunteer groups need to be trained and accompanied before the disaster occurs, this will ensure updated skills and knowledge of local response structures improving response effectiveness.
 - Policies that integrate volunteers management needs to ensure that disaster preparedness and emergency response will have a local level response faster and more efficient in support of disaster management systems.
 - National legislations need to consider safety and protection measures for volunteers in time of crisis and emergencies.
 - Volunteers contribute to public safety in times of crisis and disasters.
 - Schools should integrate volunteer principles in their curricula to foster a stronger volunteer sense.

2. Recommendations to improve volunteer in disaster risk management

- Advocate for policy changes that include funding and liability protection for volunteer management.
- Advocate for local partnerships or coalitions centred on volunteers.
- Advocate for curriculum change in schools.
- Every individual should recognize its responsibility in disaster risk management in their communities.

3. Concrete actions

- National and local authorities should engage community groups and recognize their contribution to disaster risk reduction.
- Civil society groups, national and local governments should promote policies that recognize the value of volunteers in disaster risk management.
- International Disaster Response Law should be adopted by governments integrating the volunteer aspect to make it more accessible and easy.
- Develop common language and understanding of what a volunteer is and its role in DRM.
- Develop better definitions of roles and responsibilities between national authorities and local authorities with community organizations.
- Sensitize authorities on the importance of volunteers to support small scale disasters and the role of volunteers plays in the public sensitization.



Parallel 7 **Building Resilience in Cities**

Panel

Moderato: Mr. Michel C. Doré, Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada

Speakers:

Mr. Robert Glasser, United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction

Mr. Clark Somerville, Haltom Hills Mayor, Canada

Mr. José Manuel Corral, Santa Fe Mayor, Argentina

Ms. Anie Samson, City of Montreal Vice-Chair, Canada

Ms. Jacinta Mercedes Estévez, Santo Domingo Vice Mayor, Dominican Republic

Mr. Hector Leonel Flores Garcia, Councilor, Guatemala City, Guatemala

Objective

Identify challenges, lessons learned and next steps through case studies taken from the Americas region for the development of local DRR plans to support achievement of the Sendai Framework at local level.

Measurable Outcomes

Development of four best practices and actions to be included in the UN International Strategy on DRR Local Strategy Methodological Guide, which provides information on drafting resilient plans.

Session Summary

Mr. Clark Somerville, Mayor of Halton Hills (Ontario, Canada) and President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Mr. Somerville highlighted that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) includes communities of all sizes that may be affected by various disasters. For many years, they have been affected by forest fires, ice storms, and floods, among other things. With the changing climate, the challenges are even greater.

When a disaster occurs, it is communities that have to deal with them. The FCM works to ensure that municipalities of all sizes have the tools to deal with them and collaborates with the federal government on issues that impact municipalities.

Governments and first responders have expertise; however, funding is limited. In Canada, the federal government has a role to play, particularly with the National Disaster Mitigation Program. The FCM also offers training and funding programs for Canadian cities and communities making the transition from a vision of the future to a sustainable reality (Green Municipal Fund, Municipalities for Climate Innovation, etc.).

Internationally, Canadian experts are developing links with their counterparts in other countries, especially in the Caribbean, by providing aid to these countries after a disaster. The FCM established the Haiti-Canada Municipal Cooperation Program to strengthen the institutional capacity of regional communities affected by the 2010 earthquake, in order to give them a leading role in the reconstruction of Haiti.

The challenges faced by certain countries are enormous. The FCM and Canadian municipalities are in the forefront in helping with reconstruction after disasters, in support of the principles of the Sendai Framework.

Dr. Robert Glaser, United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction

Mr. Glaser noted that urban resilience has been tested by floods and nuclear accidents, among other things. The need for a new urban agenda was recognized, approved and adopted by the UN in 2015.

The major phenomenon of urbanization, the complexity of modern cities and new constructions to accommodate the needs of urban populations require enormous investments. These investments should be based on risk analyses, in particular the risk of flooding, which represents a significant percentage of disasters around the world.

The annual cost estimate for disasters is significant, but remains an estimate only. We know that these estimates do not take into account disasters that pass under the radar. Therefore, the numbers remain very approximate.

Natural events that have major impacts remain difficult to predict, and have an even greater impact due to the vulnerability of populations, which is often linked to poverty. Urban resilience is therefore at the heart of risk reduction measures around the world and of sustainable development for human institutions, in cooperation with UN-Habitat. In particular, the Sendai Framework is intended to improve the understanding of all risk factors for catastrophes. As such, UNISDR has developed an initiative, Making Cities Resilient. With this initiative, cities around the world are committed to action and we plan to continue to increase the number of cities over the next few years.

To meet our risk reduction targets, I would like to emphasize certain key elements:

- The importance of the quality of data used to add value to our economic argument in favour of prevention
- Land development and construction
- Increasing local and individual capacity to deal with disasters both regionally and nationally
- Measuring resilience at all levels to identify gaps
- The importance of access to funding (national, international) and accountability

Representatives from four cities share their challenges with us.

Anie Samson, Vice-president of the Executive Committee in charge of public safety and resident services, City of Montreal

Ms. Samson articulated that Montreal is the first Canadian city recognized in the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities network. The city's gains in civil safety and risk planning have brought it international recognition and helped make it a part of this network.

Advice to develop a resilience strategy:

- Challenges must be prioritized and there must be strong support from the city's administration.
- A responsible person must be identified and a dedicated civil safety service established in order to prioritize actions.

- A person responsible for urban resilience must also be identified, who is in charge of developing links between different services. This person must also be capable of urgently meeting partners and understand civil safety.

Emphasis must be placed on the importance of networking and sharing best practices, especially preventative practices. Continuous improvement and learning from others.

Challenges:

The challenge of communicating with citizens is significant. For example, to respond to the industrial risk in the east end of the city, we test the sirens every year in order to inform the local population about this risk, and, at the same time, to test the industrial sirens.

Our population is diverse: young people, elderly people, multicultural. It remains a challenge to meet with the greatest number of people possible during an intervention. By telephone (landline, cell phone), we need to adopt new technological tools to better reach the population.

In Canada, the 72-hour kit is an important communication tool, but in fact, citizens do not have one. We should think about and question how we are doing things.

Organizing large-scale exercises with multiple partners also poses some challenges. In Montreal, we organized a “table-top” exercise concerning a train and hazardous materials accident last year with Canadian National railway and other partners. Bringing together all these partners takes a long time, but it is necessary. Next spring, we are planning a second field exercise.

Resilience and civil safety are the responsibility of municipalities in Quebec. The 19 boroughs of Montreal are ready to intervene. We are working with our partners—community partners, socio-economic partners—who are helping us intervene where there are vulnerable persons and based on the needs of these persons.

We cannot foresee all events, but it is our responsibility to be ready to get moving and intervene quickly. In 2013, Quebec was shaken by the Lac-Mégantic rail tragedy. No one could have predicted or prepared for this event.

This led to questioning not only our plans and our emergency interventions, but also of our reconstruction efforts after disasters, especially with regard to applicable FCM guidelines for new developments in proximity to railway activities. A joint Canada-United States committee was also established to better prevent this kind of accident in the future. Collaboration is therefore essential in ensuring the safety of our population and the resilience of our cities.

José Manual Corral, Mayor, Sante Fe, Argentina

The city of Santa Fe has 400,000 inhabitants, with another 660,000 in the surrounding metropolitan region. Several water-related risks: intense rain, floods. These events are becoming more frequent due to climate change.

Challenges in Santa Fe:

In the past, several poor decisions were made as far as urbanism and investment in infrastructure is concerned.

The city also faces challenges due to social vulnerabilities among its population (unemployment, crime, etc.).

The challenge is therefore to deal with emergencies and to decrease exposure to these risks. Regional planning is essential. A new urban plan emphasizes the protection of certain ecosystems and the construction of nature reservoirs, among other things. We focused on preventing risks in vulnerable areas: interventions in regions with greater vulnerability, development of social programs, and construction of an industrial park to increase employment. We should be better prepared to improve our citizens' quality of life. We are starting to see the positive results of these initiatives.

Resilience should be a cross-sectoral policy. There must be wide political consensus. All development within the city should be taken into account and considered in the medium term. Investments should be made over more than one generation and we should explain our decisions to our citizens.

In terms of educating the public, material is available for teachers, for example, information about evacuations. Teaching efforts are made during periods of peace.

Ms. Jacinta Mercedes Estevez, Vice-mayor, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Ms. Estevez discussed that challenges in Santo Domingo:

The city is located on the coast, close to tectonic fault lines. There is a risk for hurricanes and floods.

The city is expanding horizontally in a disorganized manner. Urban regulations should be put in place and construction should be strengthened.

The municipality is working with its partners and the central government, particularly to move populations from vulnerable zones and to rebuild streets and access roads.

The steps for reducing risk are: planning, coordination, mapping (especially evacuation routes), and evaluating how to resettle displaced families.

Mr. Hector Leonel Flores Garcia, Councillor, Guatemala City, Guatemala

Mr. Garcia highlighted the challenges in Guatemala City:

There are several risks in our region (volcanoes, fires, tropical storms, etc.). Managing these risks and vulnerabilities requires an approach that reflects our values. Humans are first of all concerned with their own interests. We must take others into account to better understand the risks. We must work this way, because if not, it leads to indifference and a lack of confidence in authorities.

To deal with this problem based on our values, we must work with families and take their values into consideration. Listening to citizens helps them feel more involved. Citizen and social rehabilitation organizations are very important in Guatemala City.

We must not forget the communication element: a major challenge. Our country is also multiethnic. We need to work toward efficient communication, as our plans will fail if we cannot properly communicate them. It is one thing to communicate in one language, but everyone will understand differently depending on their culture. All of our efforts must be inclusive and must use procedures to communicate alerts quickly.

- Service value (between public and citizen services, but also between citizens)
- Loyalty value
- Confidence value—for true communication

It is important to know the region being administered, to have all the budgets available depending on the tax base, to keep all the revenue necessary for efficient interventions, and to understand the territory to better combat vulnerabilities. For us, this starts with a three-dimensional land model that even lets us know the volume of buildings (for example, how many floors need to be evacuated in case of emergency). Therefore, when we have a new construction project, we can intervene in a preventative manner.

The community organization will always be the local response unit that best responds to needs. We are trying to develop a model plan that can be applied to other cities in the rest of the country.

To deal with climate change, we are still very reactive in our country, which is 4th in the world in terms of vulnerability. Local governments should still organize their response on a case by case basis. However, we have a telephone app that is available for all organizations, which allows them to send out alerts quickly using a specific protocol for all stakeholders. This helps maximize reactions for everyone involved.

Summary by Michel Doré, Moderator

- Resilience should be based on knowledge of risks, as well as solid and verified evidence
- Importance of local governments and civil society
- Importance of outreach and communication with the population and between governments and municipalities
- Importance of reconciling economic questions and priorities—need for wide consensus
- Citizen engagement

Questions

Preguntas



Parallel 8
Engaging with the Private Sector to Understand and Reduce Risks

Panel

Moderators:

Ms. Kiki Lawal, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction for Private Sector

Mr. Craig Stewart, Insurance Bureau of Canada

Speakers:

Mr. Dale Sands, CH2M

Mr. Bruce McArthur, Tesera Systems Inc.

Ms. Karen Smith, United Nations

Mr. Josh Bashioum, Early Warning Labs

Mr. Juan Pablo Sarmiento, Florida International University, Extreme Events Institute

Mr. Jair Torres, Unit for DRR and Resilience of UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Paris

Mr. Robert Turnbull, R and J Turnbull Ltd

Ms. Angela Gómez, National Association of Business Owners of Colombia

Mr. David Greenall, PwC's Sustainable Solutions Practice

Mr. David Young, Boston Consulting Group

Mr. Gonzalo Diaz de Valdes Olavarrieta, Transbank

Objectives

1. To promote the implementation of the Sendai Framework through knowledge and understanding of disaster risk within the private sector.
2. To discuss the key role, achievements and perspective of the private sector in the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the Americas.
3. To discuss initiatives and good practices that take into account a risk sensitive approach as well as investments in DRR and resilience.
4. To showcase practical examples of how the public, private and not-for-profit sector can work together to improve knowledge concerning flood risk and deliver tangible risk assessment and risk mitigation initiatives.

Measurable Outcomes

1. Develop guidelines and recommendations for the establishment of national chapters of ARISE and other private sector initiatives in support of the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the Americas.
2. Make available to participants case studies comprised of leading private-sector-led initiatives and models that can be applied to risk reduction and risk mitigation efforts across other jurisdictions and all tiers of government.

Session Summary

The “Engaging with the Private Sector to Understand and Reduce Risks” session was hosted by the Insurance Bureau of Canada and ARISE, the UNISDR’s Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies, with moderators Kiki Lawal, Craig Stewart and Angela Gomez. Kiki Lawal and Dale Sands kicked off the session by emphasizing the common interests businesses and governments have in building resiliency and stressed the need to work together to develop solutions.

Case studies from Bruce MacArthur, Jair Torres, Josh Bashoium and Robert Turnbull highlighted several examples of how the private sector across the Americas have been impacted by and responded to the risks and challenges facing their communities due to climate change and disasters. Each portion of the session was followed by a Questions & Answers session with conference delegates.

The private sector can play an important role in risk reduction and building resilience. In many countries, private sector companies and organizations have operated in isolation, but some countries have embraced a different option. Both the public and private sector have a vested interest in working together to improve societal resilience. A key part of building community resilience is preparing the private sector to weather the effects of disaster and Juan-Pablo Sarmiento, Dr. Gonzalo Diaz de Valdes Olavarrieta and Karen Smith showed ARISE in action with tools and programs to help businesses prepare.

Dale Sands underscored the importance of bringing together the public and private sectors to address increasing frequency and intensity of global disaster losses and the shift in opinion on the part of governments concerning the role that the private sector can play working alongside governments to help communities, and countries become more resilient. Angela Gomez Rodriguez outlined Columbia's experience in creating a national ARISE chapter showcased the value in embracing the private sector as a partner in advancing the Sendai framework priorities.

The Sendai Framework provides a vehicle for private sector actors to coordinate their activities and to work alongside their nations governments to strengthen their national response to catastrophic events. Within the seven broad ARISE themes the private sector is able to partner with the public sector to advance DRM strategies, investment metrics, benchmarking and standards, education and training, legal and regulatory issues, urban risk reduction and resilience and insurance.

Kiki Lawal and Angela Gomez announced the creation of a new ARISE chapter in Canada. The new chapter will provide an opportunity for public/private collaboration in developing resilient communities and for the creation of emergency and disaster plans based on the Sendai Framework four priorities for action.

As part of the broader ARISE network, Canada will be able to learn from other ARISE national organizations, and to share expertise and best practices with others. David Greenall and Dale Sands spoke about how ARISE Canada can provide leadership for Canadian businesses. ARISE Canada will respond to the challenge of working in cooperation with governments at all levels to better understand and improve the national response to the many risks diverse range of disasters Canada experiences. The session ended with a formal signing of agreement to establish the Canadian ARISE chapter.



Parallel 9

High Risk Population as Agents of Change for Disaster Risk Reduction

Panel

Moderator: Ms. Susana Urbano, RET International

Speakers:

Mr. Carlos Kaiser, Inclusiva

Mr. Saul Zenteno, Manatee Foundation

Ms. Andria Grosvenor, Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency

Ms. Tracey O'Sullivan, University of Ottawa

Objective

1. Discuss the regional contexts where risk reduction actions need to be adapted to include High Risk Populations (HRP) contributions.
2. Promote the integration of differentiated needs of HRP into comprehensive policies for DRR.

Measurable Outcomes

1. Document and recommend tangible actions for the active participation of HRP as change agents at all levels – local, national, regional and global – toward each of the Sendai Framework Priorities.
2. Draft and share key advocacy messages for Governments (national and local) that integrate HRP contexts and capacities into national and local DRR plans, policies and structures.

Session Summary

The panel started with Mr. Carlos Kaiser sharing his unique perspective regarding the inclusion of people with disabilities of DRR as an agent of change, and how it is a matter to change minds and influence in a different way to be really included, and not just participating, during the whole DRR Process.

Tracy O'Sullivan, from the University of Toronto, analysed the perspective of how investment and incentives can be used for a stronger inclusion and participation of HRP. Jose Paes from Chile, winner of the DRR Youth Video Challenge, took the perspective of youth and inclusion. Andria Grosvenor from the Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency showcased the importance of inclusion and how HRPs need to be integrated into the regional DRR frameworks in order to be effective.

The session began with speakers sharing their knowledge and personal perspectives. Several themes were raised including:

- This area is an agenda item because there is a reality that HRP are not being viewed or included from a strength perspective.
- Using the analogy of a building that is not accessible, the question becomes where does the 'fault' lie? It is bigger than looking at the architect; it's about a broader societal approach / perspective where environments are created that make barriers permissible.
- No longer should those that are disabled not be considered in all policy development etc. that takes place within the realm of DRM.
- Rates of survival for HRPs are lower and rates of injury higher than the non-HRPs and this is unacceptable especially for 15% of the world's population.
- The HRP community has ideas and consulting services that produce, expand and share knowledge; there are reports, research, all types of inputs and training developed
- (e.g. Disability Inclusion Management Network for Latin America the Caribbean) that the HRP community needs to be tapped into in order to share this knowledge and strengthen discussion and decision-making.
- This includes inclusion in Build Back Better.
- Asset mapping is a powerful tool that engages a whole-of-society approach – and a whole-of-society

approach requires whole-of-society participation which in turn requires opportunity and opportunity requires investment (finance, time, energy).

- Asset mapping results in a list of assets that exist in the community – both within and outside of people; but also need to know how to mobilize the assets that are available – how to develop the confidence and motivation to act.
- Not only is a list / database formed of community resources and supports formed but the process creates awareness, relationship building and connectedness.
- Dedicated positions in the community where active engagement of citizens can be a priority would make a big difference.
- Need investment of time and finances to support Sendai Framework implementation.

Base on the previous online consultation, the main question guided the discussion. The session was broken into five workgroups, each discussing key messages and actions to reinforce HRP as agents of change in each of the four Sendai priority areas and a fifth workgroup looked at the theme of transversalisation.

1. Understanding disaster risk

- We must encourage, promote and ensure the effective participation of people in vulnerable groups.
- The academic sector has many important contributions that can be applied to real situations, for this it is necessary to extend a bridge and collect good practices.
- Vulnerable groups' capabilities should be considered along with their vulnerabilities, in this way, the reasons for which they are to be actively and systematically included will become evident.

2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage such risk

- Needs must be made visible in government plans, based on a comprehensive diagnosis of the situation (where, how many people, exposure, specific needs, and how they can contribute).
- Specific measures must be taken so that decision makers learn to:
- Understand the benefits/advantages (WHAT) of including the entire population according to their needs.
- Integrate (HOW) through effective tools for different levels.
- Be accountable and demonstrate progress: markers, follow-up, reports and proposals
- That shelters and actions take needs into account.
- We agree that yes, taking into account the risk and the vulnerable population's level of risk.
- The proposals presented by the priority population must be fully taken into account by strategic and operational decision-makers.

3. Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience

- Conduct a mapping of public and private investment on DRR.
- Invest in local capacity to protect productive, community and livelihood assets.
- Invest resources upstream to ensure inclusivity for all.
- Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.
- Promote mentality changes and understanding about inclusion, vulnerability.
- Document lessons learned from past experiences.
- Involve vulnerable groups in drafting disaster preparedness policies and legislation with an inclusive approach, as well as in implementation.
- Mapping through technology to identify vulnerable groups; work with them in all stages of risk management.
- Emphasize the importance of ensuring implementation at all levels.
- Change the focus of how we view vulnerable populations, who are agents of change.
- What do we mean by inclusion? Need to recognize diversity, not standardize the response, as there are different realities to different groups.
- Recommendation for the Regional Action Plan of the Americas
- Provide a space to be heard in meaningful participation, including decision making.
- Ongoing check-in and buy-in from all stakeholders. Develop a system of transparency and accountability.
- At all levels of government, the “all society approach” needs to be engrained in order to collect adequate and complete data. Incorporate this methodology into the census.

Public Forum

To complement the Regional Platform, a unique side event called the Public Forum was put forward to stakeholders across Canada and North, Central and South America and the Caribbean. The Public Forum provided a selection of targeted results oriented workshops that were opened to everyone, including the public. These sessions allowed individuals to participate in meaningful dialogue on DRR at the global and hemispheric level.

Location

Brandon University

Concordia

Laurentian

North Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT)

University of Popayan in Colombia

University of Quebec at Montreal (UQAM)

Vancouver NRCAN

York University

Objectives

1. Through Public Engagement, to enrich the dialogue and inclusiveness associated with Canada's hosting of the RP17;
2. Contribute to the RP17 through a selection of targeted results oriented workshops run in parallel (open to the public);
3. To help shape the Action Plan stemming from the Platform; and
4. To facilitate collaborative relationships across academia, Industry, NGO, government and general public.

Measurable outcomes

1. Public Forum is a deliverable and outcome of RP17:
 - Creating networks
 - Capturing data points regarding leading thoughts on DRR
2. Results from Public Forum will help identify key areas of research to facilitate educational program development across the Americas:
 - Design 'high level' educational program elements

Session Summary from UQAM

A partnership with the Institut des Sciences de l'environnement (ISE) at the UQAM was developed to hold a public forum to complement the discussions at the RP17. Twenty-one experts participated as well as some 100 participants during the panel discussions at UQAM, which focused on health, emergency preparedness and land use planning.

The health panel identified prevention as a key element in DRR at various levels and with various means and resources. The implementation of best practices has to take place at the individual level through citizen empowerment.

Also to be taken into consideration, are logistical challenges at the provincial level and in remote areas, and the domino effect with respect to critical infrastructure.

Better prevention is achievable in various ways: better access to information, intensified awareness to develop a risk culture and more consistent messaging to promote better communication of risk. Given the scant resources devoted to prevention, it is important to come up with strong, diverse and consistent economic arguments to demonstrate the cost-benefit realities of investing in this area.

With environmental changes producing an increase in weather-related hazards, the challenges of adaptation and emergency preparedness are growing. With a view to increasing public and infrastructure resilience, the panel pointed to priority areas to be developed or strengthened: changing risk assessment methods based essentially on historical data, and incorporating shifting exposure factors related to climate change; implementing an adaptive management mode to improve reflection on practices and the systematization of feedback; and promoting the motivation of all stakeholders by adapting legal frameworks and facilitating citizen participation.

DRR must be integrated into land use planning to make it a resilience vector. The risk reporting scheme set out in the Quebec Civil Protection Act should be reflected in the Act Respecting Land Use Planning and Development, so that civil protection can be incorporated into planning measures. To that end, regional county municipalities (MCRs) should establish ways of identifying areas subject to major risks or constraints. In this regard, the importance of buffer zones providing freedom for natural systems to operate was emphasized as a way of reducing impacts. Risk prevention should also address infrastructure construction and maintenance practices. There seems to be a consensus on the need to incorporate the various risks affecting land in order to define the best planning strategies, in particular through multi-risk mapping.

A number of transverse themes also emerged throughout the forum. It is important to emphasize the continuing

role of research and improve academic capabilities in order to train specialists able to understand the complexity of risk management in a context of climate change. This is also essential with respect to the identification of multi-source or multi-dimensional risk factors, and making it possible to draw lessons from major events, both historical and recent, and develop or update our knowledge of current and future trends with respect to weather-related hazards, and vulnerability and exposure factors.

Every panel noted the importance of reducing barriers within and between organizations in order to promote a trans-sectoral approach and systematic feedback. To that end, we should be guided by international models, particularly the hydrometeorological early warning system adopted by Météo France, which includes a weather watch in which advisories on appropriate rules and behaviour are targeted for the authorities and for members of the public when the more serious alerts – orange and red – are issued. Lastly, better communication and free access to information are essential to protect individuals and develop more resilient communities.

It was emphasized that a cultural shift is needed in Canada with respect to DRR, whereby the issue would be addressed via a comprehensive, intersectoral approach. This cultural shift should lead to a proactive and preventive approach, rather than a reactive approach based on disaster response. To that end, it should involve better knowledge of risks, citizen participation, and action to improve resilience on the part of public and private stakeholders.

This ideal can be achieved only through improved awareness among decision-makers of the economic, social and environmental benefits inherent in a preventive approach, and of the investment needed in renewed research that is intersectoral and forms part of the study of natural risks.



Second Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in the Americas

The Second Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities in the Americas was held on March 9, 2017 as part of the three-day of the RP17. The meeting was chaired by the Honourable Ralph Goodale, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada (PS) – see annex for meeting agenda.

Meeting participants included:

- Ministers and High-level Authorities from member states in the Americas;
- Observers from international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector; and
- Government of Canada representatives.

The main focus of the meeting was discussion and adoption of the Montreal Declaration and Regional Action Plan (RAP), which had been developed and negotiated in advance by Canada. Countries expressed appreciation for the inclusive process used to develop the documents and praised Canada for its deft negotiating skills. During the development process, a number of detailed activities were submitted by countries and organizations for potential inclusion in the RAP. For reference, a list of these activities is annexed.

The meeting also included a session and discussion on challenges and priorities within the region. In the interest of targeting the dialogue, Canada had conducted a survey of countries and regional organizations in advance of the RPA to seek input on the greatest challenges and priorities facing the region from a DRR perspective. The results of this survey were consolidated and presented to countries, with a view to enriching the dialogue around the Montreal Declaration and RAP, as well as serving as a potential baseline for future regional platforms.

Survey Results

Top National Priorities

- Enhancing early warning systems, particularly for multi-hazards.
- Integration of risk management in planning at all levels.
- Building risk information/knowledge and strengthening communication/accessibility.
- Strengthening institutions and policy/regulatory frameworks.
- Fostering public-private partnerships.

Top Regional Priorities

- Collecting and exchanging best practices, lessons learned, risk information and maps.
- Strengthening regional coordination and collaboration for preparedness and response.
- Enhancing capacity and access to resources.

Regional and/or National DRR - Strategy and alignment with the Sendai Framework

- Most countries having specific DRR strategies in place, while others have national plans with DRR integrated.
- Alignment with Sendai is also mixed. Several countries indicated that legislative and policy frameworks still need to be updated and aligned with the Sendai Framework.

DRR strategies/plans integration with Climate Change and Sustainable Development

- Most countries indicated that DRR strategies are integrated with climate change and sustainable development.
- Feedback from stakeholder organizations
 - Aligned closely with feedback from countries.
 - Tended to be more sectoral in focus.

It was recommended that the survey be conducted again in advance of the next regional platform to determine if challenges and priorities had changed over time, notably whether the RAP was seen to be having a positive impact. It was further suggested that the outcomes of the survey could help to guide the development of the programs for future regional platforms, in particular subsequent meetings of Ministers and High Level Authorities.

Countries felt that the results of the survey accurately reflected the current state of affairs in the region and that the RAP as developed was well scoped to assist with addressing the priorities and challenges identified.

Substantively, a number of countries and stakeholders in the room brought forward additional comments and suggested revisions to the Montreal Declaration and RAP. Notably, there were several calls for ensuring the perspective and needs of diverse groups were more strongly reflected in the texts with specific comments around more pronounced references to Indigenous peoples, women and girls, children and peoples with disabilities.

Further, a number of island states came forward with a request to include language in the RAP around the specific vulnerability and needs of small island developing states (SIDS). This led to a vibrant discussion on how to appropriately recognize the vulnerability of SIDS, without detracting from the extensive vulnerability to hazards that exists across the Americas. In the end, language from the Sendai Framework was used to address this issue and to reflect the vulnerability of SIDS.

At the end of the meeting, a historic RAP, which identifies initiatives that countries and organizations in the region can pursue, was approved as well as the Declaration of Montreal, which reiterates the commitment at the highest levels in the region to implementing the Sendai Framework, reducing disaster risk and building resilient communities.



Closing Ceremony

Closing Remarks by Robert Glasser

United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much for your hard work, including the ministerial session, to agree an outcome that is really a wonderful and historic landmark outcome for work on DRR in the region. You know, there are so many agendas out there that are vague and political and float along at a high level and that are very hard to grabble onto, but this is not one of those agendas. This is an agenda if you look back historically where by working globally with a global framework, regional commitment and with the commitment of key people like the people – us, in this room, you, in this room, have been able to achieve enormous progress over the last decade in reducing loss of life through early warning, evacuation storm shelters and now with the Sendai Framework moving further to actually embedding efforts to reduce risk in core economic planning and decision making so that we don't continue to create additional risk in the very challenging decades ahead.

It's been a real honour and a pleasure for me to join with you in these last three days. A pleasure because I know there is a spirit in the room and has been for the last few days of commitment to this critical issue of reducing disaster risk.

There have been over the last few days close to a thousand participants from 33 different countries and the region, and I think that's an indication of the growing importance and significance and relevance of this issue for all of us. It also, I think, underlines the importance of working towards disaster risk sensitive sustainable development and that is going to be critical to achieving the SDGs this agenda that our countries around the world and the UN have embraced for the future.

I'd like to also congratulate the high level participation and representation from so many sectors through – and reflected in the substance of the plenary sessions, the parallel sessions and the side events, and of course the adoption of the regional plan of action that I know our host, Canada, will be sharing in a moment with us. As you know, the Sendai Framework emphasizes the need to move from managing disasters to managing risk, disaster risk, and this transition is of course the only we're ever going to get out ahead of the growing humanitarian response needs by working on prevention.

The outcomes achieved at the Platform are going to help national and local governments strengthen the links as well between climate change risk, disaster risk more generally and economic development which is going to be absolutely essential.

We've also had some discussions about the most urgent and most rapidly coming deadline in the Sendai Framework which is to have national and local strategies by 2020.

I want to really thank sincerely the Government of Canada and the people of Canada and the people of Montreal for hosting this meeting. Minister Goodale, I appreciate your leadership on this issue and the great work of your staff, Assistant Deputy Minister Lori MacDonald and her team, including Jacqueline Randall, who was the head of the Secretariat for this work.

I also want to thank the security team. I cannot remember ever being at a meeting where the security team that is designed to prevent – to present – to protect us has been so friendly and helpful and I don't know of another country where I have seen that.

It's usually kind of aloof and serious and threatening. I felt very safe here and also I wanted to get to know those people. And of course everything else, all of the other arrangements just went through so efficiently and effectively from the food to the arrangements, the movements of people and everything.

I finally I want to acknowledge the wonderful UNISDR team. You're incredible. You're amazing. You've done amazing work, and I really want to acknowledge that. And our team in the regional office as is also true of our teams in our other regions and in Geneva and elsewhere are really able to do huge amounts by working so hard and effectively, so thank you to the UNISDR team.

Thank you very much



Closing remarks by Ms. Anie Samson Vice-chair of the Executive Committee of the City of Montreal and responsible for public safety and citizen services.

Buenas tardes, good afternoon, bonjour à tous. Good afternoon community representatives. Mr. Goodale, Canada's Public Safety Minister, Mr. Glasser, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for DRR, Mr. Kevin Deer, Indigenous community representative, and of course the Indigenous friends who are with us today as proud representatives of their community.

Good afternoon everyone. Needless to say, the City of Montreal was especially proud to have hosted this Fifth Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas. Many congratulations to the organizing committee. Unfortunately, Mother Nature was a no-show, and for that I apologize. I tried my best to order fantastic weather, but instead it was mild, it was cold, and it even snowed, so you really got a bit of everything.

As this meeting draws to a close, I am even more certain of one thing. Together we can do so much more and so much better, and together we can make a real difference in people's lives. At the end of the day, this event provided us with a forum to advance an understanding of the major risks and to share state-of-the-art expertise from all corners of the Americas. It also gave us the opportunity to mutually affirm our commitment and our determination, to do everything we can to save lives and avert significant economic loss.

Over the past three days, we have had the opportunity not only to define strategies to mitigate the impact of natural disasters as they may occur, but more importantly, to exchange views on the best practices we need to adopt, and to react more effectively and more intelligently towards achieving greater resilience and preparedness. When challenged by large-scale calamities, some of us have been thrown into the unfortunate position of having to learn too quickly, too drastically.

Ecuador and Panama are cases in point, where people recently had to cope with particularly devastating earthquakes. Closer to home, our colleagues in Alberta had to coordinate the evacuation of tens of thousands of people in the path of the Fort McMurray wildfires. In 2005, first-line responders had to confront the desolation left in New Orleans by Katrina, one of the deadliest hurricanes in the history of the United States, while Hurricane Matthew impacted countless lives in Haiti.

And finally, I cannot fail to mention the two great tragedies that occurred right here in Quebec: the rail disaster that struck the heart of Lac-Mégantic, and the ice storm that in the dead of winter deprived some 900,000 Quebec households of electricity. I don't have to tell you it's no joke being without electricity when it's minus 20 degrees outside.

For Montreal, the 2017 Regional Platform represented a unique opportunity to re-affirm our international and national leadership on topics such as resilient communities, DRR, climate change and sustainable development. In this regard, our city, Montreal, is particularly active. In recent years, we have taken part in a number of major events initiated by the United Nations, including the Sendai Conference and the Paris Climate Conference, COP21, when 195 States pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Of course, we cannot forget Habitat III, which took place in Quito and resulted in the adoption of a new urban agenda. With its many head offices of international United Nations agencies such as the International Civil Aviation Organization, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Montreal has the distinction today of being Canada's United Nations city.

Twice over the past year, we have had the honour of welcoming the Secretary-General of the United Nations to Montreal. Like Sydney, London, Paris, Singapore, Barcelona, Santa Fe and Guatemala City, the City of Montreal has also been admitted to the select club of 100 resilient cities, a network initiated and supported by the Rockefeller Foundation. Membership in this group is testimony to an international recognition of our expertise in risk management and prevention. Cities have a leading role – as clearly expressed this week – to play in the face of tragedies that may disrupt our balance.

Cities, more than anything else, need to think before not after the fact, and put solid prevention measures in place to ensure their people's health and safety. Their thoughts and concerns must not be limited to just natural disasters. They must – and that was the focus of a panel in which we took part yesterday afternoon – they must also reflect on other risks, look at underlying issues that may erode the urban fabric and adversely impact their stability, such as the integration of newcomers, racial tensions, unemployment, cleanliness, poverty and access to housing.

Through this face of resilience, the City of Montreal hopes to go beyond emergency planning but to develop additional capacities in particular so that it can quickly return to a functional state after either natural or human disturbances. We have already implemented cross-cutting strategies that, for example, are intended to adapt the city to climate change, institute technological solutions to become an even smarter city and thus offer our people the best in services.

In short, we are all working together to better anticipate the challenges of the 21st century and, more importantly, to meet those challenges. I hope you leave this meeting feeling not only inspired, stimulated and enriched, but more motivated than ever, just as we are. I also hope that each and every one of you has enjoyed your stay in Montreal, this beautiful city, and that you have taken time to discover some of its more joyful aspects.

While on that topic, I cannot fail to remind you that we are celebrating the 375th anniversary of the founding of Montreal this year and that Canada, represented by Minister Goodale, is celebrating its 150th anniversary. We'll be celebrating all across Canada this year, but I think it's safe to say that we will be celebrating especially hard in Montreal.

I would therefore like to take this opportunity to invite you to join in the many festivities that will be taking place in the coming months. Consider it an invitation to you. It's still chilly outside, but it will be warming up in the coming weeks and countless activities are planned throughout the summer. But I'd be remiss if I didn't tell you to be on your guard, because the greatest risk you face by setting foot in Montreal is that you may never want to leave. So I am sure we will meet again.

Thank you everyone.



Closing Remarks by the Honourable Ralph Goodale Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada

Excellencies, ministers, colleagues, distinguished guests, ladies and gentleman, on behalf of Canada let me say how please we are to have hosted this important event over the last three days in the City of Montreal, and I want to thank all of you for your attendance and your participation.

When you think of natural disasters and man-made disasters, and each of our home jurisdictions we can think of our own list of those things that affected us and our families and our communities in a profound way. Here in Canada, just in the last little while, I can think of very massive overland flooding in my home Prairie region of Western Canada that has affected so many people in such a devastating way in three of the last five years.

Just a few weeks ago, I think of a very major ice storm that affected the Atlantic Provinces in our country. Last years, I think of that vicious wild fire that swept over the community of Fort McMurray in Northern Alberta and forced the immediate evacuation of 90,000 people. I think of the train disaster three years ago in Lac-Mégantic here in the Province of Quebec. And when events like that happen, you see the raw courage of the people in those affected communities and how they stand up to the adverse circumstances that are thrust upon them. You see the amazing work of first responders, firefighters and paramedics and police officers and others and volunteers who come to rescue people and save lives and to stop the carnage.

You see the leadership of local and provincial or State or national officials who may for the most part contend with the humdrum of public policy and political life, but when there is a crisis thrust upon them they rise to the occasion with amazing leadership. You see organizations like the Red Cross that rallies support to help in the rescue efforts. You see the amazing generosity of the general citizenship of a country maybe far removed from the disaster itself, but feeling compelled to do their part to say to the people who are affected by the disaster, “we’ve got your back”.

You see all of those things when a disaster strikes and you get through it. And then afterward, two things: you think, what did we learn from that experience? And what can we do better to make sure that when it happens again – and it inevitably sadly, it will happen again – what can we do better next time? To save lives better, to protect health and safety better, to protect property and livelihoods and our culture and heritage better.

Well, that's what the Sendai process is all about. And that's what these Regional Platforms are all about. What can we learn from what we've lived through in the past? And how can we pull together better to deal with those kinds of circumstances in the future more effectively? And the Sendai process under the auspices of the United Nations have given us the opportunity globally to share our wisdom, to share our experiences, to share our ability to collaborate and cooperate and to make sure that the whole world can be, next time, more resilient, to save lives better, to protect health and safety better, to safeguard livelihoods and culture and heritage better.

We need to anticipate. We need to plan and prepare. We need to sharpen our skills at rescue and recovery. We need to build more resilience and among our various jurisdictions in the Americas and in other regions around the world, we need to share our expertise, our knowledge, our science, our learning so that the whole world can benefit.

I want to thank those who started the Sendai process some years ago. I want to thank Paraguay for launching the first effort. Canada is proud to carry on this effort in Montreal and we're looking forward to sharing our common experience in the Americas with the rest of the world when we meet in Cancun later on this spring.

Thank you to Mr. Glasser and his UN office that provides so much depth and experience and expertise in pulling all this together. Thank you to the City of Montreal, probably Canada's most international city, for your generous hosting and for the security services which I'm delighted that Mr. Glasser noted. They're not only tough and effective; they're also kind of friendly which is a good thing. Thank you to my own staff in the Canadian Department of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, my Associate Deputy Minister Gina Wilson and to all of the other staff.

And in the week that includes International Women's Day, I have to note that the vast majority of that executive staff are in fact women, and thank you for your wonderful leadership.

And thanks to all of the attendees. There is a lot of formality and protocol with international meetings, but in this one there was a tremendous amount of hard work and substance too. And as Mr. Glasser mentioned, right up until that last meeting a couple of hours ago when the final draftsmanship of the Montreal Declaration and the Action Plan was finalized.

The people who came to this discussion came to work, came to achieve something, not just to have a pleasant conversation with international colleagues but to move the yardsticks, to have something of real substance to present at Cancun to the rest of the world and to carry on the Sendai process year after year to make the world a safer, healthier and more secure place. To all of you for the effort that you have made and the hard work that you have contributed to this process, on behalf of Prime Minister Trudeau and the Government of Canada, let me say a very sincere thank you. We are proud to be your partners and look forward to the ongoing international collaboration.

Thank you so much

Visual Synthesis Summary





Final Words

The RP17 brought together delegates from across the Americas to discuss efforts to reduce disaster risks posed by natural and human-induced hazards and to approve a RAP to meet UN Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030 commitments in the region.

RP17 came after a year that has thrown the spotlight squarely on risk in the Americas, in the wake of wildfires in Canada, the United States, and in Chile, as well as high-profile disasters like Hurricane Matthew, which brought destruction in the Caribbean and the United States having a devastating impact on the lives of people around the world.

At the RP17, the Honourable Ralph Goodale, Canada's Minister of PSEP and Mr. Robert Glasser, UN SRSG for DRR, hosted a Ministerial and High-Level Authorities Meeting. Senior representatives from across the Americas approved the RAP and the Montreal Declaration, which reinforces the high level commitment of Ministers and senior officials to DRR.

The RAP marks an evolutionary step towards a concerted regional approach to supporting countries in their efforts to build community resilience and reduce disaster risk and impacts. It serves as foundation to further the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR's four key priorities through the identification of regional initiatives that contribute to one or more of the Sendai Actions. Member States, civil society organizations, volunteers and other relevant actors, may wish to advance these initiatives collectively.

RP17 also offered the opportunity for stakeholders, including the Government of Canada and the UNISDR, to demonstrate progress towards meeting Sendai objectives. The Sendai Framework aims to tackle risk head-on and contribute to substantially reducing the number of lives lost, numbers of people affected, and economic losses. It also seeks to curb damage to critical infrastructure and disruption to basic services such as health and educational facilities.

The Chair's Summary of RP17 was completed after the event and contains a high level overview of the principle themes and outcomes that arose from the event. This document was distributed to all delegates, and a copy is annexed to this report.

RP17 and the RAP will contribute to the recommendations to be put forward by the Americas region at the Global Platform on DRR, in Cancun, Mexico in May 2017.

Acknowledgements

Public Safety Canada, on behalf of the Government of Canada, and the UNISDR would like to recognize the support provided by key stakeholders, including the hosts and co-hosts of the plenary and parallel sessions. Without their valuable contributions this event would not have been possible. Each and every one of the participants benefitted from their generosity.

- CARE
- Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)
- Central American Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters (CEPREDENAC)
- Coalition for the Resilience of Children and Youth in Latin American and the Caribbean (CORELAC)
- City of Montreal
- Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC)
- Global Affairs Canada (GAC)
- Global Network of Civil Society Organisation for Disaster Risk
- Government of Mexico
- Earthquake Engineering Research Institute ((EERI)
- Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
- European Commission Directorate-General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)
- European Commission Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)
- Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC)
- International Council for Science (ICSU)
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
- Latin American and Caribbean Education Council (UNICEF, Save the Children, RET, Plan)
- Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)
- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
- Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance - U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID/OFDA)
- Organization of American States (OAS) Inter-American Commission of Women
- Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO)
- Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies (ARISE)
- Province of Quebec, especially Public Safety Quebec
- Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)

- RP17, UNISDR Advisory Council
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)
- South America Union of Nations (UNASUR)
- Swiss Re
- United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
- University Network for Latin America and the Caribbean for reducing disaster risk (REDULAC)
- Universities: Brandon, Concordia, Laurentian, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, University Foundation of Popayán-Colombia, UQAM, York
- White Helmets Argentina
- World Animal Protection

Chair's Summary

The Government of Canada hosted the Fifth Session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas (RP17) that was held in Montreal, Canada, on March 7-9, 2017. The RP17 brought together some 900 participants from across the Americas, with representation from national and local governments, inter-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, mayors and parliamentarians, local communities, Indigenous peoples, and leaders from business, academia and science. This RP17 was the largest to date.

The three-day event included four plenary sessions, nine parallel sessions, a Marketplace, multiple side-events, an Indigenous art exhibit as well as craft fair and an Ignite Stage. The Montreal session of the Regional Platform included two innovative initiatives: the launching of a Youth Video Challenge in the Americas; and the hosting of a Public Forum with discussion topics that aligned with the Platform's agenda and priorities.

A new element of the RP17 was a High Level Dialogue session that brought together Ministers and High Level Authorities to discuss implementation of the Sendai Framework 2015-2030 in the Americas. The session was attended by representatives of the countries throughout the Americas, as well as representatives from regional, international and inter-governmental organizations and other major stakeholder groups.

The Montreal Declaration and RAP, adopted at the High Level Dialogue, outline priority initiatives that countries in the region can undertake to advance implementation of the Sendai Framework and to reduce disaster risk across the hemisphere. The RAP will serve as a model for future Regional Platforms and marks an important development in the region.

The dynamic discussions that took place are summarized in the following points:

Understanding Disaster Risk

Understanding risk is fundamental to DRR. Without a good understanding of risk, prioritizing and planning for hazard events can be overwhelming. During numerous sessions, experts from the public, non-governmental, academic, community and private sectors held discussions on their respective challenges and proposed solutions and provided examples on how to understand risks. A list of existing good practices, methodologies, and tools to better understand, evaluate and estimate exposure, vulnerability and hazards as well as capacities in the Americas will be made available using the DRR APP.

Connecting mutually reinforcing agendas

The need to ensure alignment and integration between the DRR, climate change and sustainable development frameworks were a re-occurring theme throughout the RP17. Several of the sessions specifically spoke to this theme, in particular the session on monitoring and reporting. The intersection with climate change adaptation and sustainable development was also a key message in the sessions on understanding risk. Of particular relevance was the announcement of endorsement by the UN General Assembly (UNGA A/RES/71/276, February 2017) of the Sendai Framework disaster risk indicators as recommended by the Open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators (OEIWG) as well as the alignment of DRR considerations in the SDGs (SDG Goal 1, 11, 13.) four SDGs targets and 11 SDGs indicators. There are efficiencies to be gained by adopting a more integrated approach across the policy frameworks.

Recognizing the private sector as an actor and partner

The importance of engaging the private sector was a horizontal theme. The private sector has valuable contributions to make as a partner with governments and civil society in identifying and managing disaster risks. Some partners, like the insurance sector, play a central role in helping to manage the financial aspects of disaster risks and impacts through the provision of tools and risk transference mechanisms. Private sector actors are both producers and consumers of risk information that can have a direct impact on their own operations and on the communities in which they operate and contribute to livelihoods.

The launch of the Canadian National Chapter of the Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies (ARISE) was the key measurable outcome of the Session of Private Sector and DRR, as well as current experiences applicable by the private sector in the context of the Global ARISE initiative aiming to support the implementation of Priority Three of the Sendai Framework to integrate disaster risk considerations in private sector investment planning.

Leading at the local level

While leadership at all levels is integral to advancing DRR, the local level was highlighted as particularly important. Individuals and communities are at the front line of identifying, preventing and avoiding disaster risk. Cities across the region highlighted the importance to properly plan and implement specific and integral DRR local actions. The role of volunteers in local level response was also highlighted during the building resilience at the local level session.

The value and need for local leadership, with support from other levels and actors, was reinforced throughout numerous sessions. Specific examples of initiatives such as the Resilient Cities Campaign and 100 resilient cities, presented credible evidence of how integration of DRR at the local level is feasible and bring concrete experiences for risk knowledge applied to advance in the implementation of the Sendai Framework at the local level.

Inclusive and people-centred DRR

Successful DRR needs to take into account the unique needs, contributions and capabilities of diverse populations. The specific implications for women and girls, people with disabilities, youth and the elderly, migrant groups and Indigenous peoples were highlighted during the RP17. The need to include these and other populations living in conditions of risk were reiterated, not only to better understand how they may experience vulnerability differently, but also how as agents of change they can bring unique perspectives and useful capabilities to disaster risk identification and reduction efforts.

Innovation as a driver of change

As societies evolve, so too must the solutions needed to tackle the disaster risks they face. Communities around the world are facing pressures from demographic and climatic change, that are putting stress on social and physical infrastructure. New approaches, informed by innovation, science and technology can help to address existing and evolving challenges. The need for investments in research and science to inform evidence-based innovative solutions was noted in a number of sessions, including the half-day workshop on innovation, science and technology.

Public Forum

There was a parallel event, the Public Forum, which took place on the margins of the RP17. For this event, universities and institutions across Canada and throughout the Americas and the Caribbean were invited to participate.

These institutions developed their own programs, which aligned with the goals and themes of the RP17. The institutions developed some unique and engaging activities during these events. For example, Brandon University in Manitoba conducted a tabletop exercise aimed at enhancing disaster risk awareness in students. During this exercise, students identified the degree to which they depend on technology, and the challenges that this would pose during an emergency. The participants at the University of Quebec in Montreal discussed the need to clarify governance structures and to improve collaboration across and between sectors.

Second Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in the Americas

During the RP17, Ministers and High Level Authorities gathered to discuss progress towards implementation of the Sendai Framework in the region. During this meeting, a historic RAP, which identifies initiatives that countries and organizations in the region can pursue, was approved as well as the Declaration of Montreal, which reiterates the commitment at the highest levels in the region to implementing the Sendai Framework, reducing disaster risk and building resilient communities and nations.

Way Forward

The RP17 welcomed the presentation by the Government of Mexico, which will be hosting the Global Platform for DRR in Cancun, Mexico, on May 22-26, 2017. The outcomes of the RP17 will be shared at the Global Platform. We look forward to 6th Regional Platform that will be hosted by the Government of Colombia in 2018.

To promote the implementation of the action plan, interested member states, and stakeholders, in accordance with respective mandates and priorities, could develop activities based on initiatives outlined in the RAP. In addition, they should provide follow-up with the UNISDR and the subsequent Regional Platform host on the status of activities. Countries agreed that RAP could also support the implementation of DRR actions included in existing Regional and Sub-Regional agreements. Member States and relevant regional organizations were invited to inform UNISDR of these DRR actions, which could contribute to the implementation of this RAP, in order to rally support and avoid duplication of efforts.

**Second Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities in the Americas
Responsible on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework
for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in the Americas**

Thursday, March 9th 2017

Agenda

Chaired by the Honourable Ralph Goodale
Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Canada

Time	Item
09:00 - 09:15	Opening Remarks
09:15 - 09:20	Administrative Business
09:20 - 10:30	Part I: Overview of Montreal Declaration and Regional Action Plan
10:30 - 10:50	Health Break and Taking of Group Photo
10:50 - 10:55	Meeting reconvenes
11:00 - 11:55	Part II: Discussion on National/Regional Priorities and Progress Towards Sendai Target E
11:55 - 12:00	Conclusion of Morning Session
12:10 - 13:40	Ministerial and High Level Lunch hosted by Minister Goodale
13:45 - 13:50	Meeting reconvenes
13:50 - 14:00	Presentation on Results of the Public Forum
14:00 - 14:10	Presentation on Results of World Café session
14:10 - 14:30	Approval of the Montreal Declaration and Regional Action Plan
14:30	Meeting closes

Questions for Part II

- Knowing that all countries have started looking at the Sendai Framework and have their own national processes for priority setting, what would be considered your three national priorities for disaster risk reduction to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework?
- What do you see as the three top regional priorities to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework? What do you see as the top ways countries can collectively support each other as a region?
- How did you go about identifying your national and regional priorities? Was a special process put in place to identify these priorities? Or were they integrated into regular or established priority setting exercises?
- What are your three biggest challenges to successfully meeting these priorities?
- How are countries and organizations progressing with respect to meeting Target E? Are there regional and/or national disaster risk reduction strategies or plans in place? If so, are they aligned with the Sendai Framework?



Montreal Declaration

Second Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in the Americas

1. We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation participating the Second Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) 2015-2030 in the Americas, during the Fifth Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas (RP17) held in Montreal on March 7 to 9, 2017;
2. Benefiting from the rich discussion by a wide range of stakeholders during the Fifth Regional Platform, and informed by the expressed needs, capacities and interests of diverse groups;
3. Appreciating the hospitality and warmth accorded to the RP17 delegates by the Government and people of Canada and commend them for their achievements towards reducing disaster risk;

4. Recognizing the particular vulnerabilities and specific needs of small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, in the region as a result of their exposure to extensive and intensive disaster risks;
5. Noting the significant achievements of countries and stakeholders to reduce disaster risk in the Americas, and the continued need for progress to better ensure the safety, resilience, sustainable development and overall well-being of peoples across the region in light of the growing incidence of disasters, many of which are exacerbated by climate change;
6. Recognizing the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, all countries and stakeholders, for the productive process to develop the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, which serves as the roadmap for reducing disaster risk and building resilient communities at the local, national and regional levels;
7. Recognizing that DRR, as reflected in the Sendai Framework, requires a whole-of-society approach, under the leading role of Member States, being part of sustainable development, as captured in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
8. Noting the adoption of the health sector Plan of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction 2016-2021, by Ministers of Health of the Americas in September 2016, and the contribution it could have to the implementation of the Sendai Framework; and
9. Recalling the Asuncion Declaration endorsed at the First Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in the Americas, held in Paraguay in June 2016, and the guidance provided towards the development of a Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework.

10. We Ministers and Heads of Delegation:

11. Commit to pursue, with a sense of urgency, the paradigm shift from disaster management to disaster risk management, including reducing vulnerabilities and enhancing disaster risk-informed decision-making in the development of other sustainable initiatives;
12. Endorse the Regional Action Plan for the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the Americas, as recommended by the Fifth Regional Platform;

13. Reaffirm the determination to implement the Sendai Framework and achieve the targets set therein, and measure progress using the set of indicators and terminology endorsed by United Nations General Assembly;
14. Highlight the importance of strengthening regional coordination in the face of disasters, while ensuring human dignity, equality, inclusion and the respect for national frameworks and international humanitarian assistance principles;
15. Encourage the United Nations and other international and regional organizations and donor agencies to incorporate DRR considerations into multilateral and bilateral arrangements and to enhance the coordination of their strategies;
16. Encourage the implementation of the Regional Action Plan in a culturally, linguistically and gender sensitive manner, as appropriate, taking into consideration the diversity of the region, including Indigenous Peoples, traditional communities and the use of traditional knowledge;
17. Invite international financial institutions, including the Inter-American Development Bank, the Development Bank of Latin America-CAF, the Caribbean Development Bank, Central American Bank for Economic Integration and the World Bank, to consider the priorities of the Regional Action Plan when establishing financial and technical support to Member States for integrated approaches to disaster risk reduction in the region;
18. Call on Member States to include Disaster Risk Management in their national strategies and planning frameworks, as appropriate, with the aim of contributing to reducing the region's vulnerability to disasters and increasing its resilience;
19. Encourage relevant regional and sub-regional intergovernmental organizations and other relevant actors to continue their efforts to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework;
20. Call upon the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction to continue providing institutional and policy support for the implementation, monitoring and review of disaster risk reduction in the Americas, in collaboration with other regional and sub-regional organizations;
21. Encourage Member States and relevant stakeholders, in accordance with respective mandates and priorities, to actively participate in the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to be held 22-26 May 2017 in Cancun, Mexico;

22. Invite Canada, as host country of the Fifth Regional Platform, to present the Montreal Declaration and Regional Action Plan to the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction as a regional contribution to the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the Americas; and
23. Strive, through our collective efforts, to reduce disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries in order to build resilience.

Adopted and signed on 9 March 2017, in Montreal, Canada.

The Honourable Ralph Goodale,
Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Canada

Mr. Robert Glasser,
Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations

Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030 in the Americas

Introduction

This RAP is meant to serve as a foundational document, of a non-legally binding nature, that identifies practices and processes to advance implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015–2030 among the Americas. It marks an evolutionary step towards a concerted regional approach to supporting countries in their efforts to build community resilience and reduce disaster risk and impacts. The RAP helps further the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the Americas through the identification regional initiatives that contribute to one or more of the Sendai Actions. This approach helps Member States to collectively build upon the Guiding Principles established in the Sendai Framework, in particular those aimed at fostering a whole-of-society approach, in line with the groups and stakeholders identified in the Sendai Framework and coherence across the DRR, climate change and sustainable development frameworks, as well as the Regional Actions listed in the “Guidelines Towards a RAP for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework 2015-2030”. The latter were agreed at the First Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030 in the Americas hosted by the Government of Paraguay on 9 June, 2016.

The Initiatives included in this RAP are initiatives, which Members States, civil society organization, volunteers, and other relevant actors and organizations may wish to advance collectively. Over the next 14 to 18 months, interested Member States will work together to establish, and make progress on, tasks that will contribute to the achievement of the regional initiatives. To ensure consistency among the region, this Action Plan is also meant to serve as a guiding document for further RAPs. It encourages interested actors to become lead partners or supporting partners and, some elements for appropriate follow-up mechanisms.

This Action Plan respects the whole-of-society approach that features prominently within the Sendai Framework.

Relevant actors, in accordance to respective mandates and priorities, will continue to be engaged throughout all stages of the process, taking into account their needs, capacities and contexts. We recognize the leading role of Member States in DRR while acknowledging the contribution of stakeholders.

To promote the implementation of this action plan, interested member states, and stakeholders, in accordance with respective mandates and priorities, could develop activities based on initiatives listed below. In addition, they should provide follow-up with the UNISDR and the subsequent Regional Platform host on the status of activities. This RAP could also support the implementation of DRR actions included in existing Regional and Sub-Regional agreements. Member States and relevant regional organizations are invited to inform UNISDR of these DRR actions, which could contribute to the implementation of this RAP, in order to rally support and avoid duplication of efforts.

Priority One: Understanding disaster risk

Policies and practices for disaster risk management should be based on an understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity, exposure of persons and assets, hazard characteristics and the environment. Such knowledge can be leveraged for the purpose of pre-disaster risk assessment, for prevention and mitigation and for the development and implementation of appropriate preparedness and effective response to disasters (paragraph 23).

Regional Initiative

- 1 Strengthen disaster risk information systems through supporting national multi-hazard systems, disaster risk mapping initiatives, traditional knowledge, and methodologies for calculating economic, cultural and social losses from extensive and intensive disasters.
- 2 Strengthen of monitoring and recording of potential and existing disaster risks, with specific focus on historical record-keeping to inform future actions.
- 3 Strengthen systems and mechanisms for sharing disaster risk assessment guidance, best practices and methodologies across regions and sectors, promoting open access to data where applicable and as appropriate.
- 4 Promote comprehensive studies and integral evaluations on multi-hazard disaster risk, including climate change projections, and the identification of regional research priorities.
- 5 Promote the implementation of education programs and the use of disaster risk information, including by working with media outlets, as appropriate, for understanding disaster risk at all levels of society.
- 6 Strengthen dialogue, cooperation and sharing of knowledge on disaster risk reduction and management among decision makers, planning entities, scientific, academic and technological communities, civil society organizations, volunteers and other relevant actors, in accordance with respective mandates and priorities.

Priority Two: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk

Disaster risk governance at the national, regional and global levels is of great importance for an effective and efficient management of disaster risk. Clear vision, plans, competence, guidance and coordination within and across sectors, as well as participation of relevant stakeholders, are needed. Strengthening disaster risk governance for prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation is therefore necessary and fosters collaboration and partnership across mechanisms and institutions for the implementation of instruments relevant to disaster risk reduction and sustainable development (paragraph 26).

Regional Initiative

- 7 Strengthen disaster risk management strategies, governance and mechanisms and their evaluation at appropriate levels.
- 8 Enhance of capacity building programs and cooperation on disaster risk management and governance.
- 9 Foster multi-stakeholder and multi-national exchanges through sharing of experiences and best practices for integrating actions in DRR in all areas, including climate change adaptation, and sustainable development spheres.

Priority Three: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience

Public and private investment in disaster risk prevention and reduction through structural and non-structural measures are essential to enhance the economic, social, health and cultural resilience of persons, communities, countries and their assets, as well as the environment. These can be drivers of innovation, growth and job creation. Such measures are cost-effective and instrumental to save lives, prevent and reduce losses and ensure effective recovery and rehabilitation (paragraph 29).

Regional Initiative

- 10 Encourage regional studies on best practices concerning financial instruments for disaster risk transfer and management.
- 11 Enhance and mobilize investment in DRR, including through multiple sources and funding such as public and private partnerships, multi-lateral institutions and other means of cooperation.
- 12 Promote the sharing of best practices on the continuity of vital services taking into consideration all-hazards, as appropriate and applicable.

Priority Four: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to ‘Build Back Better’ in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction

The steady growth of disaster risk, including the increase of people and assets exposure, combined with the lessons learned from past disasters, indicates the need to further strengthen disaster preparedness for response, take action in anticipation of events, integrate disaster risk reduction in response preparedness and ensure that capacities are in place for effective response and recovery at all levels. Empowering women and persons with disabilities to publicly lead and promote gender equitable and universally accessible response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction approaches is key. Disasters have demonstrated that the recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phase, which needs to be prepared ahead of a disaster, is a critical opportunity to “Build Back Better”, including through integrating disaster risk reduction into development measures, making nations and communities resilient to disasters (paragraph 32).

Regional Initiative

- 13 Strengthen the coordination, collaboration and participation of Member States, communities, regional and international organizations, civil society organizations, volunteers and other stakeholders, in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery, within the scope of respective mandates and priorities.
- 14 Promote the exchange of post-disaster recovery knowledge and best practices that incorporate the perspective of building back better to protect communities and their livelihoods.
- 15 Strengthen knowledge sharing and exchange of experiences on urban and rural development plans that take into consideration disaster risk with the aim of enhancing planning tools such as building codes and master plans.
- 16 Develop and share best practices and strategies to improve integrated multi-hazard early warning systems, disaster risk information systems, monitoring networks, and exploring ways for stronger linkages among scientific and technical agencies, communities, and decision makers.

List of Potential Activities Submitted during Regional Action Plan Development Consultations

Priority 1: Understanding disaster risk

Activities

1. Strengthen partnerships with relevant actors, agencies and institutions in accordance with respective mandates that are part of the regional emergency systems in efforts to consolidate regional efforts to integrate disaster risk information systems.
2. Enhance early detection and response tools and resources to address food-borne, water-borne and zoonotic infectious disease threats to support response and multi-lateral information sharing within the Americas and globally.
3. Enhance the global ability to detect events of potential international public health concern through improvements to the Global Public Health Intelligence Network (GPHIN), a real-time and secure all-hazards, internet-based, multilingual early-warning tool for identifying disease outbreaks, Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) events and food and water safety issues.
4. Create models, techniques and mechanisms and best practices for disaster risk representation, assessment, Characterization and analysis of present and future hazards.
5. Continue application of the Comprehensive Disaster Management Audit (CDM Audit Tool) to determine where each Country currently stands in relation to the establish standards for advancing CDM.
6. Promote policies in each country to encourage the production of studies and technical information covering knowledge of disaster risk with its cross-cutting interference in technical, financial, procedural and developmental aspects.
7. Advance the Application of Risk Assessment and Analysis including the use and understanding of risk modeling in CDEMA Participating States.
8. A shared and open analysis, as appropriate, of disaster risk among relevant national development and humanitarian actors enabling better disaster risk-informed decision-making for planning and programming at the local level.

9. Enhancement of the CARIBBEAN RISK INFORMATION SYSTEM as a platform for sharing, and visualizing integrated disaster risk knowledge and information to guide fact based decision-making.
10. Promote and spread the use of remote sensing technologies (satellites, planes, drones, etc.),, with consent of involved states, for detailed mapping regarding disaster risk during and after disasters as well as strengthen National Spatial Data Management Platforms for advancing mapping monitoring and Risk Analysis and spread the implementation of the use of mobile apps as a data collection tool to allow for analysis of the population's vulnerabilities and the use of social networks, in accordance to national practice and legislation, as a tool to support early warning systems. Share experiences in processes of inter-institutional exchange of geospatial information, consolidating the integration of disaster risk information systems nationwide and at a sub-national level.
11. Establish a regional initiative that incentivizes the process of generation and integration of open data nationwide, as appropriate, in order to consolidate the processes of disaster risk identification and knowledge among countries, national development and relevant humanitarian actors.
12. Share examples and best practices for integrating actions in the DRR, CCA, and Sustainable Development spheres, at all levels, which jurisdictions could consider in order to better integrate and streamline DRR and sustainable development in relation to climate variability and change.
13. Create web based platform to share best practices, documents, guidelines and useful documents on DRR.
14. Developing applications with experts around the region in collaboration with Comisión Nacional de Actividades Espaciales (CONAE) and White Helmets Commission of Argentina.
15. Promoting exchanges between agencies specializing in Statistics and Censuses, as considered appropriate.
16. Consolidate specific research funds for issues in relation to disaster prevention, risk reduction and resilience to natural and manmade phenomena anthropogenic hazards.
17. Promote regional scientific research and exchange and technology transfer, including by encouraging the creation of DRM Research Centres in the countries of the region, and by fostering studies related to DRR in areas such as risk drivers and risk creation's dynamics, multi-hazard research, low-cost early warning systems and issues relating to risk management and climate change, with the objective of offering tools and strategies in decision making pertaining to DRR.
18. Conduct studies on disaster risk perception to inform how decision makers can better target DRR and management efforts.
19. Develop an inventory of funding sources for collaborative science, technology and innovation research in DRR.

20. Involve the insurance sector in the discussions on DRR with a focus on the quantification of economic damages and other related aspects.
21. Establish a regional network of academics and researchers in the area of DRR to foster opportunities for cross-national collaboration to help facilitate discussions on DRR research, science and technology priorities for the Americas region aimed at disaster risk management.
22. Generate a regional strategy for spreading the word about DRR in different mass media outlets (information and communication technologies) as appropriate and in accordance with national practices and legislations.
23. Promote the implementation of standardized educational and awareness-raising programs that are interchangeable among interested countries of the region, concerning disaster risk management, using mass media outlets, as appropriate and in accordance with national priorities, practices and legislations, preferably State-owned.
24. Strengthening of national platforms and mechanisms for dialogue and cooperation on DRR and management between decision makers, planning entities, scientific and technological communities and other relevant actors.
25. Develop a collection of best practices and methodologies for calculating economic losses from disasters.

Priority Two:

Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk

Activities

1. Promote the implementation at the regional level of the Sendai Framework for DRR and the evaluation of progress made using the set of indicators and terminology endorsed by UNGA resolution 71/276.
2. Promoting and strengthening exchanges between the National Platforms for DRR in the region.
3. Biennial hosting of the Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Conference as a Sub-Regional Platform and Regional Reporting Mechanism on the CDM Strategy 2014-2024.
4. Align the frameworks, strategies, programs and existing regional, subregional and sectorial DRRs agreements of specialized regional intergovernmental organizations and entities with the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030.
5. Advance the utility and population of the CDM Monitor among CDEMA Member States as a means of tracking CDM Results delivery and its contribution to the Sendai Framework.
6. Orchestrate a regional system for monitoring and assessment of progress on matters of DRR.
7. Advance the CDEMA Model Safe Schools Programme in CDEMA Participating States.
8. Conduct a self-assessment study, if determined appropriate by national authorities of the situation of each country with respect to the development of policies, the national DRM system, the regulatory framework, the decision-making and planning institutions and the national programs and strategies for DRR, in order to identify establish the necessary support needed from the regional level.
9. Consolidate the Regional DRR Platform of the Americas as a cross-cutting mechanism that helps to ensure that national and sub-national strategies work harmoniously in accordance with the Sendai Action Framework.
10. Foster multi-stakeholder and multi-national exchanges, as appropriate, such as the White Helmets Network and the White Helmets – OAS Program to provide training for the establishment of national volunteering systems, as required by interested States, and creating an Inter-American Network of Volunteering Systems.
11. Foster the exchange of experiences between countries in the region with other regional and multinational efforts, which a focus on issues dealing with water security and management of major water crises.
12. Strengthen laboratory capacity in the Americas and enhance the availability of scientific data to inform evidence based decisions.
13. Implement regional or cross-border or transnational processes to reinforce information management, technology transfer and DRR.

Priority Three:

Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience

Activities

1. Conduct studies, exchanges and training in best practices on financial instruments for disaster risk administration and transfer.
2. Promote a financial strategy for the region, including incidental credits and disaster risk transference.
3. Replicate successful experiences in early disaster risk assessment tools for the design [of] financial funds for prevention, emergency response and reconstruction.
4. Encourage regional collaboration on strategies, institutions and mechanisms that each member country could take advantage of to develop and apply tools and methodologies to calculate the damage and loss that could be avoided through proper and timely comprehensive risk management.
5. Advance regional collaboration on strategies, institutions and mechanisms that each member country could draw on to develop and implement tools and methodologies to calculate the damages and losses that could be avoided by carrying out adequate and timely comprehensive risk management.
6. Orchestrate regional mechanisms to encourage risk transfer nationwide, including the private and social sector.
7. Engage with insurance companies and financing institutions for innovative incentives to build back better.
8. Develop a strategy for engaging the private sector in the advancement of DRR efforts in the Caribbean through the creation of a regional private sector network on DRR and Launching the Caribbean ARISE Initiative.

Priority Four:

Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to 'Build Back Better' in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction

Activities

1. Strengthen partnerships with actors, agencies and institutions that are part of the regional risk management agencies and emergency systems in efforts to consolidate regional efforts to integrate risk information systems.
2. Make Disaster Management Training available, accessible and affordable through the development of an online educational portal for emergency management professionals, in areas such as financial instruments for disaster risk transfer and management.
3. Explore opportunities to conduct regional earthquake response exercises, such as expanding the Caribbean Regions Annual Exercise.
4. Review and Enhance the CDEMA Regional Response Mechanism.
5. Establish Exercise Synergy as the CARIBBEAN REGIONS Annual Exercise along with Region Rap.
6. Strengthen experience and knowledge sharing on building codes and other construction policies and guidelines in disaster risk management.
7. Complete the Caribbean Unified Building Code Project
8. Generate and disseminate emergency response guides and protocols, which allow national policies and regional standards to align.
9. Promote the generation of national frameworks that include aspects of improving physical vulnerability and adaptation criteria into the reconstruction processes.
10. Establish and Coordinate the CARICOM Regional EWS Alliance
11. Advance Programme for Integrated Early Warning Systems in the Caribbean.
12. Facilitate stronger linkages between technical agencies to improve their ability to provide early warning
13. Develop conceptual, procedural and operational elements such as communication protocols that support implementation of multi-hazard early warning mechanisms.
14. Develop collection of best practices for improving operation early warning systems for forecastable hazards, building on improved observational networks and science.



Exhibition/Market Place

The Regional Platform had an exhibition space called the “Marketplace” which provided an opportunity for organizations/stakeholders to showcase their work related to DRR.

ASB Alemania

Canadian Risk and Hazards Network

DRDC

Emergency Management & Training Inc.

GEO

HelpAge CORDES

HUSAR

IBC

IFRC

Indigenous Crafts

Mexico

NRCan

ONG Inclusiva

PLAN INTERNATIONAL

RET INTERNATIONAL

RIADIS/FECONORI

SAVE THE CHILDREN

UNICEF

United Nations

UQAM

York University

Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance

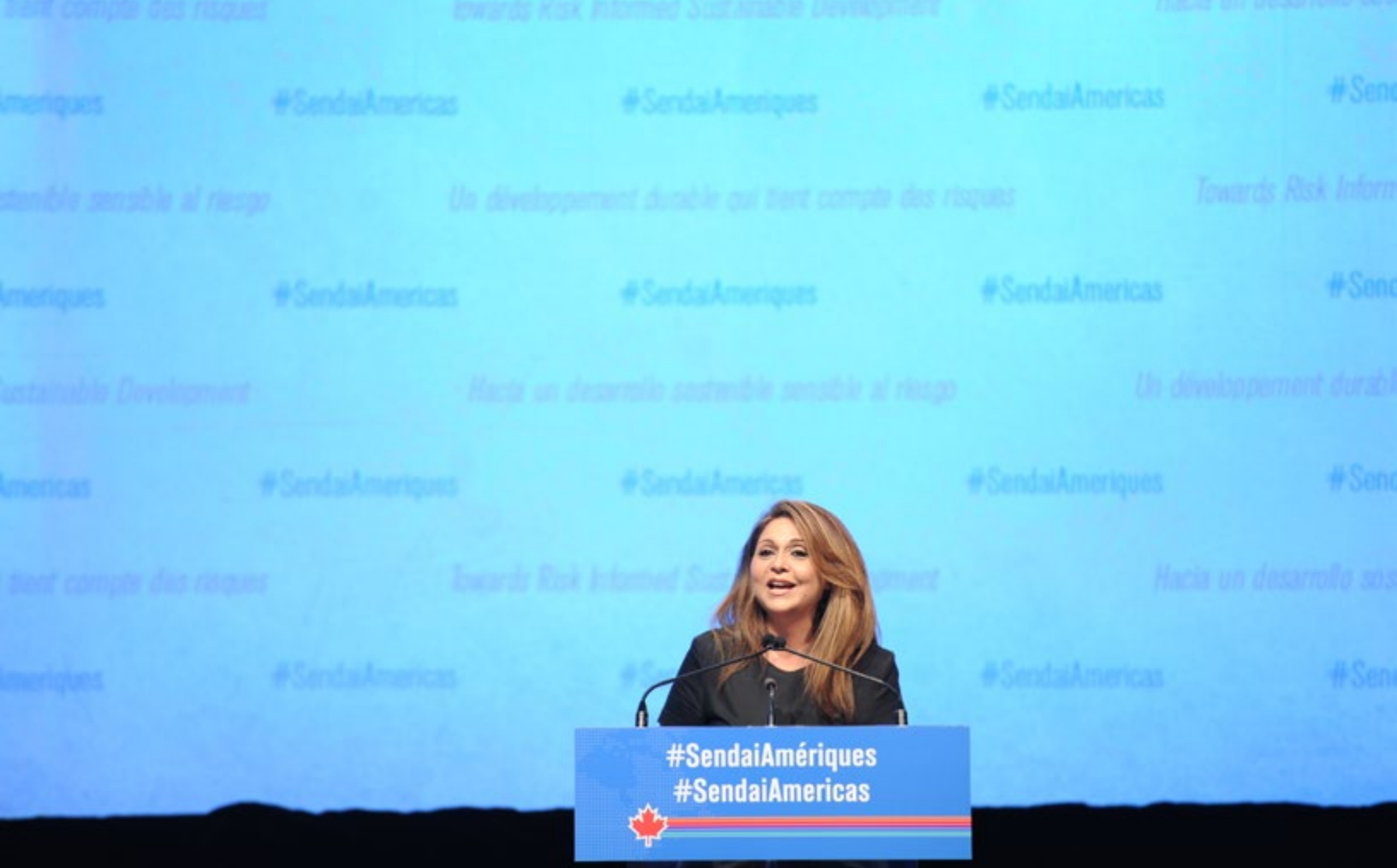












A special thanks to our Master of Ceremonies, Ms. Sonia Benezra.