

PROCEEDINGS VI REGIONAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN THE AMERICAS



 GOBIERNO DE COLOMBIA





PROCEEDINGS OF THE VI REGIONAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN THE AMERICAS

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SUMMARY

Chair Summary of the Sixth Regional Platform

The Government of Colombia hosted the Sixth edition of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas, held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from June 20th to the 22nd, 2018. The Platform brought together more than 1,300 participants from all the Americas and the Caribbean, with representation from national and local governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, local politicians and parliamentarians, local communities, indigenous people, business leaders, academics from the field of science and technology, and representatives of civil society.

During the three days of the event there were four (4) plenary sessions, eighteen (18) parallel sessions, eight (8) side events, fifty-seven (57) official declarations, seventy-one (71) ignite stage presentations and a special event on the Caribbean, in addition to multiple bilateral meetings, a technical session for the formulation of the Regional Action Plan - RAP, and a Ministerial Meeting. A display of search and rescue equipment was also provided, and there was an interactive display, a market place and a theater play on inclusion in disaster risk reduction.

The winners of the contests: "Call for video on good practices of community resilience" and the "Call for good Practices of the private sector in DRR" received their awards, demonstrating the commitment of the region to encourage less vulnerable and more resilient communities.

The Platform also permitted dialogue between high authorities in the region, who agreed on the future implementation and dissemination of progress of the **Regional Action Plan - RAP for the implementation of the 2015-2030 Sendai Framework in the Americas**. Progress to date was disclosed, with the aim of jointly constructing an instrument that collates progress in the implementation of the Plan, continuing to create spaces for the exchange of experience and knowledge within the framework of the upcoming regional platforms, and enabling recording of agreements reached in the technical sessions of the Regional Action Plan - RAP in the proceedings of the Regional Platforms that are to be held in the future.

Similarly, in the **Third High-level Meeting of Ministers and Authorities on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030 in the Americas and the Caribbean** consensus was reached on the **Cartagena Declaration**, which among other things underlines the commitment to continue with the implementation of the Regional Action Plan, encourages member states to actively participate in the 2019 Global Platform, and welcomes the candidacy of Jamaica as the host of the VII Regional Platform for Risk Reduction, which will expressly include reference to the Caribbean in its title for year 2020.

The discussions on the agendas are summarized in the following points associated with the fulfillment of the initiatives in the Regional Action Plan-RAP and Sendai Framework priorities:

During the first day, and on the theme of the first priority of the Sendai Framework, the importance of Understanding Disaster Risk was highlighted as a continuous process in which working with the community and harnessing political will play a fundamental role.



The comprehensive management of risk with a differentiated approach, the strengthening of institutional and community capacities, as well as the necessary articulation between academia and the public sector were considered crucial for the advancement of the fulfillment of this priority. Likewise, the need to include perspectives related to gender equality and the inclusion of vulnerable people, including those with disabilities, in order to promote understanding of disaster risk in the Americas was highlighted.

Parallel sessions included discussions on early warning systems, hydrological risk management, resilient cities and monitoring the Sendai Framework and its linkage to Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Change. From this basis progress in the region was collated on monitoring threats through strengthening capacity for analysis, modeling and forecasting; the importance of linking Early Warning Systems with National Risk Management Systems was also highlighted.

Likewise, the importance of information generated in technical-scientific institutes was highlighted as a basis for making informed decisions on risks in the region. It was recommended to articulate work with statistical institutes, design financing mechanisms that promote public-private co-responsibility for the development of monitoring and warning systems, and to support the institutional framework of technical-scientific entities.

At the local level, the importance of developing long-term policies, promoting alliances, articulating with the national level, and sharing knowledge in order to build resilient cities which incorporate sustainable development and risk management in their vision for development was highlighted.

The agenda on the **second day** related to the second priority of the Sendai Framework (the strengthening of Disaster Risk Governance to manage disaster risk); the articulation of overall agenda topics was discussed in the context of regional, sub-regional, national and local planning. Examples from the region were presented where the formulation of national planning and monitoring mechanisms has been integrated with the various agendas in development planning. Political will is essential in order to consolidate institutional arrangements which allow an integrated approach to the various agendas.

The parallel sessions associated with this second priority, related to national planning, legislative frameworks and planning instruments, highlighted the importance of having a disaster risk reduction policy accompanied by planning and financing instruments that function as guiding mechanisms to manage such reduction. An inclusive social approach should be adopted in development planning.

The discussion on the third priority of the Sendai Framework (investment in disaster risk reduction for resilience) brought recognition of the main advances, challenges and recommendations relating to disaster risk reduction, investments, and financial protection strategies in order to have resilient infrastructure and to ensure the continuity of basic services.

The parallel sessions associated with this priority revolved around incentives and instruments to promote investment in resilience, the reduction of fiscal risk, and public financial management in the face of post-disaster response and recovery processes, human mobility and displacement, strengthening of international cooperation mechanisms and financial management for risk transfer.

Discussions highlighted the importance of having regulatory frameworks make the incorporation of disaster risk reduction in public investment obligatory and embed this in the various planning instruments in order to reduce and manage such risk. The need to ensure immediate access to funds following a disaster was also stressed, as well as the need to analyze the cost-effectiveness of interventions, to identify alternative and permanent sources of resources, and to reduce pressure on public resources.

The discussions on Thursday afternoon revolved around the development of dynamic cooperation models which permit effective collaboration between parties and show the region's progress as a pioneer in the formulation of national frameworks and policies that incorporate disaster risk reduction within a vision of sustainable development, including principles of solidarity, sovereignty, respect and cooperation.

Legal frameworks are required in the Americas and the Caribbean region which facilitate the participation of the Science and Technology sector in national systems for disaster risk reduction and allow for their active participation in the formulation of public policies on national issues.

The special session on the Caribbean demonstrated the need to establish a Caribbean Roadmap for Resilience as a collective action which will include promotion of the resilience of island countries as a part of a joint effort.

On the **third day** the discussions addressed the fourth priority of the Sendai Framework (enhance disaster preparedness for effective response and "Build back better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction). The importance of planning for recovery in which long-term risks are contemplated and where risk and capacity analyses are key in providing information for response planning and to improve interventions was highlighted.

Parallel sessions associated with this priority centered on the agendas of empowerment, gender, women and resilience; preparation and implementation of recovery; collaboration and public-private partnerships; planning and works to mitigate risk conditions; and social leadership and community resilience.

A participatory approach is key to ensure women and girls have access to information and risk data. The importance of implementing policies, planning and programs for disaster risk reduction with a gender perspective was also noted.

The need to strengthen alliances between the public and private sectors as a strategic action point in order to achieve effective integration of the criteria and principles of risk reduction in decision-making on investment in development at national, local, community and regional levels was also highlighted.

Participants analyzed the aspects that contribute to substantially reduce the risk of disasters and that generate complementary processes of territorial transformation in order to improve the quality of life of the population by building community.

The last intense but productive day once again reaffirmed the commitment of the countries, organizations and communities in the Americas and Caribbean region to the voluntary implementation of the Sendai Framework, and to the consolidation of a region which is less vulnerable, with communities which are more resilient.

Inclusion



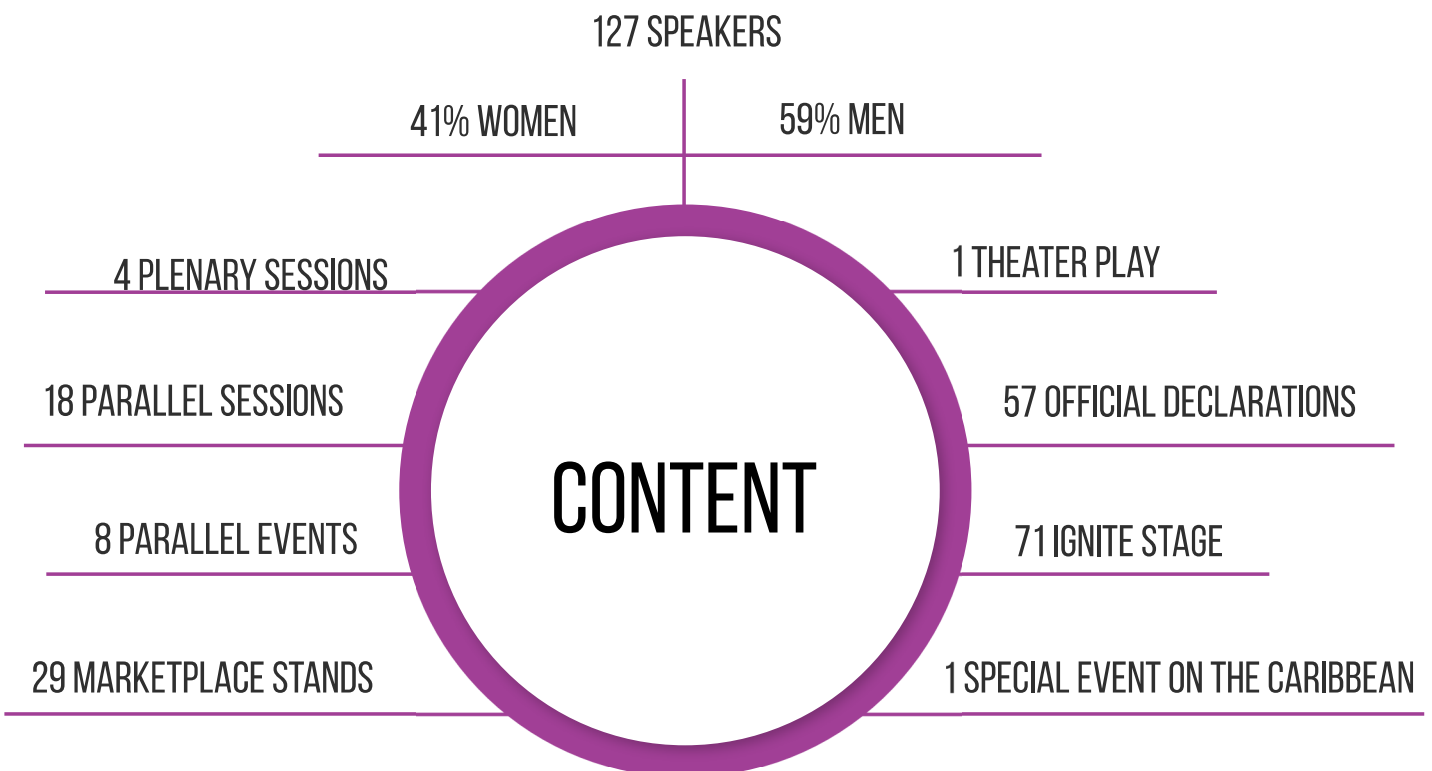
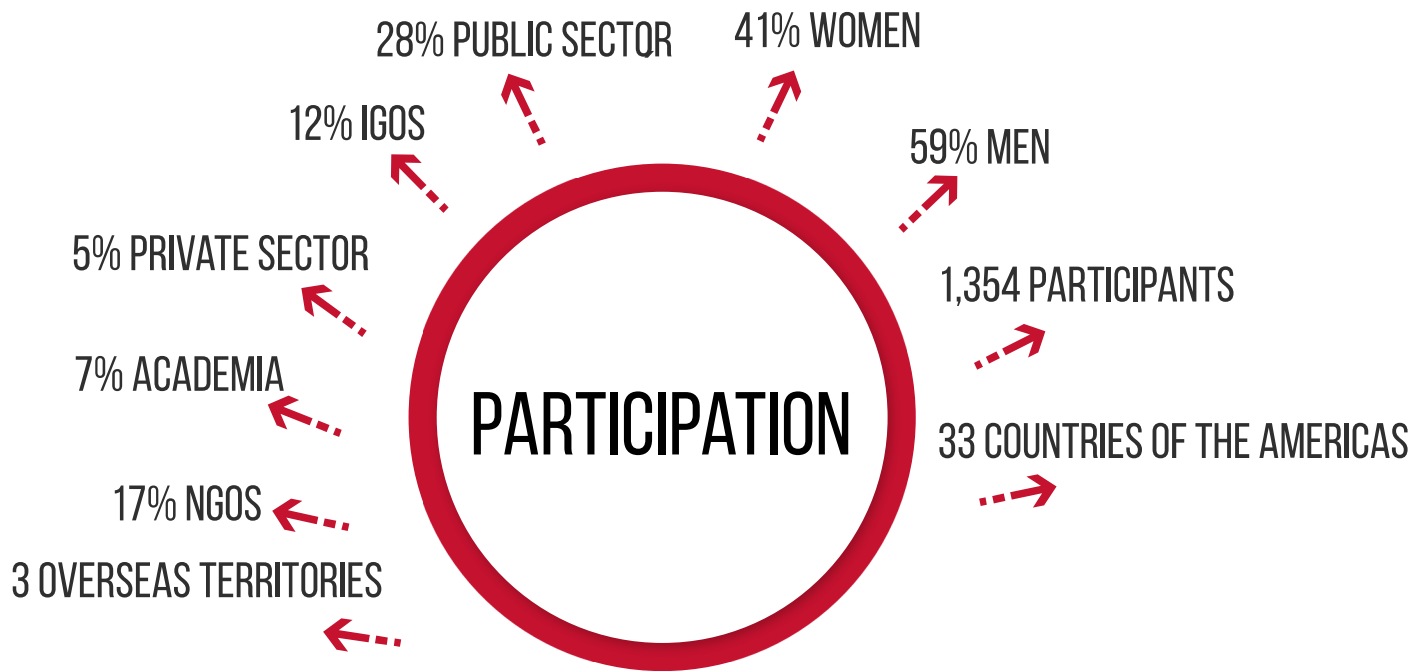
The VI Regional Platform has become a key reminder of the importance of implementing **inclusive risk management** in the Americas and the Caribbean. Both the organizers and the partners responsible for the various sessions and exhibition spaces, and in particular the Inclusive Disaster Risk and Disability Management Network of Latin America and the Caribbean (GIRDD-LAC Network) and the Inclusiva NGO, have made an effort to improve aspects relating to accessibility to the event, as well as making the need for inclusive risk management very present in the discussions and in the agreements.

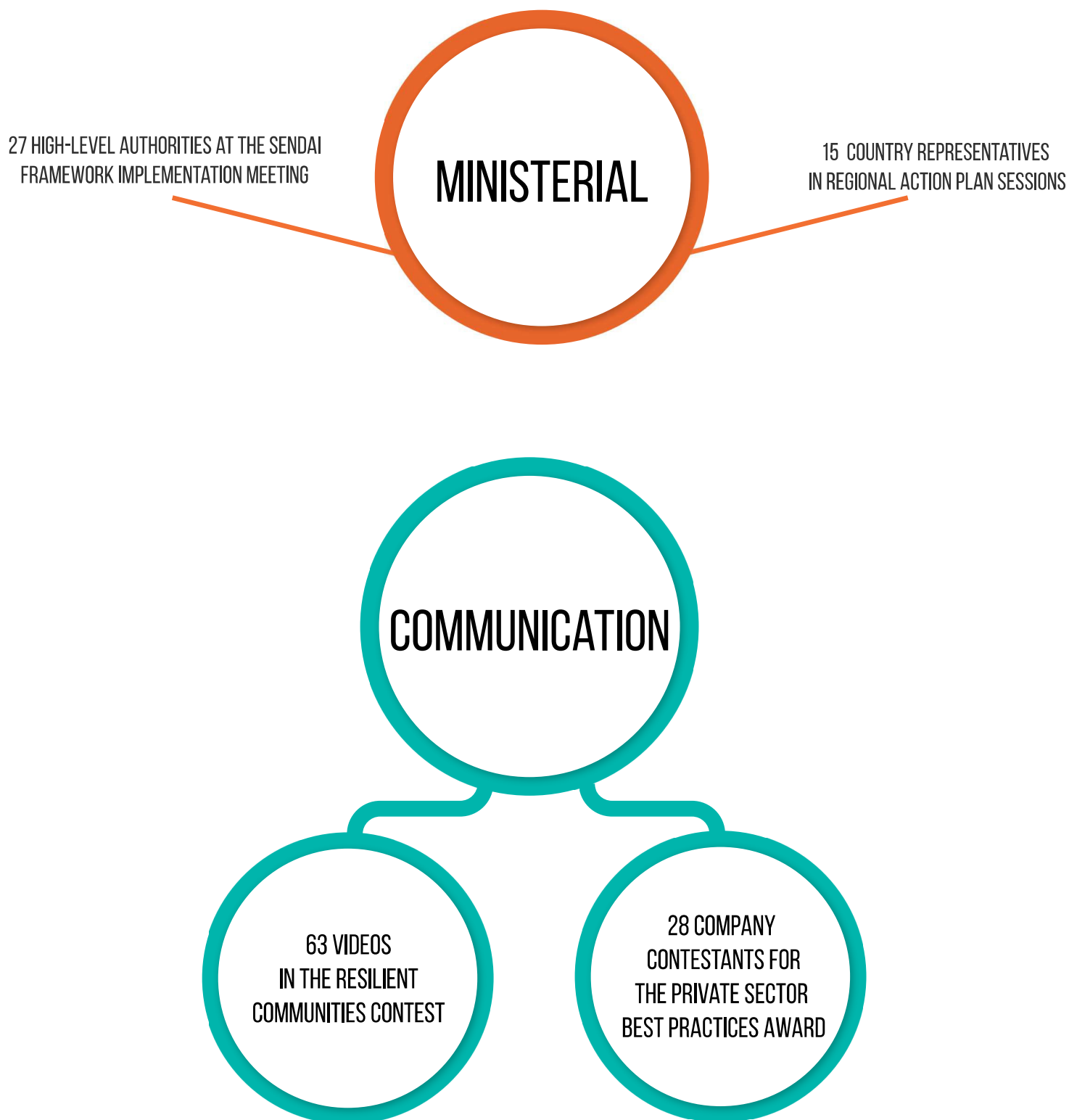
The following provides some examples of the aforementioned agendas:

- Prior visits to the Convention Center and verification of accessibility and inclusion aspects, undertaken jointly between UNGRD, UNISDR and GIRRD-LAC.
- Training by the Inclusiva NGO and GIRRD-LAC for the volunteers on aspects of inclusion and accessibility.
- Accessibility to information and presentations for people with disabilities (sign language interpreters in sessions, Accessible Word documents on the web page, information available in Braille, etc.).
- Several speakers in various sessions were experts with disabilities. The Platform sought to integrate an approach to inclusion (and its challenges) from the perspective of those with disabilities, developing experience and skills that made it possible to enrich the debates on different issues and to expand the concept of resilience.
- Representatives from the GIRDD-LAC network attended the opening and closing ceremonies.
- The theater play “Radio Storm”, about disability and disasters, was performed during the Platform.
- There were 4 Ignite Stages on inclusive risk management.
- GIRDD-LAC network had a stand in the Market Place.
- **Robots** were present, which facilitated the participation of people with disabilities from Chile and Guatemala.
- The **Declaration of Cartagena** recognizes that during the occurrence of a catastrophic event the mobility of people with disabilities, people with serious and chronic diseases and older adults may be limited, and that special attention to the needs of these individuals is crucial to protect their lives and fundamental rights, efforts should be taken to provide for their safety, protection and well-being, including through the implementation of inclusive risk management policy according to national context;
- Ms. Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction, highlighted inclusion aspects as not only one of the most important challenges to implement the Sendai Framework, but also as one of the most important achievements of Cartagena.

Inclusion remains a challenge, but these efforts represent an important step in highlighting those challenges and advancing the inclusion of people with disabilities in disaster risk management. The Inclusive Risk Management Network for Disasters and Disability in Latin America and the Caribbean recognized UNISDR and UNGDR for their efforts, and for the constant and outstanding work in the promotion and defense of the rights of persons with disabilities.

The Platform in Numbers





DETAILED SUMMARY OF THE RP18

Presentation and Contents of the VI Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas.

Concept Note of the Sixth Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas: “Towards a less vulnerable region with more resilient communities”

1. Context

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework) was adopted during the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in March 2015. This Global Framework, along with the other global agreements adopted during 2015, constitute the 2030 Agenda, which establishes comprehensive disaster risk management and its integration into development as fundamental for Member States.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction seeks to achieve “a substantial reduction in disaster risk and loss of lives, livelihoods, health and the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries”.

Achieving this result requires not only the commitment of political leaders at all levels, it is also necessary for all actors to actively participate in the implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and related actions.

The Global and Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction constitute dynamic multi-sectoral spaces that promote the exchange of knowledge among disaster risk management players, stimulate discussion and encourage the formulation of policies at the regional, national and local level. They also constitute a space for launching new¹ initiatives, the promotion of campaigns and alliances, the presentation of advances and the progress achieved in disaster risk reduction.

Under the auspices of the Government of Colombia as host country, and in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Sixth **Session** of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas represents an opportunity for governments, the private sector, civil society and other actors in the Americas to exchange experiences in the implementation of the Regional Action Plan signed in March 2017 in Montreal, Canada, as a supporting tool for the Americas in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

¹Addis Ababa Action on Financing for Development, Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, Paris Agreement on Climate Change.



2. Results from the previous editions of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas

RP09- Panama City, Panama, 2009

The first edition of the Regional Platform (RP) for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas, organized by UNISDR-Americas and the Organization of American States (OAS), was held in Panama City from March 17 - 19, 2009.

This first edition sought to bridge the gap between National Platforms and the Global Platform by establishing a mechanism for broad participation at a hemispheric level. This edition also focused on defining responsibilities and priorities for progress on the hemispheric agenda over the next few years, based on trends, challenges, areas for advancement and opportunities in the region.

The results of this first edition included the consolidation and institutionalization of the Regional Platform for the Americas, as well as the strengthening of working partnerships, increased knowledge of the mechanism to monitor the progress made in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 -2015, and the promotion of opportunities for cooperation and dissemination of information on disaster risk reduction throughout the region.

RP11 - Nayarit, Mexico, 2011

The second edition of the Regional Platform was held in Nayarit, Mexico from March 15 - 17, 2011 and for the first time it received the support of the Advisory Council (see below) as a formal support mechanism.

The main results of the 2011 edition were captured in the Nayarit Communiqué, and highlighted the need to prioritize disaster risk reduction at the highest possible level of action, as well as the importance of establishing a hemispheric agenda to promote DRR.

The main areas of focus of the Platform included: acknowledgement of importance and implementation of disaster risk reduction in adaptation to climate change, promotion of measurable increases in DRR investment, making cities, schools and hospitals resilient to disasters, a mid-term review of the Hyogo Framework for Action, and the region-wide message to be transmitted during the next edition of the Global Platform. RP11 also reaffirmed the commitment to the guiding principles of disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change with a series of recommendations raised during the Global Platform.

RP12 - Santiago, Chile, 2012

UNISDR was in charge of the organization of the third edition of the Regional Platform, which was held on the November 26 - 28, 2012 in Santiago, Chile. During the three day event 400 representatives from 43 countries and overseas territories participated in six thematic sessions, a high-level roundtable, and four parallel sessions aimed at identifying experiences and tracking progress, as well as defining priorities necessary to strengthen the disaster risk reduction agenda throughout the region.

Participants recognized that the Regional Platform is the best way to discuss how to promote the integration of disaster risk reduction into planning policies and processes, as reflected in the Santiago Communiqué: Investing for Resilience. This third edition also served to reveal the considerable progress towards strengthening governance for disaster risk reduction in the region through new legal frameworks and the integration of risk reduction in investment policies and development planning in various countries across the continent.



RP14 - Guayaquil, Ecuador, 2014

The fourth edition of the Regional Platform was held in Guayaquil, Ecuador from May 27 - 29, 2014. Of particular importance in this edition was the consolidation of considerable political contributions from the Americas from previous editions as inputs relevant to the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction which took place from March 14 - 18, 2015 in Sendai, Japan, and the adoption of the Sendai Framework.

This Regional Platform brought together high-level political and executive authorities together with other actors in the dialogues and agreements to promote the agenda of disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change in the region. It also made it possible to undertake a joint assessment of progress in disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change for the period 2005-2015, which served to identify gaps and inputs, and the parties agreed to a common regional agenda, reflected in the Guayaquil Communiqué, to prioritize areas and identify a series of regional strengths with a view to adopting the new international framework for disaster risk reduction, the Sendai Framework.

RP17- Montreal, Canada, 2017

The fifth Regional Platform was held in Montreal, Canada from March 7 - 9, 2017. Delegates from the Americas met to discuss ongoing efforts to reduce disaster risk and to agree on the Regional Action Plan (RAP) which was developed during the First Meeting of Ministers and Senior Authorities on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in the Americas on June 8 - 9, 2016 in Asunción, Paraguay, and was adopted during RP17 in Montreal.

The Regional Action Plan and the Montreal Declaration reinforced the commitment made by ministries and authorities in the region to reduce disaster risk. The Regional Action Plan materializes the regional approach and supports countries in their efforts to build resilience at the community level as well as reduce the risk of disasters and their impacts. It plays a key role in the implementation of the Sendai Framework and its four priorities for action in identifying regional initiatives. Member States, intergovernmental organizations, representatives of civil society, the private sector, academia and the scientific and technical community, volunteers, and other relevant stakeholders seek to advance these initiatives collectively and effectively.



3. Objectives and expected results

The Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas will have three general objectives and eight specific targets linked to the different priorities of the Sendai Framework. The three general objectives are to:

1. Present and analyze the progress achieved at the regional level in relation to the implementation of the Sendai Framework
2. Identify viable approaches and mechanisms to advance the implementation of the Regional Action Plan, contributing to and supporting countries in the development and the implementation of their national and local DRR plans, as well as in the design and utilization of monitoring indicators.
3. Acknowledging that the wellbeing of individuals lays at the center of all efforts to reduce the risk of disasters and to build resilience, we will promote an approach of shared responsibility by all society. As such, we shall recognize, highlight and strengthen the role and leadership of community networks, civil society, volunteer groups, women, people with disabilities, indigenous populations and groups living in conditions of high vulnerability as agents of change in disaster risk reduction and in strengthening resilience throughout the Americas.

The specific targets of the Sixth Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction are linked to the four priorities of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. These are:

Priority 1: Understand disaster risk

1. Exchange experiences on risk knowledge including national and local monitoring tools, building baselines and collecting disaggregated data on damages and losses.
2. Analyze the availability of information on risk assessments as a basis to guide risk reduction and measures of preparedness, including the promotion of cost-benefit analyses, among others.

Priority 2: Strengthen disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk

3. Promote the coherence of regulatory frameworks and the articulation between disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, ensuring the integration of risk in development planning tools.
4. Promote the articulation of national plans and local efforts to foster coherence, bridge the gap between the different levels of administration and strengthen capacities at a local level.

Priority 3: Invest in disaster risk reduction for resilience

5. Promote the implementation of methodologies to integrate DRR in public and private investments, as well as financial mechanisms or instruments that intentionally withhold or transfer risk as measures of financial protection, through the identification of successful experiences and models.



Priority 4: Enhance disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

6. Recognize, highlight and strengthen the role of the private sector and public-private initiatives for disaster risk reduction, preparedness, and investment in resilience.
7. Analyze incentive mechanisms for investment in resilience that could be promoted by States, as well as by multi-lateral finance institutions.
8. Share successful experiences in the continuity of basic services in cases of disasters, and identify lessons for better preparedness and articulation between the private and public spheres.

The Sixth Edition of the Regional Platform represents an opportunity for Member States to share experiences, build their capacities, transfer knowledge and show successes related to disaster risk reduction at national and local levels. Similarly, it is expected that this edition will increase the degree of participation and the commitment of the parties and stakeholders interested in the implementation of the Sendai Framework, as well as in the comprehensive management of disaster risk as a key component in sustainable development.

The Regional Platform will include an intergovernmental segment, technical sessions, parallel and special activities, in which participants will have the opportunity to interact and discuss the implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework, as well as to identify best practices and lessons learned in this area. One of the most relevant aspects will be the high-level segment, in which senior authorities and ministers attending the meeting will review the Disaster Risk Reduction agenda in the Americas region for the next two years.

In addition, it will include a marketplace and the ‘Ignite Stage’, where various professionals and experts in Disaster Risk Reduction will present innovative tools and initiatives in this area.

It will also provide an opportunity for regional and sub-regional intergovernmental groups to interact and strengthen working partnerships, as well as to share experiences with a view to achieving the seven global goals outlined in the Sendai Framework. Finally, the Platform provides a space for strengthening the links between the agencies of the United Nations System and other regional organizations in order to ensure consistency between the Sendai Framework and other related global agreements.

Any interested party throughout the American continent can also be part of this conversation by using the #SendaiAmericas hashtag online.

The principal expected outcomes of the sixth edition of the Regional Platform are:

1. Chairman’s summary,
2. Communiqué from the high-level segment (Cartagena Declaration),
3. Presentation of the progress made and recommendations to advance the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the Americas,
4. Proceedings of the Sixth Edition of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas.



4. The Advisory Council

Due to the intergovernmental and inter-sectoral nature of the Regional Platform sessions, there is an Advisory Council charged with defining and establishing the structure and content of the Sixth Edition of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas.

The Council is composed of delegates from countries representing several intergovernmental organizations in the region, such as ACS, CAN, CDEMA, CEPREDENAC, REMAGIR, UNASUR and OAS, along with several key counterparts in the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), including the World Bank, IDB, ECLAC, IFRC, OCHA, WHO/PAHO and UNDP, as well as the Government of Colombia as the host country of the Sixth Edition of the Regional Platform, and the Government of Canada as the host country of the previous edition of the Regional Platform.

This Advisory Council also includes a representative of civil society through the Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR), a representative of the private sector, one delegate from the technical and scientific community represented by the International Council for Science (ICSU), the academic community (REDULAC) and UNISDR².

The Government of Colombia and UNISDR maintain their firm commitment to ensuring the development of inclusive and multi-sectoral consultations as part of the preparations for the Regional Platform.

² Acronyms: CAN, Andean Community of nations; CDEMA, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency; CEPREDENAC, Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Disasters in Central America; REMAGIR, Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management; UNASUR, Union of South American Nations; ACS, Association of Caribbean States; OAS, Organization of American States; IDB, Inter-American Development Bank; IFRC, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; OCHA, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; WHO/PAHO, World Health Organization / Pan American Health Organization; UNDP, United Nations Development Programme; ECLAC, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Agenda / Program

Sessions

Opening Ceremony

Welcome from the President of the Republic of Colombia
and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, Dr. Juan Manuel Santos



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wfSwbWP6iD4>

Dear delegates, I would like to thank you for your visit to our country. The agenda in discussion is very important. At times disasters seem to be a misfortune which we cannot do anything about. They are so terrible and powerful that they cause us to lose our ability to react. However, although we cannot prevent an earthquake from happening, or a volcano from erupting, we can minimize the consequences of a disaster and, more importantly, it is possible to save lives. That is the purpose for which we have gathered here. Our countries face great challenges in this regard, especially if we take into consideration that this region, especially Colombia, is very vulnerable to climate change and all the problems that this brings.

The Regional Platform represents a valuable opportunity to exchange experiences and learn from one another. In recent years Colombia has learned some important lessons, and we want to share these with you. In this regard, I would like to recount a brief anecdote for you: before assuming the Presidency of the country in a ceremony held on August 7, 2010 at the Congress of the Republic in Bogotá, I travelled to the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, which is north of Cartagena, in the Colombian Caribbean. The purpose of my trip was to ask permission from the indigenous governors - who we know as Mamos, and who have existed and lived here long before us - to assume the presidency. I did this in recognition of the indigenous cultures of the country. We call them our elder brothers, and they call us their younger brothers. The Mamos appreciated this gesture, since it was the first time in our history that a President visited them to obtain their approval. They presented me with a baton in recognition of the visit, but they also told me that, unfortunately, as President I would have to face difficult times, because Mother Earth was furious because it had been mistreated a lot and she was going to react to so much damage. In fact, in the following days we had the most severe La Niña phenomenon that we have experienced in the history of our country.

That is why, from the first day of our government, we must pay close attention to this issue, to the risk of disasters. Not only because of political responsibility, but also because of questions related to destiny, as I mentioned in the anecdote. From that first day, we had to face the worst La Niña phenomenon in our history. On August 8, just one day after the inauguration, I was in a town near here called La Mojana, helping the victims of the floods, which had already caused thousands of victims. Although we were aware that we should react, we did not know very well what to do. As part of our response we created a series of institutions, including Colombia Humanitaria, which was a short-term strategy to deal with this crisis. This response represented a great collective effort that included municipal mayors, state governors, civil society and the private sector. The latter greatly assisted our government institutions, and we were able to provide immediate assistance to those affected in an efficient manner, with calmness and transparency. Colombia Humanitaria has carried out more than 9,000 projects throughout national territory, through a significant investment of more than 5 billion Colombian pesos. However, this initiative was short-term, and we wanted to create more lasting institutions and systems that would allow us to face this growing problem. In those days, former Vice President of the United States, Al Gore, was in the country, and he gave a keynote speech on climate change. On that occasion, he explained that if we did nothing, the situation would be aggravated, and the consequences would be increasingly severe throughout the world.

I remember that Mr. Gore explained the reasons why it rains harder and why there are more floods due to climate change. This made us reflect, both as Colombian citizens and as the government of the country, on the need to have a complete system to face this type of situation. Once the Colombia Humanitaria initiative concluded, we saw the need to formulate a long-term strategy to manage the risks, and this is exactly what we did. We needed a better system to deal with disasters, as well as a policy that would allow us to improve and reduce the possibility of a catastrophe. An important step in this regard was the creation of the Adaptation Fund, the product of a series of discussions which included experts from all over the world sharing experiences from other countries with us, especially in relation to what had already worked, and what had not gone so well. This was a starting point to establish our institutions. We created the Adaptation Fund in order to generate a series of investments aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change, such as the construction of barriers in some towns and cities so that floods do not occur when rivers rose.

In 2011 we also created the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management, based on a series of best practices. Through its dedication and commitment, this entity has been responsible for leading the strategy that drives and strengthens the country's capacities to understand and reduce risks, and to manage disasters. But our efforts have also gone beyond these initiatives. In 2012 we published a law, which was approved by Congress, and established the National Disaster Risk Management System, together with the public policy necessary to address the issue. Fortunately, today we now have better organization, with financing mechanisms, planning instruments and, very importantly, with information systems in order to implement disaster risk management processes. For example, Colombia is one of the countries with the most rivers in the world. We have invaded their channels and wetlands, and therefore the rivers look for other ways to follow their course, and when these rivers rise they cause disasters which can easily be mitigated through a series of preventative measures. In the past we did not have the necessary instruments to measure the flow in rivers, but now we have a system with more than 80 measuring devices that show increases in flow, and this has allowed us to avoid many victims when water levels rise. We are proud that our policy has become an example in the global arena. We have taken very precise steps to build, or to try to build, a less vulnerable Colombia, and in doing so we have strengthened our communities. In this regard, I must mention that it is very important to raise awareness, because if communities react on time and make a commitment to collaborate in the process, they will benefit and be better prepared to manage risks and disasters. We also have risk management systems in place at the regional level, in order to provide more effective responses. Departments and municipalities have their own systems, and each component is activated according to the specific needs that arise in each situation.



More than 5,500 projects have been executed to reduce or mitigate risk through the National Disaster Risk Management System and other entities. This represents an investment of over 12 trillion pesos, however this has also been a “good deal” for the State. In order for you to have a clearer idea in this regard, for each peso invested in risk reduction, we have saved approximately 7 pesos in dealing with disasters. In addition, more than 10million people have benefited, because we have avoided them from being affected by the various situations that we have had to face. In the last three years, when we have had similar climatic conditions, we have set ourselves the goal of reducing the number of people affected by 51 percent. We have also managed to reduce damage to homes by 80 percent and the number of affected families by 70 percent. In addition, all national territory has technical assistance available to ensure adequate territorial development within the planning included in the National Risk Management System. That is to say, we are succeeding in establishing an integrated policy at the municipal, departmental and national levels.

When analyzing the last eight years of work, we can see that we have made great advances and the book entitled “Colombia menos vulnerable” [‘Colombia less vulnerable’] summarizes most of our efforts and the fruits they have yielded. We have a national disaster risk management plan with a 10 year horizon, and which is in accordance with the guidelines proposed in international instruments for this area, such as the Sendai Framework and the OECD guidelines, an organization to which Colombia was recently admitted. Today we can affirm that, without a doubt, the country is much better prepared to respond to any emergency, because we have agile response protocols as well as effective coordination systems, which have already been tested in practice. Even the United Nations has rated our search and rescue teams very highly compared to other teams both in the region and in the rest of the world.

All this has allowed us to be more effective in the emergencies that arise daily, some smaller than others, but which are still emergencies. For example, in 2015 the municipality of Salgar, located in the South-East of the Department of Antioquia, was affected by an avalanche that left hundreds of victims and missing persons. Since then, similar tragedies have occurred, such as last year in Mocoa, the capital of the Department of Putumayo in the South of the country, or in Corinto, a municipality in the Department of Cauca, also in the Southern zone. Likewise, we can mention the case of the municipality of Gramalote, which was almost totally destroyed at the beginning of my government, and which required to be rebuilt in a new location.

These disasters, which caused so much pain, were attended in record time and the recovery phases have allowed the affected communities to continue in the same, or better, conditions than before. This aspect of “better than before” has been a policy that we tried to establish from the first day of my government, eight years ago, when we faced the La Niña phenomenon. On that occasion we told the Colombian people, and in particular the victims, that we would put into practice the recommendations of the Chinese: transform a crisis into an opportunity and take advantage of a problem to turn it into a benefit. Through these efforts, I dare to say that many of the victims, perhaps the majority, are now in a better situation than they were before the emergency, because now, for example, their homes are better constructed. So, we take advantage of these difficulties and turn them into opportunities. This has been our approach, which has provided very good results and has shown that it is sustainable.

But the work never stops. We must remain vigilant, because the problems continue and many even get worse over time. In view of this we launched the so-called humanitarian logistics centers, which are strategically located throughout the country in order to coordinate emergency response, and additionally we installed a total of 111 early warning systems in 12 departments in order to aid decision-making and prompt action. We have learned that if you act in time you save a lot of money and you also save many lives. In addition, we have strengthened institutions and communities with national drills. A drill is very useful, because when



a situation arises in real life, we are prepared and we know what to do. Taking part in this type of exercises makes a significant difference compared to those who have not participated. The drills have also allowed us to verify the effectiveness of emergency procedures and protocols, and to improve communication between coordination mechanisms.

In addition, international cooperation has been a fundamental axis in strengthening our system. Colombia has worked to try to position itself as one of the pioneer countries in terms of policies for risk management. We wanted to be innovative and take new directions, because we are a very vulnerable country. As part of this process, we wanted to be at the forefront of risk management, both within the region and globally. We actively participate in several multilateral mechanisms, and we have implemented a strategic plan for international cooperation in disaster risk management. This plan not only facilitated the management of more organized and effective cooperation, but it also provided the necessary mechanisms for Colombia to collaborate in this field with countries around the world, with strategic partners such as Japan, Korea, China, the United Arab Emirates, the United States and the countries of the European Union, as well as organizations such as the United Nations and even the International Red Cross Movement. Likewise, we have received very significant contributions of more than 42000 million pesos, and we have also coordinated the implementation of projects for more than 20000 million pesos which directly contributed to the strengthening of the system we have created. In addition, we established a permanent relationship of joint and two-way learning through knowledge exchange and the development of tools for risk management through several cooperation agreements with countries in the region such as Ecuador, Peru, Mexico and Argentina.

During these years we have undertaken 63 sessions on the exchange of experiences with more than 200 partners, which allowed us to learn a great deal, as well as to share our own experiences. Through this process we have been able to observe how, and to what extent, we have managed to improve and advance: we went from being a recipient of aid to investing in our initiatives and even being able to assist other countries. During these years we were able to send aid to brother countries such as Chile, Ecuador, Haiti, Peru, Cuba and Mexico. This solidarity unites us with these countries and demonstrates that planning and cooperation are the best way to respond to disasters. Colombia can feel very proud of the National Disaster Risk Management System that has been developed during these years, a system that is the product of serious and dedicated work with the priority of saving lives and ensuring always the welfare of the population.

We have a system in which entities responsible for managing risk and disasters fully understand their functions and tasks and perform them in a timely and effective manner. Under this system, local and national authorities know their responsibilities, and act accordingly. Alongside these entities, I cannot fail to mention, although there are no words to thank them their great efforts, the work of the fire-fighters, the Civil Defense, the Red Cross and our soldiers and police, as well as the solidarity of millions of anonymous volunteers. I also want to make a special acknowledgement of the work of Dr. Carlos Iván Márquez, the Director who from the beginning has been in charge of this unit and is, to a large extent, responsible for all the advances we have achieved.

We still have immense challenges to overcome: the implementation of the National Disaster Risk Management Plan 2015-2025, the application of our own national policy and the fulfillment of our commitments in the international arena. For example, we were promoters of the Sustainable Development Goals and we have made a commitment to fulfill them, since they have also become part of the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations. In this regard, we have been pioneers in setting specific goals for the year 2030, and we have transformed these goals into law. In fact, we were the first country to do so, and this step is very important not only in terms of sustainability, but also because we are a country very rich in biodiversity, and climate change is perhaps its worst enemy.



At this moment we are facing an emergency that occurred in Antioquia with a hydro-power generation company named Hidroituango. This is a project of great importance for the country, and we have a very clear framework to support not only the company, but also the department and the municipalities involved, through effective response. All necessary measures have been taken to protect the inhabitants of the area within the project construction guidelines, and work is being done in a coordinated way in order to prevent a disaster. This is an example of how well-applied protocols do work. As soon as the alert for this emergency was raised, all procedures were initiated, and a unified command post was established. I gave instructions to two Ministers - for the Environment and Mines and Energy - to participate in the joint effort, while Dr. Carlos Iván Márquez was instructed to establish the unified command post which controlled the system. Thousands of people were evacuated from regions where the Cauca river presented a risk, and fortunately we have not had a single victim. As always, our priority has been to save lives and to protect the population, and we will not rest until we can overcome this emergency.

Dear friends, this event is an unforgettable opportunity to exchange the knowledge, tools and ideas that allow us to be better at preventing disasters or dealing with them in the best possible way. I would like to take this opportunity to give special thanks to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, for trusting Colombia to be the host country for this edition, which brings together the leading experts in the management of disaster risk from each country. Thanks also to the partners who have participated in the process of planning and implementation. I express my special thanks to the Government of Switzerland for its valuable financial support in enabling this Sixth Edition of the Regional Platform. I would like to end by remembering that on June 3rd our Guatemalan brothers suffered the eruption of the Fuego Volcano. Our solidarity and thoughts are with them in these difficult times, and we know that you have the strength to rise from the tragedy. I was able to communicate with President Morales and asked Dr. Carlos Márquez to initiate negotiations with those people who could help to deal with this emergency. We have been more than available to help our Guatemalan brothers, and working together we will always achieve better results, because united we can prepare ourselves and respond better to the challenges that nature presents us.

Climate change is a global problem and is perhaps the most complex phenomenon facing humanity today. Although countries such as Colombia are more vulnerable due to their wealth of natural resources and biodiversity - in fact, we are the richest country per square kilometer in the whole world and that is why it is everyone's job to seek new ways to mitigate the consequences of this phenomenon - we are all in this together, and we cannot continue postponing taking decisions on this subject. There are still some people who think that climate change does not exist, but how is such denial possible? This is something we observe every day in different parts of the world, and we have to be creative, to think about strategies that allow us to continuously improve and look for ways to progress, while also thinking about the economic and social development of our countries, but without sacrificing our planet, our common home. We have an immense responsibility with the future, and we must not forget this for a single moment. Respect for human rights, as well as for fundamental freedoms, is equally something that must unite us, just as we must unite in the fight against climate change and the mitigation of its risks.

I wish you many successes in the coming days and I thank you very much for your participation.



Speech by Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction



Your Excellency Doctor Juan Manuel Santos Calderón, President of the Republic of Colombia. Dr. Carlos Iván Márquez Pérez, General Director of the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management – UNGRD – of the Republic of Colombia. Mr. Martin Santiago, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Colombia. Mr. Carlos Kaiser, Executive Director of Inclusiva NGO and Representative of the Inclusive Disaster Risk and Disability Management Network of Latin America and the Caribbean (GIRDD-LAC Network). Representatives of Member States, Intergovernmental Organizations and Stakeholder Groups Distinguished Delegates Ladies and Gentlemen

It is an honor to be here today to address you at this Opening Ceremony of the Sixth Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas. Regional and Global Platforms play a pivotal role in advancing the implementation of the Sendai Framework, by offering privileged spaces for assessing progress and learning from each other. This conference takes place at a difficult time for millions of people across the region whose lives continue to be affected by catastrophic events. In particular, my thoughts are with the people of Guatemala who are still coming to terms with the loss of possibly hundreds of lives in the Fuego volcanic eruption earlier this month. The death toll and the fact that the lives of over one million people have been affected is a further demonstration of why this region is so committed to implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

The key to saving lives in potential disaster zones lies in the implementation of national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction and this must include well-rehearsed and well-understood protocols for issuing early warnings and ensuring they are acted upon. It also requires strong political leadership at both the national and the local level. Last year the region had one of the highest rates of population displacement in the world, largely as a result of a record-breaking Atlantic Hurricane Season. Cuba and the US each had 1.7 million people displaced. The small Caribbean island of Barbuda was entirely evacuated. Many were left homeless in Dominica. Latest research on the rise in mortality in Puerto Rico after the passage of Hurricane Maria demonstrates the tragic long-term consequences of such events when transport links and public utilities are severely disrupted especially for those reliant on regular treatment and medical care.

The economic losses and the long-term consequences of such events on sustainable development are the reason why we must persevere in our efforts to reduce disaster losses by switching our focus from managing disasters to managing the risks, which drive these events. This means we have to tackle poverty, adapt to climate change, better manage the scale and quality of construction in our cities and towns, preserve protective eco-systems and strengthen institutional capacity to manage disaster risk.

Above all, the Sendai Framework urges us to reduce disaster risk by ensuring that we adopt an inclusive, all-of-society approach to disaster risk management. We need to hear the voices of those who suffer disproportionately in such events.

People with disabilities, older persons, women, children and indigenous groups need to be consulted and engaged as we implement target (e) of the Sendai Framework, which seeks a substantial increase in the number of countries with national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction by the year 2020. This will be a significant area of discussion here at the Regional Platform.

Our host country Colombia stands out for its many successes in disaster risk reduction. It was the first country to align its National Development Plan with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework, explicitly integrating disaster risk reduction and action on climate change as conditions for resilient growth.

A review of the impact of the 2017 Atlantic Hurricane season, which set new records for the damage and loss in the United States and the Caribbean, is high on our agenda. The region sustained record disaster losses last year, estimated at over \$300 billion, including the Mexican earthquakes and the Canadian floods.

The strengthening of the Making Cities Resilient Campaign in the Americas will ensure that both the Sendai Framework and the New Urban Agenda are reflected in local efforts to reduce disaster risk.

Already 1,800 cities and towns across the region participate in the Campaign and this is an excellent foundation for building resilience to disasters at the local level in one of the most heavily urbanized regions in the world.

This Regional Platform is also notable for the fact that it is the first to take place since the launch of the Sendai Framework Monitor in March of this year. Good data collection is essential to monitoring progress in achieving the seven targets of the Sendai Framework. I hope that this Regional Platform will provide a further boost to the number of countries now reporting their disaster losses on the Sendai Framework Monitor.

I expect that this will be the case, given that this is the first Regional Platform where we have such a strong presence of representatives from national statistics offices. I also extend a warm welcome to the parliamentarians joining us over these three days. They are joining forces to recommend a parliamentary protocol for legislation on Disaster Risk Reduction. I am sure that others will soon join Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Paraguay and Peru, in aligning their approach to Disaster Risk Management with the Sendai Framework targets and priorities.

On behalf of the UN Secretary General, who has made 'prevention' one of the most important agendas during his tenure, and the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, I would like to close by expressing my appreciation to the Government of Colombia for hosting this important event and to our supporters: the European Union, Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the Government of Argentina, and the UPS Foundation.

At the last Regional Platform, you adopted a Regional Plan of Action for Implementing the Sendai Framework in the Americas and I am very much looking forward to hearing the progress you have made since that meeting in Montreal last year. The outcomes of this Regional Platform will provide important input to the next Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, which will be hosted by the Government of Switzerland in 2019.

This is my first time attending the Regional Platform in the Americas since I have been appointed. I thank you all for your warm welcome, and I am looking forward to attending lively sessions and meeting as many people as possible who are working with us in moving the Disaster Risk Reduction challenge forward.



Speech by Carlos Kaiser, Director of the Inclusiva NGO and Representative of the Inclusive Disaster Risk and Disability Management Network of Latin America and the Caribbean (GIRDD-LAC Network)



Your Excellency, the President of the Republic of Colombia, Mr. Juan Manuel Santos, Mrs. Mami Mizutori, Special Representative on Disaster Risk Reduction of the Secretary General of the United Nations, Dr. Carlos Ivan Marquez, Director of the National Unit for Disaster Risk Reduction of Colombia, distinguished Ministers and Directors of the Government of the Republic of Colombia, distinguished members of the delegations of member countries of the United Nations, member entities of the United Nations System, representatives of civil society organizations and disaster risk management networks, it is a high honor to offer the following words.

We live in a world that faces multiple and complex threats. Our region is the second most affected by disasters in the world. This situation requires coordinated responses. Fortunately, we are fraternal peoples with a common history; we have contributed with knowledge and initiatives to disaster risk management.

However, society is not complete if it excludes those whom many consider different, not important, without the same rights; I mean us, the people with disabilities. Like other vulnerable groups we face prejudices, to which we add the negative effect of environmental barriers, having 2 to 4 times higher chances of dying; as a civilized society we cannot allow such a situation to remain. Do not let us die.

We have the Sendai Framework, which is inclusive, and the Declaration of Dhaka, among many other measures. Let's change the world together, do not work on projects about us, without us. Believe in our capacities given the fact that, due to our life experience, we are experts in resilience. Holding hands, we will create an inclusive, safe, resilient region and world. Thank you very much.

Technical session on the Regional Action Plan



On June 20th and 21st 2018, technical representatives met with the delegates from Disaster Risk Management agencies and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of approximately 15 countries of the Americas and the Caribbean with the objective of addressing technical issues of relevance to the region on the Implementation of the Regional Action Plan (RAP) for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2018 in the Americas. The results of these discussions were subsequently presented at the Third High-level Meeting of Ministers and Authorities on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030 in the Americas and the Caribbean.

A RAP consultation was undertaken in preparation for this face-to-face working meeting. The consultation took place through virtual sessions among countries over a period of two months ahead of the Regional Platform. The consultation process included the following discussions and outcomes:

- The need was recognized to consolidate a progress summary of the countries in the re-gion, which assists in the follow-up process for the implementation of the RAP.
- There were 4 video conferences (May-June 2018) where the countries present reported some of the actions they have developed for each of the RAP priorities and initiatives.
- Colombia designed a specific matrix for the systematic collection of information, which was shared with all countries.
- Colombia consolidated a first "Progress Summary" and extracted some statistical data in a preliminary manner with the information received from the countries that completed the matrix. This summary was based on the information provided by 6 countries: Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Trinidad & Tobago. Chile, Guatemala, Brazil, Venezuela and Costa Rica shared some progress during the video-conferences, but they were not included in the statistical analysis.

Colombia presented the progress reported by six countries for each of the priorities of the Sendai Framework in relation to the implementation of the RAP during the RAP Special Session. During this session three additional countries reported their progress in this respect (United States, Canada and Cuba).

In turn, Colombia's proposal for the Special Session of the RAP was to generate a follow-up scheme to be repeated at the following platforms, taking as a point of departure the baseline that was presented as part of this technical session. The following was agreed as the main products of the discussions within this meeting:

- To include a recommendation in the chair summary of the VI Platform for the countries of the Americas and the Caribbean to prepare voluntary reports on progress, and to follow-up on the implementation of the initiatives of the Regional Action Plan in the next Platforms to be held.
- To use mechanisms for the systematic collection of information - similar to that developed on the present occasion - in order to consolidate the progress of the countries of the region in the implementation of the Regional Action Plan.
- To recommend to host countries of future Regional Platforms to lead the consultation process on the implementation status of the RAP, and to consolidate this as an input for the discussions that take place within the framework of the event.

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



The Third High-Level Meeting of Ministers and Authorities on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in the Americas and the Caribbean was held in the frame of the **VI Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. In the Ministerial session, which counted with the participation of Ministers and heads of delegations from more than 20 countries of the Americas and the Caribbean**, consensus was reached on the **Declaration of Cartagena** (see Annex I) in which the commitment to continue with the implementation of the Regional Action Plan is underlined. Among other agendas, Member States are encouraged to actively participate in the 2019 Global Platform, and the candidacy of Jamaica was welcomed as the host of the VII Regional Platform for Risk Reduction, which by 2020 will explicitly include “the Caribbean” in its name (Regional Platform for the Americas and the Caribbean). Representatives of civil society presented the Declaration of Civil Society, which was developed through a participatory process prior to, and during, the Regional Platform.

PLENARY SESSIONS

Plenary Session 1: Risk assessment, analysis and monitoring: Tools and experiences



Session Hosts

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk (UNISDR), Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean in collaboration with the Colombian National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGDR).

Objective

Promote tools and good practices to enhance comprehensive disaster risk assessments, analyses, evaluations and monitoring for informed decision-making.

Moderator:

Carlos Iván Márquez Pérez, General Director, National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGDR), Colombia.

Keynote speaker:

Ricardo Mena, Chief, Supporting and Monitoring Sendai Framework Implementation Branch, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).

Panelists:

- Dan Kaniewski, Deputy Administrator for Resilience, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), USA
- Osvaldo Luiz Leal de Moraes, Director, National Centre for Monitoring and Early Warning of Natural Disasters (CEMADEN), Brazil
- Onghid Arcia, Social Worker, Department of Social Outreach and Citizen Participation, National Secretariat for Disabilities (SENADIS), Republic of Panama
- Walter Cotte, Regional Director for the Americas, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
- Elizabeth Riley, Deputy Executive Director, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).

Summary of the Session:

The panel highlighted that resilience is possible as a voluntary political process. In turn, it was recognized that there has been improvement in compliance with disaster construction standards, as well as with procedures related to a more effective response. In addition, it was stressed that great efforts are required for disaster risk management, incorporating other social and environmental variables. It was recommended to continue with the development of capacities to strengthen institutions and communities, as well as continuing with support to improve decision making and recommendations relating to comprehensive and inclusive risk management. It was concluded that disaster risk management is a continuous process involving community work. In addition, it was considered that it is necessary to address risk through a differential and comprehensive management approach, and at the same time to emphasize understanding and comprehension of risk.

Additionally, it was noted that the systematization of information and early warning systems are integrating mechanisms permitting stakeholders, technologies and information to save lives, which has resulted in the reduction of impact and losses, both human and material. Regarding evaluations and research, it was emphasized that these require sustained articulation between academia and the public sector. In addition, the need to include perspectives on gender equity and disability in disaster risk reduction planning, programs and projects, in which all the stakeholders involved are protagonists, was emphasized. Finally, it was concluded that spaces for dialogue and exchange of knowledge must continue.



Plenary Session 2: Coherence of global agendas (CC, DRR, SD) in regional, sub-regional, national and local planning



Session Hosts

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk (UNISDR), Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean in collaboration with the Colombian National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGDR) and the Colombian Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.

Objectives

1. Identification of problems or limitations faced by different countries to jointly consider global agendas and coordination of issues according to the institutional framework of each country. Identification of good practices (actions/processes) that involve innovative approaches to comprehensively address global agendas, promote synergies and avoid duplication of efforts through recognition of existing processes.
2. Identification of particular (country) and common (regional-Americas) challenges to articulate and implement the agenda guidelines in the various planning instruments.
3. Promotion of agreements at the regional level for the harmonization of global agendas in planning instruments, their financing and implementation.

Moderator:

Ms. Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)

Panelists:

- Patricia Llombart Cussac, Ambassador of the European Union in Colombia
- Yaneth Patricia Alegría Copete, Vice-minister of Environment, Colombia
- América Santos Riveras, Vice-Minister of Science, Technology and the Environment, Cuba
- Martín Santiago, Resident UN Coordinator, Colombia.
- José Luis Samaniego, Director, Sustainable Development and Human Settlement Division, ECLAC

Summary of the Session:

The conclusions of the session highlighted elements that are common to global agendas, and were considered to be priorities for the present and the future, among which are:

1. Regional experiences show us that it is possible to integrate climate change agendas, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development goals in development planning.
2. Experience indicates that the integration of agendas in the region faces a challenge in the sectoral approach of national institutions with regard to the development processes.
3. Regional examples show that it is possible to have national planning and monitoring mechanisms that integrate these agendas in an articulated manner.
4. Experience indicates that a common element for this integration is an awareness of the complementarity of agendas and the political will to carry this understanding forward to institutional arrangements that permit a comprehensive approach to the agendas of Climate Change, Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the mechanisms for follow up.

Plenary Session 3: Investment and Resilient Infrastructure and: Best Practices in the region and applicability in the countries



Session Hosts

Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), in collaboration with the Colombian Ministry of Transport, National Roads Institute and National Infrastructure Agency.

Objectives

1. Recognize the main progress milestones, challenges and recommendations relating to disaster risk reduction, investments and financial protection strategies for resilient infrastructure, and to ensure the continuity of basic services.
2. Identify best practices and lessons learned that contribute to reducing deaths and the impact of the damage caused by disasters on vital infrastructure, for replication in other countries of the region, thus strengthening their resilience.
3. Share financial mechanisms and/or tools that contribute to protect investment and reduce direct economic losses derived from damage or destruction attributed to disasters, and enable recovery.

Moderator:

Gina Watson, Representative, Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), Colombia.

Panelists:

- Magda Constanza Buitrago, Infrastructure Adviser, Ministry of Transport, Colombia.
- Tony Gibbs, Adviser, Consulting Engineers Partnership Ltd.
- Carlos Valdez, Director, National Center for Disaster Prevention (CENAPRED), Mexico
- María Alexandra Ocles Padilla, Ministry of Risk Management, Ecuador.

Summary of the Session:

In general terms, the key elements of the third priority of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 were highlighted: Investment in disaster risk reduction for resilience, as well as regional initiatives 10, 11 and 12 of the Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework.

Particular mention was made of the importance of investment in infrastructure being accompanied by both better regulation and compliance with standards in the processes of design, construction and supervision of works both in the public and private sectors, as well as a higher level of knowledge of the threats and cost-effectiveness analysis, ensuring the continuity of basic services during and after a disaster.

Plenary Session 4: Preparedness for response and resilient recovery. Advances and opportunities

**Session Hosts**

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in collaboration with the Colombian National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGDR).

Objectives

4. Recognize best practices in preparedness for response and recovery in the region through specific examples.
5. Identify at least two challenges that limit the process of preparedness for response and recovery.

Moderator:

Jeannette Fernández Castro, Post Disaster Recovery Specialist, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Panelists:

- Ricardo Toro, National Director, National Emergency Office, Ministry of the Interior (ONEMI), Chile.
- Carlos Iván Márquez Pérez, General Director, National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGDR), Colombia.
- Alexis Cruz, Director, Advisory Unit for Economic Analysis, Ministry of Social Economy, Planning and Development, Dominican Republic.
- Jocelyn Lance, Resilience and Rapid Response Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean, Directorate General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations.
- Tania Triminio Quintanilla, National President, Cruz Verde, Honduras.

Summary of the Session:

In general terms it was considered that preparatory actions for response and recovery must have people as their central focus at all times. It was suggested that it should be openly questioned whether the actions that are implemented are really effective by undertaking a constant accountability exercise.

Additionally, it was commented that the organizations called on to coordinate, complement, lead, or provide support must be part of the national system, and assist - for a better understanding of risk - in participatory and coordinated work, strengthening local responsibility.

It was also noted that the technology associated with the preparatory and subsequent phases allows reaching out to the community and provides evidence support for adequate decision making. Such information must be processed and made available to those responsible in an expeditious manner. In addition, it was considered that specific strengthening actions have proven to be more effective if they are in accordance with country processes based on proven international standards. In this context, it was highlighted that global mechanisms, tools and instruments are important; these products are increasingly more accessible, and constant efforts must be made to incorporate these as a part of the elements in an analysis.

Among the requirements highlighted for effective preparation, both for response and for recovery, are: solid legal frameworks, vertical and horizontal coordination, sector integration, and standard operating procedures that go down to the community level. Finally, it was pointed out that planning should be based on a vulnerability analysis and full understanding of the dimension of a disaster, anticipating expenditure and priorities for recovery.



PARALLEL SESSIONS

Parallel Session 1: Early Warning Systems for Different Hazards: Best Practices



Session Hosts

National Secretariat of Protection and Civil Defense (SEDEC) - Brazil, in collaboration with the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies IDEAM - Colombia.

Objectives

1. Disseminate the comprehensive vision held by institutions in relation to early warning systems, and how this contributes to disaster risk management.
2. Promote thematic and technological developments for hydro-meteorological monitoring and follow-up systems as part of early warning systems.
3. Share lessons learned in terms of capacity building for prevention with countries in the Americas within the framework of early warning systems as a fundamental tool for disaster risk management.
4. Generate recommendations for the Americas region that facilitate the use and exchange of information and technologies that contribute to the strengthening of early warning systems at the regional level.

Moderator:

Minister Joaquín Roa, Representative of the Ministerial and High level Meeting on Disaster Risk Management Mercosur (RMAGIR).

Panelists:

- Omar Franco Torres, General Director, Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies IDEAM, Colombia.
- Tiago Molina Schnorr, Head of the Monitoring Team, National Risk and Disaster Management Center (CENAD), National Civil Defense Protection Secretariat, Brazil.
- Lixion A. Avila, Ph.D., Senior Hurricanes Specialist, National Hurricane Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
- Elizabeth Riley, Executive Deputy Director, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).

Summary of the Session:

It was noted that technical-scientific institutions have improved their analysis, modeling and forecasting capabilities of Early Warning Systems (EWS), and that EWSs should be an integral part of the National Systems of Disaster Risk Management and Civil Protection, and should consider multiple threats.

It was observed that there has been greater investment and strengthening in elements of EWS, including technical personnel, equipment for detection, monitoring and forecasting, as well as recognition that it is also necessary to allocate resources to other EWS components (warnings and dissemination of information).

It was considered that destructive disasters have presented opportunities for the strengthening of EWS through the allocation of resources for institutions engaged in research, monitoring, forecasting and warning. Progress was recognized in the development of platforms and applications to share hydrometeorological information for various end uses by the institutions of the National Systems of Disaster Risk Management.

It was commented that the operation of the National Disaster Risk Management Systems has facilitated and strengthened collaboration and joint forces between EWS entities, while recognizing progress in spatial and temporal resolution in the issue of warnings at a municipal level.

It was also suggested to consider redundant mechanisms for the dissemination of warnings to decision makers and the population (social networks, Google Alert, SMS, others). Additionally, it was recommended to use the EWS checklist prepared by the WMO and UNISDR in a manner adapted to the context of the country and type of threat, to define the basic elements and interentity issues to be considered.

It was concluded that EWS are the starting point in the preparations for a response; it is therefore important to support the institutional framework of technical-scientific entities engaged in monitoring, forecasting and warning with regulatory frameworks and the allocation of resources (human, technical and financial). It was suggested to plan the development of EWSs by ensuring a balance of their 4 components. Likewise, it was considered that national and regional EWS should have public, private and community co-responsibility in their 4 pillars. It was also recommended to ensure the sustainability of EWSs (national, municipal and community) and their operation 24/7, 365 days of the year, as well as ensuring the sustainability of monitoring and forecasting institutions and risk management institutions who are responsible for issuing warnings to the population. It was considered necessary to elaborate legal mechanisms for the allocation of resources and cooperation among institutions to ensure sustainability, increased coverage, and expansion of EWS (for various threats).

Parallel Session 2: Making Cities Resilient: the joint implementation of the Framework of Sendai and the New Urban Agenda in the Americas



Session Hosts

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (CEPAL) and the German Technical Cooperation Agency (GIZ), jointly with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) for the Americas and the Caribbean.

Objectives

1. Promote dialogue between the various actors on the importance of disaster risk management at a local level and its relationship to sustainable development.
2. Promote exchange of knowledge in terms of progress, experiences and challenges in this area, with the aim of promoting horizontal learning and the replication of successful practices to strengthen resilience at a local level.
3. Promote collaboration and cooperation between the diverse actors from the public and private sectors, academia and civil society, to create strategic intervention alliances.
4. Strengthen understanding of resilience as a key focus point for sustainable development.

Moderator:

Esteban León, Technical Advisor, City Resilience Profiling Programme, UN Habitat.

Main Speakers:

Allan Lavell, Coordinator of the research program on risk and disasters, which forms part of the General Secretary of the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO) in San José, Costa Rica, and which coordinates the project on Local Risk Management and Adaptation to Climate Change financed by the IUCN.

Summary of the Session:

The session commenced with a brief presentation by Dr. Lavell, in which he linked sustainable development with disaster risk management. Following the presentation there was a group discussion on three agenda items: Governance, Financing, and Planning and strategies. The discussions were guided by questions on each area. At the end of the discussion, each roundtable working group recorded a video with the reply to the last discussion question. Nine videos were chosen at random and were shown in the plenary session. The session concluded with a few words from Dr. Lavell relating the results of the roundtable discussions with his initial presentation.

Within the framework of the main presentation, the following was highlighted:

1. *Urbanization and the chronic risk of disasters. The region is increasingly urbanized. There has been accelerated growth in medium and small cities in the last 10 years, which also signifies an increase in the exposure of property and persons to the threats that are present. This chronic risk of disaster is exacerbated in the context of climate change. It is therefore necessary to understand that the impact of climate change adds to the existing risk, exacerbating it and contributing to new threats that were previously unknown (rise in sea level, etc.). It follows that climate change must not be treated as something separate either from development, or risk.*
2. *Regarding urban integration with the environment. Constructions can be an important factor in increasing the risk of flooding and landslides. Likewise, deforestation caused by the growth of cities generates new risk conditions.*
3. *Socio-spatial segregation and risk. Exclusion, marginality, poverty and socio-spatial segregation in cities contribute to chronic risk. This derives from a lack of adequate land use planning and control.*
4. *Understanding risk. Problems generated by cities occur throughout the world. This has gone from a regional issue, prevalent in studies in the 1960s, to a more widespread issue. There is a strong need to focus on understanding the risk and answering the question of how vulnerabilities are generated in the face of threats and how they are exacerbated, in order to identify areas of intervention to reduce risks.*
5. *Financing, Governance, Planning and Strategies. There is a close interrelation between financing, governance, planning and strategies; on the one hand, planning and strategies are the way to respond to identified problems, and each problem requires a different response, depending on the context. On the other hand, in relation to governance, it is important to consider a different viewpoint for corrective, prospective and reactive management, and its institutions and instruments. Therefore, we must move on from reducing risk in favor of sustainable development towards an approach of sustainable development, informed by, and conducive to, the reduction and control of risk.*
6. *Financing. It is important to consider that restructuring an existing, poorly constructed building is much more expensive than designing it correctly, contemplating the risk from the beginning. Relocating communities is much more expensive than locating them correctly to begin with. Reforestation is more expensive and challenging than implementing sustainable management from the beginning. Given that cities are growing faster every day, it is important to focus on the issue of new constructions, and to consider what will be the risk conditions for cities in the future.*



The following was highlighted from the roundtable working groups and the participants' videos:

1. It is necessary to have prospective instruments and to encourage the participation of local communities. There is a need to promote initiatives that unite the different sectors (public and private). Public-private investments must be guaranteed.
2. Resilient cities are drivers for a better quality of life. The resilience of cities is closely linked to the priorities of the Sendai Framework:
 - i. Understand the risk.
 - ii. Strengthen the governance of disaster risk management.
 - iii. Invest in disaster risk reduction to strengthen resilience.
 - iv. Build back better and benefit future generations.
3. Governance promotes political will and the transfer of knowledge. Developing long-term policies is fundamental in order to advance beyond the political changes that may occur. It is important to promote alliances, share knowledge, and collaborate with stakeholders beyond administrative areas. It is fundamental to have a common vision that involves stakeholders in a territory. It is important to share experiences at all levels.
4. Sub-regional mechanisms should be strengthened to allow resilient cities to have an impact in the region. It is important to establish international standards.

Finally, it was concluded that when the city of the future is built, the criteria of sustainable development and risk management must be introduced and implemented so that the city grows in a resilient manner. In this regard, it was considered that there has been much talk of governance to reduce risk, but governance is not about risk but about development. Thus, it was considered that there is a lot of debate in the Americas that is still to be concluded, and that will continue into the future.

Parallel Session 3: Risk integration in private sector practices



Session Hosts

Colombian Safety Council - CCS, Colombian National Association of Entrepreneurs - ANDI, in collaboration with the ARISE initiative and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Office for the Americas and the Caribbean.

Objectives

1. Presentation of methodologies, successful experiences and best practices for the inclusion of risk management in business decision making processes and strategic business investments.
2. Demonstrate the benefits of business investments that include disaster risk criteria.
3. Promote the inclusion of risk management variables in order to generate resilient businesses.
4. Promote the cross-sector inclusion of organizational risk analysis derived from natural events.

Moderator:

Chloe Demrovsky, President and Executive Director, Disaster Recovery Institute International.

Panelists:

- Sr. José A. Acosta, President, Public Affairs and Operations, Latin America, UPS.
- Lida Janeth González Rojas, Coordinator, Program for Private Sector Integration in Disaster Risk Management, Fenalco-Antioquia.
- Ricardo Lozano, Director, National Water Center, Colombian National Association of Entrepreneurs (ANDI).
- Pablo Rojas, Director of the Environment, Entrepreneurs Alliance for Development.
- Jeremy Collymore, Disaster Resilience Advisor, Vice-Chancellor's Office, West Indies University
- Louis Potter, President, British Virgin Islands Chamber of Commerce & Hotel Association.

Summary of the Session:

With regard to Priority 3 of the Sendai Framework, the private sector has been making progress in recognizing the importance of addressing disaster risk management as a determining factor for business continuity and resilience. Thus, there are initiatives that address the identification of risk and the implementation of mitigation measures in a timely and professional manner, and which can be improved in the face of large-scale events which were not previously anticipated.

Likewise, it was stressed that although it is important to move forward in all areas of management, addressing a specific issue such as the topic of emergency care response teams can be a starting point to mobilize and advance towards comprehensive risk management, leading us to think about risk scenarios that may be generated or revealed by such a productive activity, overcoming the barrier of thinking only in terms of responses.

Within this session it was proposed to move forward in public-private partnerships with a collective impact methodology, which permits the achievement of visible results for all the stakeholders. It was highlighted that the private sector requires formal spaces for articulation with authorities, which can permit knowledge and joint working methodologies to be advanced for agendas of mutual interest, creating proactive associations.

In addition, it was noted that it is important that companies establish an internal framework that facilitates articulation with key partners, such as local, national or international authorities, starting with an understanding of the risk factors in their territory. The importance of business associations was stressed in order to transmit available information to the relevant companies for informed decision-making, by incorporating risk management in their decisions.



In addition, it was suggested to promote risk management in the productive sector by means of practical tools which permit progress or concrete results from implementation to be demonstrated. Finally, a call was made to take into account the business value chain and the risks within the chain, in order to be prepared by recognizing the importance of continuity in the value chain.

Parallel Session 4: Sendai Framework Monitoring and alignment with SDG and CC



Session Hosts

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Office for the Region of the Americas and the Caribbean jointly with the Colombian National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGDR) and the National Planning Department.

Objectives

1. Provide an overview of the Sendai Framework Monitoring and its global targets and indicators, with representatives participating from the Openended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Indicators and Terminology relating to Disaster Risk Reduction (OIEWG) and other relevant sectors.
2. Identify reporting mechanisms on Sendai Framework Indicators and linkages with SDG reporting. Identify challenges, complementarities and current efforts among national institutions in reporting efforts.

Moderator:

Juan Carlos Villalonga, Member of Parliament, Republic of Argentina

Panelists

- Joaquín Roa, Minister / Executive Secretary, National Emergency Secretariat (SEN), Republic of Paraguay
- Andria Grosvenor, Planning and Business Development Manager, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)
- Julio Serge, Senior Program Manager, UNISDR
- Pauline Leonard, Associate Statistician, Environmental Statistics Division, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Summary of the Session:

The panel stressed that it is necessary to invest in quality statistics to be able to report on the Sendai Framework and Sustainable Development Goals, so as to have an impact on the reduction of vulnerability. Articulated and coordinated work is required with statistical offices and other relevant sectors for such purposes.

It was identified as being important to have inter-institutional frameworks which are established by the highest authorities, and which permit true accountability in international reporting mechanisms, and that are based on knowledge and needs, both at community and local levels. Additionally, it was recognized that coordination mechanisms and monitoring systems are following a path of greater communication and progress in relation to the 2030 Agenda.

The panel concluded that information for decision making is key, in function of which analyses have become ever more important, as has been the case with environmental and risk reduction indicators.

Parallel Session 5: Civil society participation in the Sendai Framework implementation and monitoring

**Session Hosts**

The Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR), jointly with the Colombian Red Cross

Objective

Promote participatory monitoring of the Sendai Framework through viable and sustainable mechanisms and proposals to generate local resilience.

Opening Moderator:

Fabián Arellano Peña, General Director, Comprehensive Disaster Management, Colombian Red Cross.

Concluding Moderator:

Graciela Salaberri Vacani, President, Uruguay Environmental Network and Vice President of the Government Council, South American Representative

Panelists:

- Jorge Pablo Torrealba, Technical Assistant for South America, Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations – ECHO
- Sidney Velado, Regional Advisor, OFDA, Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Santa Sandoval Lajara, Community Leader, Sabana Grande de Boyá, Monte Plata, Dominican Republic and Technician for community outreach for social services for Dominican churches.
- Zoila Marina Lima Barrios de Marroquín, local community leader, Guatemala.

Summary of the Session:

The panel considered that the most significant aspect of local experiences has been the strengthening and transfer of leadership and negotiation capacities, based on local community initiatives with the support of NGOs, for example, which has improved negotiations between the community and authorities. In this regard, it was considered important to legitimize community leadership and to encourage the transfer of these skills to their communities, ensuring sustainability.

Additionally, recognition and communication, both of knowledge and of local capacities, were identified as factors that permit enhancement of community elements in building resilience, as well as contributing to the sustainability of the actions undertaken by NGOs and other institutions.

Among the conclusions, the need to create educational spaces was highlighted, in which there are mutual listening and visions of reality from different angles shared. It was also highlighted that civil society represents a strategic actor in the sustainability of local and national projects and processes, since this can safeguard continuity in the face of scenarios of political change. Likewise, the capacity of civil society organizations was identified as being important to inter-relate preparedness and response with the development agenda. In addition, it is necessary to channel and strengthen the solidarity of civil society in disaster situations, but not to restrict it. Finally, representatives of donor agencies expressed their openness in relation to innovative initiatives promoted by civil society.

Parallel Session 6: Flood risk management: River management (progress and pending challenges)



Session Hosts

Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies – IDEAM, Colombia in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Objectives

1. Generate debate on actions required for comprehensive flood management in the region, identify weaknesses from past natural events, the reasons behind certain difficulties, and opportunities for improvement.
2. Identify best practices in countries of the Americas in the framework of local flood risk management and make recommendations on actions for their replication.

Moderator:

Rodney Martínez Guingla, International Director, International Center for Research on the El Niño Phenomena (CIIFEN).

Panelists:

- Nelson Omar Vargas, Deputy Director of Hydrology – IDEAM.
- Yuri Rafael Della Giustina, Coordinator of the Technological and Scientific Development Fund and the Fund for the Technological Development of Telecommunications, Ministry of Science and Technology, Brazil.
- Berta Olmedo Vernaza, Executive Secretary CRRHH Central America.
- Hitoshi BABA, Senior Adviser, JICA.
- María E. Koutsovitits, Acting Secretary of the department of Hydraulics, University of Buenos Aires
- Víctor López Sevilla, President, FENOPDIH.

Summary of the Session:

In general, the panelists stressed the importance of implementing the four priorities established by the Sendai Framework. In relation to understanding risk, it was noted that the use of data produced by the various sources of information is important in advancing prospective measures to mitigate the risk of disasters from hydro sources.

Regarding strengthening governance and preparedness, it was considered of great importance to connect with the disabled population and those who have been affected by disasters, taking into account that experience can form a basis to implement prospective actions that assist in the implementation of measures to reduce the risk of floods, and preparations to face such floods.

About investment in risk reduction, significant information is available that shows that 83% has been invested in response and recovery, leaving investment in risk reduction with a much lower figure of only 12%; reason why the implementation of measures that ensure the strengthening of investments in Disaster Risk Reduction was considered to be of the utmost importance.

As for good practices, notable agenda items were the development of mapping tools showing those affected, questioning of advanced structural works, the formulation of alternative non-structural projects, the preparation of environmental programs and citizen participation in order to establish environmentally-friendly measures, as well as participatory planning for actions during and after an event. It was also emphasized that technology is a tool that facilitates focusing on reducing risk and not on response, and which requires the active participation of academia. In this regard, it was considered necessary to link with the various persons who may have a relation with the population, and to support initiatives related to an understanding of scientific issues.

Through the discussions it also became evident that the most successful special focus practice at a national level is the incorporation of resilient infrastructure. In terms of the regional level, the focus on international cooperation was noted, since this is not only an advance in terms of understanding the risk of floods, but also in terms of dedicated measures to reduce economic losses and in planning the preparations for responses to new challenges, given the threats of climate variability and climate change, which have caused significant floods in territories in the Americas region.

The discussion generated a series of recommendations to strengthen strategies for management and governance of the comprehensive flood management agenda, which are listed as follows:

1. Comprehensive flood management must be addressed starting at its origins, including the degradation of ecosystems in river basins, urban settlements on wetlands, the marginalization and exclusion of human groups that move to cities - leaving rural areas due to economic pressures - and who are generally located in the most exposed areas, or exactly within the areas of natural flooding from rivers.
2. River management requires strong and well-defined governance, with established legal regulations, clear responsibilities and coordinated work at the inter-institutional level, as well as mechanisms for accountability and transparency.
3. Those involved in the management of rivers and floods need to have detailed analyses available for vulnerability and risks which permit prioritization of actions and a multi-sectoral approach to risk reduction.
4. The optimization of systems for monitoring, prediction and dissemination of information is required to adequately communicate with the various stakeholders.
5. It is fundamental to strengthen the management of information and knowledge, ensuring an adequate dialogue and mutual learning of traditional scientific knowledge together with ancestral knowledge.



6. Investment in infrastructure for flood control must increase. In this regard, river management planning must be long-term and must include both structural and non-structural measures, which require political support and investment in infrastructure, taking into account that the return is approximately seven dollars (US\$ 7) per dollar invested.
7. Land-use planning must consider both past flood events and future projections of flood areas in function of climate change, in addition this must be put into practice in a progressive manner.
8. Integration and inter-institutional articulation must be strengthened, as well as citizen participation and mechanisms such as "prior consultation" for the implementation of infrastructure works.
9. The participation of communities should be encouraged, in addition to implementing environmental education plans and community awareness programs based on young people and women as agents of change.
10. Citizen oversight should be encouraged, in order to strengthen transparency and accountability in the management of floods.
11. In terms of social construct processes, citizen science and participatory management, support should be requested from universities, NGOs and other institutions who can assist processes in a manner that is complementary to government actions.
12. The implementation of response mechanisms aimed at people with disabilities is fundamental in flood management.
13. It is necessary to encourage the correct use of land by means of land-use planning, as well as to control unplanned settlements and deficiencies in infrastructure and to strengthen both national and local governance, discussed with the population and contemplating the inclusion of people with disabilities.
14. The development planning of cities must integrate with rural regions, avoiding urbanization processes that cause displacement in an inadequate and exclusive manner.



Parallel Session 7: Implementation of the Sendai Framework at the National Level: national plans and regulatory frameworks



Session Hosts

Coordination Center for the Prevention of Disasters in Central America and the Dominican Republic (CEPREDENAC) and the Colombian National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGDR).

Objectives

1. Disseminate and analyze the progress made by countries in the Americas in updating, harmonizing and implementing their National Disaster Risk Management Planning/Policies in compliance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.
2. Promote dialogue to generate proposals for actions and instruments that facilitate inter-connecting public policy instruments being applied effectively in the different sectors of the general public and society.

Moderator:

Jessica Solano, Technical Manager, Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Disasters in Central America and the Dominican Republic (CEPREDENAC).

Panelists

- Carlos Valdés, General Director, National Center for Disaster Prevention (CENAPRED), Mexico.
- Carlos Picado, Head of Planning, CNE, Costa Rica and member of CEPREDENAC.
- Emilio Renda, Secretary of Civil Protection, Argentina.
- Iván Hernando Caicedo Rubiano, Deputy Director of Disaster Risk Reduction, National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGDR), Colombia.
- Otto Mazariegos, Executive Department of RIADIS Latin America & Representative of de CONADIS, Guatemala.



Summary of the Session:

With regard to understanding risk, it was noted that catastrophic events have forced the implementation of mechanisms providing knowledge on the vulnerability of the population, thereby establishing a calculation of possible losses for the most appropriate decision-making in disaster risk management. In this regard, it was highlighted that there are instruments for providing knowledge of risk, which support the implementation of actions that include citizen participation and the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

In relation to strengthening governance, the importance of having a disaster risk management policy accompanied by a planning and financing instrument which functions as a guiding mechanism to manage disaster risk was raised, thereby providing a set of guidelines aimed at improving the quality of life of inhabitants, as discussed within the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. It was highlighted that the region has important normative instruments associated with disaster risk management policy, which include processes articulated with various government sectors at a local, national and social level.

With regard to an increase in preparedness, the importance was raised of having knowledge of the risks and the dynamics in terms of exposed population through established definitions and the use of information systems that support immediate response actions. Additionally, the need to have detailed infrastructure information in order to calculate the probability of losses and risk scenarios was underlined, as this can then guide public policies.

The importance of including the private sector in the fulfillment of policies was discussed, given its shared responsibility with the public sector and other stakeholders. In this regard, it was noted that efforts must be focused on implementing public-private partnerships, as mentioned in the Sendai Framework.

Likewise, mention was made of the need to ensure that people in situations of vulnerability, including children, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities are included in public policies. It was also highlighted that the Sendai Framework proposes the inclusion of persons with disabilities as decision makers, which in turn highlights the relevance of the integration of the rights of persons with disabilities in legislative, regulatory, political and legal frameworks and in planning, noting in turn the need to ensure the formulation of planning with the active participation of these sectors, while it was stressed that there can be no inclusion without accessibility. In addition, it was stressed that it is important to transfer knowledge as well as policies, including ethnic considerations specific to each country.

The conclusions of the panel included the need for sectoral and institutional communication, as well as articulation between the various development instruments. Likewise, strengthening the various financing schemes and the incorporation of risk management in public investment was highlighted, as well as supervisory and monitoring systems, with evaluation reports by the controlling entities. In addition, the benefit of having early warning systems and the characterization of risks through information systems, such as risk maps, was highlighted.



Parallel Session 8: : National Risk Analysis



Session Hosts

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNICEF in collaboration with the Colombian National Geological Service.

Objectives

1. Share progress made / achievements in the use of information on disaster risk in the Americas region in order to support decision-making processes in the implementation of the development agenda at a national level.
2. Identify challenges that exist for analysis to be effectively and efficiently integrated in decision-making for the implementation of the development agenda at a national level.
3. Establish recommendations to strengthen processes aimed at consolidating the integration of risk information in decision-making processes for the implementation of the 2030 development agenda.

Moderator:

Emily Wilkinson, Senior Researcher, Resilience and Risk Programme, ODI.

Panelists:

- Lieutenant Colonel Kester Romero Craig, MPA, CIPM, General Director, Civil Defense Commission, Guyana.
- Dr. Alexandra Alvarado, Director, Geophysical Institute of the National Polytechnic School, Ecuador.
- Oscar Zepeda Ramos, Director of Risk Management and Analysis, CENAPRED, Mexico.
- Marta Lucia Calvache-Velasco, Deputy Director of Geological Services, Technical and Scientific Institute), Colombia.
- Alvaro Hugo Martinez Sandoval, Risk Management Director, Planning and Programming Secretariat of the Office of the President (SEGEPLAN), Guatemala.

Summary of the Session:

Within the framework of the session it was pointed out that the lack of comprehensive risk analysis for the Americas region is evident, while at the same time it was identified that one of the main challenges is to visualize the impact of Disaster Risk Management through such means. It was noted that there are many initiatives having multiple approaches to risk analysis, but there is a lack of integration among methodologies, as well as a lack of ownership of the information that is generated (especially in low income countries).

It was pointed out that risk analyses generally focus on the threat, and only a few focus on vulnerability. In view of this, the need to agree on the conceptual approach to vulnerability was identified as part of the problem. On this theme, it was highlighted that physical vulnerability assessment is being undertaken in Colombia, however it was pointed out that there are still challenges in the assessment of social vulnerability at a national level.

Likewise, it was noted that although there is an awareness of the impact of applying risk knowledge, there are no indicators and there are no adequate incentives to measure this. In turn, it was highlighted that risk reduction has been achieved in cases where progress has been made in this area. In addition, it was pointed out that there is no capacity to measure the impact of information or the reduction in risk, even in success cases. It was concluded that evidence of the impact should have an influence on strategies and planning for Disaster Risk Reduction.

In general terms, it was considered that the application of risk analysis should be institutionalized in countries where there are no regulations that oblige the authorities to analyze and to take risk into account. It was stressed that it is important to have a risk analysis approach which is going to be implemented; therefore, it is necessary to understand whether the analysis is to provide information for economic or sectoral policies, or to assist communities, since these require different approaches.

Among the challenges is the ability to store information at a location where it is easy to access and understand, as well as improving communication and the comprehension of risk. In this respect, it was recognized as being evident that it is not enough to know the threats, if the population does not know what can happen and what they should do. In general terms it was considered that knowledge of risk should be a legacy of the territory and its inhabitants.

Another of the pertinent challenges refers to the establishment of communication strategies adapted to the requirements of the target audience: for example, considering users at the technical level (very specialized knowledge), decision makers at the public and private levels (information on trends, progress indicators, challenges, prioritization of actions, location of information on properties and risk levels), and the population in general (highlighting the challenge on how to transmit information on vulnerability).

Among the conclusions of the session, the following are highlighted:

1. The information must be adapted to the user's needs, in accordance with their responsibilities.
2. Countries should be invited to report on the impact of using risk knowledge in decision-making.
3. It is important to clarify the concept of vulnerability that is being used (and whether it is appropriate for decision making).



Parallel Session 9: The role of academia, science and technology for DRR: an agenda for the Americas



Session Hosts

The Network of Latin American and the Caribbean Universities for Disaster Risk Reduction (REDULAC/ DRR) collaborating with the Florida International University.

Objectives

1. Present the TOR (Terms of Reference) for the Regional STAG (UNISDR Science and Technology Advisory Group) for the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Regional Action Plan.
2. Raise awareness of the importance of regional DRR evidence based research initiatives as a contribution to decision-making for the implementation of the Regional Action Plan.
3. Socialize experiences on the formulation of the priority disaster risk management research agenda in Colombia as a contribution to the Regional Action Plan.

Moderator:

Silvia Quiroga, University Lecturer, Argentina.

Panelists:

- Osvaldo Luiz Leal de Moraes, Director, National Center for Monitoring and early warning of natural disasters, Brazilian Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Secretariat of Research and Development Policies and Programs.
- Lina Dorado González, Deputy, National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGDR), Risk Knowledge Unit, Colombia.
- Dr. David Green, Manager, Risk Reduction and Capacity for Recovery Program, NASA.
- Juan Pablo Sarmiento, Research Professor and Associate Research Director, Extreme Events Institute, Florida International University.
- Víctor Manuel García Lemus, President of REDULAC.

Summary of the Session:

The panel considered that the Science and Technology sector (S&T), while concentrating its focus on Priority 1 of the Sendai Framework, is also progressively making contributions in relation to Priority 2.

It was noted that legal frameworks are required in the Americas region in order to facilitate participation of the S&T sector in national Disaster Risk Reduction systems, as well as for contributions by academia in national systems and Science and Technology Councils.

It was also commented that the Global Risk Assessment and Management (GRAM) report can guide S&T on relevant research and development issues. It was acknowledged that it is necessary to better compensate the differences in research between the countries of the North, Center and South of the Americas, in order to improve regional capacities and to improve the scientific products obtained.

Likewise, it was highlighted that, in general, it is pertinent to close the gap between physical and social sciences through the availability of academic programs that encourage the integration of the disciplines. In addition, in consideration of the fact that science advances through questions, a good strategy for scientific advancement should be based on listening to the questions that arise from the communities in relation to local risk scenarios.

In addition to the above, the use of S&T contributions for disaster preparedness, risk reduction and disaster response was discussed. It was commented that as knowledge is a social construct in a globalized world in which S&T is just one of several players, a creative dialogue must be established with the rest of society and especially with the political sector.

The following recommendations and conclusions by the panel are highlighted:

1. To form a S&T Regional Advisory Group for the Americas (STAG-R), respecting the cultural and geographical diversity of the region.
2. Promote scientific research on disaster risk in the Americas region, which considers not only threats, but also exposure and the vulnerability of the population.
3. Create a system that centralizes the fundamental information for the Americas region in terms of stakeholders, networks, and scientific and technological products connected to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).
4. Develop mechanisms to facilitate access and understanding of scientific language by different sectors of society, especially the private sector and the political sector.
5. Continue on the path of sharing scientific information, based on open data with traceability to the source.
6. Use science and technology bi-directionally: from theory to practice and from practice to theory, in order to improve the production of knowledge.
7. Coordinate priorities, common goals and mechanisms of interaction between S&T institutions, in order to contribute to a reduction of the risk of disasters in the region.
8. Urge the countries in the region to recognize S&T as a relevant player in their regulatory frameworks related to Disaster Risk Reduction and the formulation of public policies in the Americas.
9. Promote the work of universities with local governments and communities through university extension.

During the closure of the session, it was highlighted that in October 2018 the IV Forum of REDULAC/DRR will take place, and an invitation was extended to the participants to attend the forum.



Parallel Session 10: Planning instruments for Disaster Risk Management



Session Hosts

Colombian National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGDR), in collaboration with the Colombian National Planning Department.

Objectives

Promote the exchange of experiences between different countries and regions that have successfully integrated actions to reduce risk through planning instruments. This has assisted in making progress on the priorities of the Sendai framework, to identify common factors and/or innovative actions that can be replicated by other countries and/or regions.

Moderator:

Silvia Helden Molfino, Technical Secretary, Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Response (CAPRADE) and General Secretary of the Andean Community.

Panelists:

- Michelle Edwards, Senior Director, Mitigation, Planning and Research Division, Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency management, Jamaica.
- Gisela Paredes Leguizamón, Coordinator, Technical Secretariat of Land use Planning, National Planning Department, Colombia.
- Juan Francisco Pacheco, Staff Member, ILPES and CEPAL.
- Javier Abugattás Fatule, Chairman, CEPLAN and Representative of the Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Response (CAPRADE).
- Franklin Condori, Ministry of Rural and Land Development, Bolivia.

Summary of the Session:

Within the framework of the session the relationship between the Sendai priorities and the various planning instruments was noted:

1. The objective of understanding risk is for identified risks to be known and taken into consideration when developing each of the planning instruments - development planning, risk management, sector planning and sustainability planning.
2. With regard to strengthening governance, the countries agreed that there must be a well-developed regulatory process that acts through short, medium and long-term planning, which must be constantly updated.
3. In relation to investment in disaster risk reduction, it was stressed that once planning instruments incorporate disaster risk management and include actions that lead to risk reduction, these must be accompanied by the financing mechanisms necessary to carry out the planned actions. From this derives the importance of the commitment to risk reduction being accompanied by political will translated into the allocation of resources to ensure implementation.
4. In terms of the enhanced preparedness for response, it was considered important that even though the initial risk may have been reduced, the necessary provisions must be maintained in order to respond to any further phenomena that may arise.

Additionally, the representatives from Peru, Colombia, Jamaica, Bolivia and Argentina considered important to have threat analysis, quantification of risk, risk transfer, implementation of sustainable measures to manage disaster risk and planning that incorporates risk management, but also include environmental solutions as a particular aspect in the development of land-use planning, through the various instruments available.

Regarding the main advances and innovations in the harmonization of risk management of policy frameworks and planning instruments, it was recommended to have robust planning instruments that incorporate the different dimensions involved in the management of disaster risk, such as social inclusion, environmental development and information systems, among others.

In relation to shared recommendations, within the framework of the session on the process of policy harmonization and strengthening, the importance of the implementation of instruments with a long-term vision was highlighted: these should be linked to the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreements, and should contemplate financing mechanisms and future actions that include consideration of climate change.

The following conclusions are highlighted, from among those listed in the session:

1. The territorial context in which risk management is applied in the Americas is geographically, environmentally and culturally diverse, therefore it is necessary to continue strengthening the recognition of these aspects in the formulation, coordination and harmonization of sectoral public policies which impact on the territory, to ensure an understanding of the risk, and therefore achieve its effective management.
2. Risk management has been incorporated into different normative instruments of public policy, development planning and land-use planning. The challenge is consider how such planning is assigned sufficient resources to implement the proposed actions.
3. There was a unanimous call to include the protection of ecosystems, natural resources and agricultural production systems as an essential part of risk management by countries.



4. It is necessary to incorporate variables and criteria based on risk management and climate change in the various phases of formulation and management of projects; starting from pre-investment decision-making considerations, and not only in terms of short term economic criteria, but also in relation to sustainability and the resilience of infrastructure.
5. The Government of Bolivia, on behalf of the Executive Committee for regional strategy, presented the “Regional strategy for irrigation management in the agricultural sector and food security in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2018-2030”. Approved in December 2017 within the CELAC framework, this constitutes a benchmark instrument for reducing risk and improving the resilience of the agricultural sector in Latin American countries and reflects the potential for transformation in the agricultural sector in order to reduce disaster risk.

Parallel Session 11: Incentives and instruments to promote resilient investments



Session Hosts

Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) in collaboration with the Colombian National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGDR) and the National Planning Department.

Objectives

1. Disclose successful actions in the development of incentives for the promotion and implementation of resilient public investments.
2. Identify the main barriers and requirements for the implementation of incentives and resilient financial instruments, based on identification of the requirements that must be met by instruments that contribute to better management of public assets.
3. Promote the creation of a space for subsequent dialogue to identify the technical and financial resources needed to develop a regional strategy dedicated to promoting investment in resilient infrastructure.

Moderator for the first segment:

Jesús Suniaga Marcano, Senior Executive Infrastructure Vice-Presidency, CAF - Development Bank of Latin America.

Panelists for the first segment:

- Carolina Díaz Giraldo, Deputy Director, Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change, National Planning Department, Colombia.
- Gilberto Romero Zevallos, Consultant in disaster risk management, Advisor to the CAF Geopolis Program, Peru.
- Francisco Tula, Investment Sector Coordinator, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy for Public Investments, Costa Rica.

Moderator for the second segment:

Alberto Undurraga Vicuña

Panelists for the second segment:

- Ligia Castro de Doens, Corporate Director, Environment and Climate Change, CAF - Development Bank of Latin America.
- José Ángel Villalobos, Senior Specialist, Financial Sector, World Bank.
- Rubem Hofliger, Team Leader, Global Partnerships for Latin America, Swiss Re.

Summary of the Session:

The development of Disaster Risk Management involves input from several disciplines contributing to the comprehensive manner in which this subject must be addressed. In the first instance, technical and resource capacity is required in order to acquire in-depth knowledge of the behavior of risk in the territory and to identify the effects and estimate the losses involved; secondly, it is necessary to identify the resources required to (i) intervene in the risk or reduce it, and (ii) to design and implement a process of post-disaster care and/or reconstruction which allows a reduced impact on the national and/or local economy.

These elements are the basis for effective public investment planning. Once the impact of disasters on the economy of a country or a region is recognized, it determines the significant role of the Ministries of Finance in the region with respect to the identification of sources to enable adequate financial management of disaster risk.

This session was divided into two parts in order to address the following:

- Instruments or technical inputs that assist in institutional capacity building in some of the countries in the region, which enables the identification, prioritization or reduction of identified risks.
- Financial instruments that drive the transfer of risk in the region.

Part One

The presentation by Colombia referred to the development of the Municipal Risk Index, which arose from the need to create an instrument for prioritizing national investment, considering the possible effects of events of hydrometeorological origin which cause 88% of the emergency events reported annually as well as the institutional and financial capacity of the municipalities to respond to these events.

Peru, for its part, noted the need for the various sectors to implement methodologies that would allow the incorporation of DRM into planning, in light of the upheaval caused by the El Niño Phenomenon. This is done through Institutional Strengthening Planning Measures, which establish the steps to be followed and the required training plan. Some of the actions to be implemented are the following: i) update regulation for sector structure and functions; ii) incorporate DRM into sector planning processes; iii) draw up specific technical standards; iv) articulate and update sector information systems; v) train personnel specialized in DRM in each of the areas of the sector (regulations, planning and formulation of projects).

In the case of Costa Rica, the country's development policy defines: i) the need to incorporate DRM in the public investment process; ii) systematizing information and making it available to all users; iii) creating instruments and methodologies; iv) incorporating DRM into the various planning instruments, such as the National Development Plan; v) training and social dissemination with the various stakeholders in society.

Conclusions:

- The development of capabilities in the management of risk is essential for the analysis and identification of vulnerabilities.
- The need to incorporate DRM in sectoral planning was highlighted, in order to reduce the impact of disasters on national infrastructure.
- Project conceptual planning should include risk analysis in order to create resilient projects that lead to efficiency in the use of scarce resources available in country and the sustainable development of the various sectors of society.
- Opportunities should be approved and the agenda should be promoted through the conjunctures that spaces such as the present platform create to propose programs, projects and activities. Work is required on proposals for a series of tools to improve attention to this agenda.

Part Two

Considering the fact that reducing risk has an implicit cost, and that there are levels of expenditure that are not affordable within the fiscal capacities of a country, the solution which appears is **Disaster Risk Financial Management - DRFM - as a component of fiscal management**. The objective of this is to ensure access to funds that make it possible to streamline the processes of response and reconstruction of affected infrastructure, in order to reduce the extent of the social and economic impacts that these cause on society as a whole.

Colombia, Peru, Panama, the Philippines, Kenya and Guatemala currently have guidance documents for the implementation of strategies for the financial management of disaster risk; some of these countries have even gone so far as to prepare five-year plans for its implementation. The central points of these strategies are: i) identification and understanding fiscal risk, (ii) DRFM at the territorial level; iii) identification of the resources assigned to DRM in the budget; iv) inclusion of disaster risk analysis in the public investment process; v) development of financial instruments for the retention and transfer of risk; vi) assurance of public assets; vii) development of the domestic insurance market; viii) mobilization and implementation of post-disaster resources; ix) institutional strengthening; x) restoration of the livelihoods of the vulnerable population.

Some examples of solutions are:

- Uruguay: Contracted Contingent Financing of Investment Projects in the event that a drought reduces the funds accumulated in the Energy Stabilization Fund below a minimum limit and an increase in prices occurs.
- Turkey: Implemented a catastrophe insurance pool to provide insurance for private homes.
- The Caribbean: implemented a regional insurance pool, which has expanded to Central America, to offer coverage for earthquake, hurricane and excess rainfall.

Mexico's experience in involving the private sector in DRFM

- In 1996 'Fonden' was created a budgetary fund which is assigned a fixed percentage of the budget, and which is allowed to accumulate resources over time. This fund permits the acquisition of instruments to transfer disaster risk, which were initially designed for earthquakes. This also allows the State to have resources to attend to the most vulnerable parts of the population.
- In relation to the involvement of the private sector, in the case of Mexico, tailor-made financial instruments have been designed to cover private sector credits.

Green financing

- There are several institutions who support governments in managing green fund resources. For example, the Green Climate Fund. Additionally, there are resources for Adaptation Plans.

The implementation of Disaster Risk Management implies action on the part of all of society. The various governments have designed instruments to enhance the quality and effectiveness of public investment in risk management. However, this is not enough in the face of the high losses that can be caused.

It can be seen from the foregoing that there are experiences that show good practices associated with joint initiatives by governments, the private sector and multilateral banks in the design and implementation of various instruments and risk transfer options which are complementary to government actions, and which in turn permit planned access to resources in order to face post-disaster reconstruction processes, preserving the fiscal stability of the affected country.

Achievements of the Session

The National Public Investment Systems Network ('SNIP') has been formed at the regional level and is currently chaired by Costa Rica. Within the framework of the VI Platform for Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean, 22 countries who are members of this Network signed a commitment to strengthen DRM in public investment in the region.



Parallel Session 12: Human mobility and displacement caused by disasters of natural origin and the adverse effects of climate change



Session Hosts

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations System of Colombia and the Disaster Displacement Platform, in collaboration with the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Objectives

1. Identify challenges and opportunities for implementing disaster risk reduction strategies that integrate prevention and reduce the risk of displacement and additional protection needs.
2. Exchange experiences relating to the inclusion of migrants in comprehensive risk management planning, response preparations and emergency assistance in the context of disasters of natural origins and consular protection.
3. Examine practical cases of the response to cross-border movement in the Americas region caused by natural threats and the adverse effects of climate change.

Moderator:

Ambassador Luz Stella Jara Portilla, Director of Migration, Consular Affairs and the Citizen Services at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Colombia.

Panelists

- Christopher Gascón, Representative of the International Organization for Migration , Mexico.
- Fernanda de Salles Cavedon-Capdeville, Member and Researcher, South American Network for Environmental Migrations ('RESAMA').
- Juan Carlos Méndez, Regional Advisor, Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD).

Summary of the Session:

The session also allowed for the analysis of recommendations on how to implement the provisions of the Sendai Framework in terms of human mobility (especially measures to address and prevent the risk of displacement), as well as the need to create indicators to verify the adequacy of internal regulations to the Sendai's recommendations on human mobility.

With regards to priority number 2 of the Sendai Framework, panelists insisted on strengthening governance and risk management through coordination between actors/agendas (Climate Change, Migration, Human Rights), prevention and response to displacement in policies and strategies to reduce disaster risk and climate change; as well as the integration of the human mobility dimension into national, regional and binational strategies and frameworks, evacuation plans, early warning systems and strategies to prevent (when possible) and reduce the risk of displacement.

Parallel Session 13: Strengthening mechanisms of International Cooperation for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Response

**Session Hosts**

White Helmets, Argentina and the Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Disasters in Central America and the Dominican Republic (CEPRENAC).

Objectives

1. Encourage the countries of the region, in collaboration with civil society and international organizations and agencies, to identify different regional and subregional cooperation mechanisms that are linked to disaster risk reduction and emergency response.
2. Identify operational capacities, strengths, weaknesses and opportunities to support innovative cooperation modalities and strengthen sustainable partnerships that reduce disaster risk and assist in emergency response.

Moderator:

Patricia Llombart Cussac, Ambassador of the European Union to Colombia.

Panelists

- Carlos Iván Márquez Pérez, General Director, National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGDR), Colombia.
- Joaquín Daniel Roa Burgos, Executive Secretary, Ministry of National Emergencies Secretariat, Paraguay.
- Ronald Jackson, Executive Director, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).
- Carlos Manuel Gómez Rudy, Executive Director, Regional Logistic Center for Humanitarian Assistance, Panama.
- Mayra Valle, Project and Cooperation Manager, CEPREDENAC.
- Lizardo Narváes Marulanda, Disaster Risk Management specialist, World Bank for Central America.
- Rubén Pablo Leonardini, Sancor Group Manager for Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Brazil.

Summary of the Session:

In relation to Priority 1 of the Sendai Framework, on Understanding of Risk, it was commented that Mercosur has adopted a glossary of terms to comply with the Framework, which is considered to be an aid in the exchange of experiences and the implementation of concrete actions. The importance of promoting existing training centers as suitable environments for the exchange of experiences and good practices at the regional level was highlighted. Additionally, Colombia presented its Strategic Plan for International Cooperation in Disaster Risk Management in Colombia 2015-2018.

With regard to Priority 2 of the Sendai Framework, related to aspects of Governance, the importance of new alliances was pointed out, and it was also noted that cooperation is reciprocal, and involves much more than financial resources. It was considered necessary to adapt the Sendai Framework to national realities through national plans for disaster risk reduction. It was also noted that it is important to highlight the articulation of national leadership with regional mechanisms as an expression of the political decision to promote actions in member countries.

In addition it was highlighted that CDEMA supports countries in the implementation of CDM strategies, and in this way contributes to the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

It was commented that the region is a pioneer in national policies and frameworks, creating integrated systems and a vision of risk reduction linked to sustainable development based on the principles of solidarity, sovereignty, respect and cooperation. Additionally, the importance of preparing strategic plans was noted, emphasizing the planning and standardization of codes and procedures.

About Priority 3 of the Sendai Framework, related to Investment for Resilient Infrastructure, it was stressed that a basic principle of cooperation and humanitarian assistance is to respect the country requesting assistance. Likewise, it is necessary to create mechanisms for transparency and accountability. In turn, it was noted that it is necessary to have a clear mission and vision, specifying the direction forward, just as in the case of an impact strategy. Additionally, it was stressed that building trust between the parties in the cooperation relationship is fundamental.



It was also divulged that the World Bank possesses financial mechanisms to enable prevention, without neglecting response, which are aimed at local governments and the implementation of policies to promote sustainable development.

In relation to Priority 4 of the Sendai Framework, comment was made on the development of dynamic cooperation models and creating an effective collaboration between parties to have greater impact, such as the Panama humanitarian hub, which has some inherent advantages that can be applied to humanitarian cooperation between regional players.

Likewise, the importance of a multilateral system to achieve the global agenda was discussed. The inclusion of indigenous communities and peoples in cooperation projects and actions was also highlighted as being an important aspect to be taken into account as part of international cooperation in disaster risk reduction.

Additionally, the role of the private sector in insurance and risk transfer mechanisms was highlighted, with coverage through policies as a preventive measure that can help reduce losses from disasters, especially for small producers, who are always the most affected. Following on from this, and based on accumulated experience, it was proposed to extend coverage to new crops and specific situations, such as, for example, for a drop in production yield due to climatic effects.

In turn, it was suggested to promote the participation of volunteers in projects for cooperation and the strengthening of local capacities.

Among its recommendations, the panel suggested:

1. Develop programs for homologation and standardization of disaster measurement methodologies.
2. Encourage the implementation of cooperation agreements between countries and regional sub-platforms in the Americas and the Caribbean.
3. Highlight the importance of having regional centers for the exchange of knowledge and experiences, not just for financial cooperation.
4. Publicize the Regional Action Plan (RAP), so that citizens can follow it up and generate the political will of governments, as well as its inclusion in local planning and in regional cooperation mechanisms.
5. Include tools, activities and actions for disaster risk reduction in development planning, such that these can define government goals, with defined budgets and assigned managers.
6. International cooperation (EU and others) to assist countries in the implementation of the Sendai Framework.
7. Expand the network of civil society players with access to in-country executable funds, such that these are not always the same players and beneficiaries.



Parallel Session 14: Public management for financial transfer of disaster risk



Session Hosts

Development Bank of Latin America– CAF in collaboration with the World Bank and the Colombian Ministry of Finance and Public Credit.

Objectives

1. Highlight the role of the Ministries of Finance and Planning in the financial management of disaster risk and the incorporation of losses caused by disasters as contingent liabilities that are part of fiscal balance models.
2. Identify lessons learned from countries that have advanced in the design and implementation of financial risk management strategies.
3. Identify the technical, legal and institutional aspects involved in the implementation of risk transfer instruments through regional initiatives.
4. Identify the benefits and create recommendations to advance the design and implementation of DRFM strategies through regional initiatives which include risk transfer instruments.

Moderator

Carolina España, Director-Representative in Colombia, CAF - Development Bank of Latin America.

Panelists:

- Jessica Gonzales Vildoso, Risk Management Director, Department of Debt and Public Treasury, Ministry of Economics and Finance, Peru.
- Ricardo Peña Herrera, Assistant Secretary-General with the rank of Vice Minister, Secretariat of Risk Management (SGR), Ecuador.
- Carlos Valdez González, Director, National Center for Disaster Prevention (CENAPRED), Mexico
- Alberto Undurraga Vicuña, Former Minister of Public Works, Chile.

Summary of the Session:

Approaches to the planning and implementation of response and recovery actions were analyzed within the framework of the session; there was a unanimous view on the relevance of funds for ex-ante and ex-post actions.

The following were identified as success factors in this process: risk knowledge as a guide for decision-making in public expenditure; decoupling the political cycle from budget planning for Disaster Risk Management; the promotion of Public-Private Partnerships; the maintenance of an infrastructure fund. The need for an approach with multi-sectoral coordination, financed through a combination of retention and risk transfer instruments, was also highlighted.

Among the various access mechanisms, parametric conditions were highlighted as an efficient means for the creation of liquidity. Likewise, it was identified that the dynamics in the development of legislation, mechanisms and resources for the transfer of financial risk do not move at the same pace as the increase in intensity and frequency of disasters, confirming the need for constant attention for this agenda.

With regard to the commitments from the session, a call was made to strengthen mechanisms for financial risk transfer, with sectoral representation and close collaboration with multilateral organizations. In this regard, the need was identified to consider both levels of risk in each country, and the various levels of progress registered in the region. Specifically, the need to explore and/or evolve from a base of existing instruments was noted, to adapt these to the threat conditions in each country considering the frequency and intensity of disasters in recent history and their financing mechanisms and possibilities.

Parallel Session 15: Gender, women's empowerment and resilience

**Session Hosts**

UN Women and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

Objectives

1. Highlight the commitments within the Sendai Framework for the incorporation of gender in DRR and the identification of actions to reach these goals through an inclusive and participatory approach.
2. Emphasize the importance of women's participation and leadership in DRR and their role in resilience.
3. Reflect on protection for women during disasters and their role in prevention strategies and risk management.
4. Promote the inclusion and leadership of women in the response and early recovery phase, as well as in risk management processes, in decision-making and in the definition of policies.

Moderator:

José Félix Rodríguez T., Senior Officer for Social Inclusion, Americas Regional Office, IFRC.

Panelists:

- Ana Belén Marín, Member of the Assembly, Ecuador.
- Jennifer Guralnick, Monitoring Officer, Programme Management and Sendai Framework, UNISDR – Americas and the Caribbean.
- Ambassador Carmen Moreno, Executive Secretary, Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States (OAS).
- Alma Pérez, Regional Advisor on Peace & Security, Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean, UN Women.
- Evelyn Vallejo, Canadian Red Cross.
- Sandy Schilen, Strategic Director, Huairou Commission.

Summary of the Session:

Among the key points discussed in the session, it was noted that efforts should be made to reduce the rates of violence against women. Also, the need to strengthen institutional capacities in the management of gender and inclusion issues was stressed, in order to guarantee the effective participation of women in different levels within the territory.

The need to recognize and make visible the various gender and vulnerable population organizations was identified, as well as improving the training of Disaster Risk Management personnel on the agenda of gender inclusion, as well as the rights of young girls and boys. Additionally, it is necessary to train community leaders in order to promote and generate local development actions incorporating Disaster Risk Management.

With regard to strategies, policies and programs, it was commented that these should take into account the requirements of gender equality and the particular vulnerabilities of marginalized populations. In addition, it was noted that actions are needed to eliminate "stereotypes" and discrimination against women in the region. In turn, it was suggested that the equality of women in Disaster Risk Management should be promoted, supporting their leadership and experience capacities in order to achieve management with equality and inclusion.

Additionally, it was highlighted that it is necessary to improve Disaster Risk Management actions by linking them with gender issues. In this regard, it was stressed that the post-disaster recovery/reconstruction phases must include the right of participation by women. It was also commented that spaces and mechanisms for regional dialogues should be promoted where agreements are discussed on the incorporation of gender issues in public policies.



The importance of including men as part of gender equality was also highlighted. It was also commented that women and people with disabilities or special needs should be considered as agents of change and points of resilience in the communities.

Additionally, it was noted that there is a great deal of disaggregation of data and information on women's empowerment experiences in post-disaster protection, prevention and reconstruction issues. In parallel it was mentioned that there is a need to improve data, statistics and indicators on gender issues in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Finally, the session concluded with a commitment to promote the collection, systematization and access to good practices and women's experiences, promoting resilience and DRM practices which are gender sensitive through a database managed by UNISDR and UN Women.

Parallel Session 16: Preparation and implementation of recovery: collaboration and partnerships in public-private work



Session Hosts

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in collaboration with the Colombian National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGDR).

Objectives

1. Present at least four collaboration experiences between the public and private sector related to actions to prepare for response and recovery.
2. Identify four challenges that have been faced in the implementation of collaborative actions and what the solutions have been.

Moderator:

René Penco, Manager, Caribbean Small Business Development Center Project.

Panelists:

- Richard Vargas Hernández, Director, District Risk Management and Climate Change Institute of Bogota D.C. - DIGER, Colombia.
- Luis Alonso Martínez Avalos, Director, Partnership and Volunteering, CENACED, Mex-ico.
- Jeremy Collymore, Honorary Research Fellow, Institute of Sustainable Development, University of the West Indies, Jamaica.
- Nancy Lulion Contreras, Social Director, Til-Til commune, Territorial Board for Disaster Risk Management and Local Development, Chabuco Province, Chile.

Summary of the Session:

Close coordination and collaboration between the public and private sectors is essential in order to achieve effective integration of risk management criteria in decision-making relating to development investments at national, local and community levels. This is particularly important from the perspective of risk management processes to build capacities, to enable rapid absorption and recovery from the impact of adverse events, through the construction of resilience. However, despite the existence of clear recognition of the benefits of public-private partnerships for disaster management, the construction of frameworks for the coordination of efforts remains a challenge for countries. On this line, the session sought to bring to the fore some of these challenges for the development of these coordination frameworks, and to highlight the experiences that can serve as good practices to address these shortcomings.

Overall, it was noted that capacity building is necessary in order for private sector players to improve the quality of post-disaster support services, while at the same time it was stressed that the professionalization of private sector organizations is fundamental. Additionally, it was noted that the strengthening of communication channels between the public and private sectors is important, since it is considered that at present communication is insufficient and/or inadequate.

Additionally, it was considered that the role of the private sector, both in recovery and in preparation, should be clearly delineated. In turn, it was pointed out that the private sector would be more committed if there was more transparency in preparation and recovery efforts. In relation to academic institutions, it was mentioned that they are important to the debate, especially when it comes to strengthening private sector organizations. Finally, it was considered necessary to address the cultural, social and historical needs of communities in the discussions between the public and private sectors.

As a result of the discussions, the following recommendations were made:

1. Organizational preparation among private sector players.
2. Clear lines of communication between public and private sector players.
3. Transparency in public-private associations.



Parallel Session 17: Plans and actions to mitigate risk conditions



Session Hosts

The Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) in collaboration with the Colombian National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGDR).

Objectives

1. Highlight the importance of integrating DRR into development interventions as an opportunity to ensure an effective disaster recovery.
2. Identify best practices and lessons learnt in the development of plans and actions for risk mitigation, which could be replicated or adapted to the context of other countries in the region.
3. Propose instruments for investment protection as well as for the reduction of the economic losses caused by disaster damage and the recovery efforts.

Moderator:

Felipe Cruz Vega, Head of Special Health Projects, Department of Medical Benefits, Mexican Social Security Institute.

Panelists:

- Luis Fernando Correa Serna, Vice-Minister of Public Health and Benefits, Colombia.
- John Abiud Ramírez Barrientos, Mayor of Girón municipality, Colombia.
- Tony Gibbs FREGng, Advisor, Consulting Engineers Partnership Ltd.
- Alejandro Arrieta, Health Economist and Lecturer in Politics and Health Management, International University of Florida
- Valerie Nkamgang Bemo, Deputy Director, Emergency Response and Global Development, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Summary of the Session:

The integration of Disaster Risk Reduction in development measures was highlighted as an opportunity to implement improved recovery processes.

The experience of the Municipality of Girón in Colombia focused on how the perspective of governments can transform problems into opportunities for growth. In particular, the creation of a local Office for Disaster Risk Management and the installation of an Early Warning System for flood monitoring were highlighted, together with greater urban control in order to avoid the occupation of high-risk areas. As well as complementary actions, the community was brought closer to the municipal administration through the creation of a rural support network with radios, which allows rural communities to communicate with the administration.

In turn, the municipality identified the need for the implementation of actions for greater control of environmental licenses. Additionally, the municipal risk management fund was strengthened with US\$ 15 million of support for the local budget from the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management administered by the Government and other related institutions, through which that more than 100 disaster risk reduction projects have been implemented.

Also, both the work in the community and the work on the awareness of disaster risk that has been carried out in the municipality were highlighted, as well as the relocation of settlements in risk areas, with around two thousand families relocated to date. Additionally, comment was made on the creation of an official fire department, which is supported by a fire-fighter tax charged on local homes and companies. Finally, information was shared on mitigation and construction actions for better environments, as well as in relation to new road accesses and the improvement in safety in reclaimed areas and in urban development.

In turn, the representative of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation made a presentation on investment in disaster risk reduction for resilience. In particular, she commented that the Organization works in health through processes of development, empowerment and capacity building, in alliance with partners, with a focus on providing technical assistance and adding value. The innovative work being undertaken was detailed, which includes reducing a lack of capacity and inequality, and seeking to enable a healthy and productive life, under the slogan “Nobody is left behind”. Overall, the lessons learned by the Foundation include:

1. By thinking differently, you can make a change.
2. It is important to analyze capacity building based on evidence.
3. Not having the political will can cause risk.
4. Strategies, planning, instruments and procedure are a necessity.
5. It is necessary to be close to the community and those responsible, and to promote a local response so that you do not leave anyone behind.
6. The largest investment must be made in the preparatory phase, not just in the emergency phase.
7. It is important to have flexible financing with long-term prospects, to always work listening to the people in the communities, and to find solutions together with them, creating a space with trust and strategic support.



In the context of shared experience in relation to the impact of Hurricane Irma on the Island of San Martin in the Caribbean, it was noted that disasters are caused to a great extent when architectural, engineering and administrative work is not undertaken correctly, among other items.

Following the category 5 hurricane that affected the Island of San Martin, a post-emergency analysis was carried, known as “forensic damage analysis”, in which wind speeds of around 182 miles per hour were identified impacting houses, which resulted in damage to ceilings and walls, hindering the operation of hospitals due to a lack of protective covering. In turn, there was significant damage to the airport, hotels and tourist areas.

It should be highlighted that it was commented that damage is avoidable if design and construction are adequate. Likewise, it was pointed out that if a construction is very close to the coastline, it is often exposed to adverse ocean conditions. Additionally, it has been detected that steel corrosion is very common due to local codes, which only meet minimum standards and not optimal norms, largely in function of their age.

With regard to the cost/benefit analysis for Disaster Risk Reduction and decision-making, it was noted that this type of analysis considers cost limitations and the estimation of funds required when addressing the uncertainty of future benefits and recovery of the investment.

In relation to the “Smart Hospital” project, information was shared on comparing alternatives, identifying savings and future benefits. With regard to the REST model, it was noted that this assists in the decision-making processes, and that it can be applied to small health institutions, reinforcing and facilitating investment decision-making. It was highlighted that when an event occurs the capacity of health institutions is reduced, while the demand for their services increases, and many people do not receive medical attention.

The following is highlighted from the conclusions of the session:

1. Based on the experience of the municipality of Girón, the importance of understanding risk as part of public administration is highlighted.
2. Understanding how to intervene in risk and to construct public policy based on that understanding is key in safe development in communities.
3. Interventions are required to both educate and to prevent and mitigate risk.
4. When the consolidation of good projects is achieved, the next task is to procure resources.
5. The problems of disaster risk management are not only those of the public sector.
6. Paying special attention to hydrometeorological phenomena is extremely important, given their frequency and impact in the region.
7. Strengthening regional and local capacities is essential, since if they are not developed, response is delayed.
8. A part of the response must be centered at the location.



Parallel Session 18: Local leadership and community resilience



Session Hosts

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the Global Network for Civil Society Organizations for DRR (GNRD)

Objectives

1. Highlight the importance of community leadership for developing sustainable and risk-sensitive actions in communities.
2. Identify elements that determine the effectiveness and sustainability of disaster risk reduction management at the community and local level.
3. Identify actions that promote the real integration of local leadership in DRR.
4. Promote actions to integrate community resilience into comprehensive policies for disaster risk reduction.
5. Provide recommendations to integrate the participation of local and community leaders in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of progress, as well as progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework (based on the four Priorities for Action relating to understanding risk, risk governance, investing in resilience and preparation, response, recovery and reconstruction).

Moderator:

Dyanne Marengo, Coordinator, Social Inclusion, Peace Culture and Non-violence Commission, and member of the National Board of the Red Cross, Costa Rica.

Panelists:

- Rafael Iván Martínez Ricardo, Government Director, Municipality of Puerto Libertador, Province of Cordoba, Colombia.
- David López Ordóñez, Coordinator, People with Disability, and President of FECONORI, Nicaragua.
- Mairobi Rosario, Community Youth Leader, San Cristóbal, Dominican Republic.
- José Manuel Aguilar Aguilar, Community Leader, Chaullín Island, Chile.



The session was carried out through a panel, with the presentation of three experiences of community leadership which contributed to articulation between local governments and the community from different perspectives, in accordance with the Sendai Framework.

Experience 1. GIRDD-LAC Network. David López Ordoñez, Representative of the Federation of Associations of Persons with Disabilities (FECONORI), Managua, Nicaragua. Recounted the approach that was implemented between FECONORI and the National System for the Prevention, Mitigation and Response to Disasters. This led to the development of various products for people with disabilities, among which are: Television programs, inclusive municipal and community planning, and undertaking drills. There has also been a significant amount of training, which has required a process of:

- Empowerment for people with disabilities.
- Permanent training of society and institutions.

Elements which ensure the effectiveness of the program:

- Risk management actions under the leadership of local authorities, having broad participation of other sectors.
- Involvement of members of society, principally those who identify themselves as being in a more vulnerable situation.
- It is important to educate and inform communities.

Experience 2: CORELAC. Mairobi Rosario, San Cristóbal, Dominican Republic. Community youth leadership experience. At 16 years of age she was invited by community leaders to participate in meetings for the Oxfam project Ponte Alerta San Cristóbal, Planning and Habitation (2016) - a project involving the risk management agenda. Faced with the risk condition of her community - floods - she became interested in the project and went on to be the focal leader of young people in her community, from which point her participation in risk management programs and projects grew.

She currently leads a process between the community and the city council, through the Municipal Committee for Prevention, Mitigation and Response, which educates the community on waste management and ways to make use of inorganic materials for recycling.

Experience 3: GNRD. José Manuel Aguilar Aguilar: “Confronting a regulatory casualty: the case of Chaullín Island, Patagonia, Chile”. Faced with the incursion of high capacity processing companies exploiting the Island’s fishing resources, local families were displaced to offshore fishing, with the consequent impact on safety and family cohesion. The community organized itself and formed a Union of Artisan Fishermen, and through the analysis of the General Fisheries and Aquaculture Law and its respective regulations they began to administer a marine resource management area. Thanks to the Union’s importance and its social cohesion they were able to establish alliances with many public and private stakeholders in the region, and they have managed to maintain commercial activities for some 20 years up to the present date.

Aspects that contributed to the success of the initiative:

- Social cohesion.
- Flexibility to learn techniques and deal with situations that have required adaptation norms, risks associated with a Tsunami.
- Knowledge of sustainable and community-based practices.



The community continues united, adapts and evolves according to the regulations on exploitation, and maintains sustainable practices.

Experience 4: Rafael Iván Martínez, Government Secretary, Municipality of Puerto Libertador, Department of Córdoba, Colombia. Tragedy as an opportunity. In 2009 the municipality was affected by an avalanche that led to the destruction of homes, commerce, and the inlet to an aqueduct. During the process of repair and reconstruction of homes the population were housed in shelters, where they worked on programs of: livelihood, community activities, basic sanitation, habitat maintenance, telecommunications and humanitarian assistance.

Through this activity an alliance was established between the Municipality and Global Communities through the ANDA Program, leading to the creation of Environmental Resilience and Risk Management Committees, where projects were formulated through the identification of community needs, and where initiatives were leveraged to promote sustainability of the processes undertaken by the community.

Conclusions:

1. Communities have a significant role in the decisions that need to be taken in order to prevent and to confront disasters, due to their knowledge of the territory. However they are susceptible to invisibility to government agents and decision makers.
2. In order to achieve greater community resilience it is important to generate and make use of local capacities (leadership), and to maintain lifestyles that promote food security, sustainability and that strengthen the links between the most excluded segments (such as women, youth, indigenous or native peoples).
3. The preparation of information that enables a better understanding of minorities is important in the definition of community programs, thereby leading to interventions based on the inclusion of more vulnerable social groups.
4. Finally, the need to strengthen alliances between the public and private sectors is highlighted as a strategic action in achieving effective integration of the criteria and principles of risk reduction in decision-making on investment in development at the national, local and community level.
5. Aspects that contribute to substantially reducing the risk of disasters and that generate complementary processes of territorial transformation in order to improve the quality of life of the population by building community resilience were also analyzed.



Special Session: Special Session: From Ravage to Recovery: Re-examining the Road to Resilience through the Caribbean's 2017 hurricane experiences



Session Organizers

The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), in collaboration with the Colombian National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD).

Objective

Share the lessons on impact, response, recovery, reconstruction, risk reduction and resilience that emerged from the Caribbean 2017 experience with hurricanes, including exploring issues related to recovery financing, and social protection, along with the role of the private and public sector to provide concrete actions for improving resilience in Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Moderator:

Kaymar Jordan, Executive Director, Barbados Today Inc.

Panelists:

- Andria Grosvenor, Business Planning and Development Manager, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).
- Jeremy Collymore, Disaster Resilience Advisor, Office of the Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies (UWI).
- Justin Ramm, Director of Economics, Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)
- Evangeline Inniss-Springer, Deputy Director, Department of Disaster Management in the Virgin Islands.
- Josephine Shields Recass, Head of the Support Team for Country Clusters in Trinidad and Tobago, International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC).
- Deodat Maharaj, Senior Advisor, UNDP for the Caribbean, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Luis Ángel Macareño, Second Deputy Head, National Civil Defense Staff, Cuba.

Summary of the Session:

The emergencies caused by the hurricanes in the Caribbean during 2017 present a unique opportunity for the region to recover better and move forward. The time has come to accelerate actions oriented towards resilience. However, this resilience must be holistic and must consider allhazards, as articulated in the Strategy and Comprehensive Disaster Management Framework (CDM), which contributes to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The vulnerabilities to which the Caribbean region is exposed are multidimensional and involve social, economic and environmental aspects. Within this context, a Caribbean Roadmap for Resilience must be a collective action for the region, since it is recognized that achieving resilience on their own will be difficult for Small Island Developing States.

The resilience must be transformational and, as such, the session highlighted five (5) critical pillars to define a Caribbean Roadmap to understanding and promoting this change:

Pillar 1: Social protection for the most vulnerable

Pillar 2: Protection of infrastructure

Pillar 3: Economic diversification

Pillar 4: Environmental protection

Pillar 5: Operational preparation

These pillars should be supported by an economic policy of resilience. It is important to take advantage of technical and financial support, as well as international practices, and to closely work with existing regional and national institutions in order to complement and support, but not replace. Regional and national capacity is an integral part of this process.

SIDE EVENTS



Parallel Event 1 Hurricane Mitch: The Starting Point for better Disaster Risk Management in Central America

Host Organization: Coordination Center for the Prevention of Disasters in Central America and the Dominican Republic (CEPRENAC)

Parallel Event 2 Consultation on the first draft of the Global Capacity Development Strategy in support of the implementation of the Sendai Framework

Host Organization: Global Education and Training Institute (GETI) of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).

Parallel Event 3 Unpacking Sendai: the protection of farm animals in the communities

Host Organization: World Animal Protection

Parallel Event 4 Local Actors in Disaster Risk Reduction and Humanitarian Action: Latin America, a global referent

Host organization: The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Parallel Event 5 Childhood, youth, school and community: Resilience generators for disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change

Host Organizations: The Coalition for the Resilience of Children and Youth in Latin America and the Caribbean (CORELAC) in collaboration with the Group for Disaster Risk Management in the Education Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean

Parallel Event 6 Reduce the risk of tsunamis, reduce the economic losses of the tourism sector

Host Organization: The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction UNISDR Americas

Parallel Event 7 Priority Investment Opportunities to strengthen Early Warning Systems in Small Island Developing States

Host Organizations: The Climate Risk Early Warning System initiative (CREWS) and the World Meteorological Organization, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Parallel Event 8 Inclusive Disaster Risk Management and Disability: From theory to practice

Host Organization: Inclusive Disaster Risk Management Network and Disability in Latin America and the Caribbean GIRRD - LAC

OFFICIAL DECLARATIONS

Official Declarations are a space in which national, sub-regional, regional, and international non-governmental or private organizations make a public statement or public explanation. In the context of the VI Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, 57 organizations made declarations in which they presented challenges and opportunities in the implementation of the Sendai Framework at the national and local level (progress since the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, national goals for the Sendai Framework), and ways to move forward on DRR and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) as an inherent part of sustainable development and as a key elements in developing resilience, planning and investment policies (reference situation related to the global targets of the Sendai Framework), and the role of the various stakeholders in the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

Día 1 -20 de Junio 2018 / Day 1 - June 20th 2018					
	Inicio Start	No.	País u Organización Country or Organization	Presentador Presenter	Título Title
15:30			Representantes de Gobierno de Colombia y UNISDR que presiden la sesión de Declaraciones oficiales acuden al Salón Pegasus / Representatives from the Government of Colombia and UNISDR that chair the Official Statements go to the Pegasus Room		
15:35			Representantes de los países y organizaciones que presentan Declaraciones Oficiales acuden al Salón Pegasus / Representatives from countries and organizations that present Official Statements go to the Pegasus Room		
15:40 – 16:04	15:40		Introducción por el Gobierno de Colombia y los representantes de UNISDR que reciben declaraciones oficiales / Introduction by the Government and UNISDR representatives that receive Official Statements		
	15:46	1	Guyana / Guyana	Hon. Joseph Harmon	Minister of State - Ministry of the Presidency
	15:52	2	Ecuador / Ecuador	María Alexandra Ocles Padilla	Ministra de la Secretaría de Gestión de Riesgos
	15:58	3	Honduras / Honduras	Arnaldo Bueso	Ministro director del Instituto de Conservación Forestal (ICF)

16:04- 17:04	16:04	4	Jamaica / Jamaica	Hon. Desmond McKenzie	Minister of Local Government & Community Development
	16:10	5	Panamá / Panama	Carlos Rubio	Ministro de Gobierno
	16:16	6	San Vicente y las Grenadinas / Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Hon. Frederick Stephenson	Minister of National Mobilization, Social Development, The Family, Persons with Disabilities and Youth
	16:22	7	Argentina / Argentina	Embajador Alejandro Daneri	Presidente de la Comisión Cascos Blancos- Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto
	16:28	8	Brasil / Brazil	Armin Augusto Braun	Diretor da Secretaria Nacional de Proteção e Defesa Civil – Ministério da Integração Nacional
	16:34	9	Canadá / Canada	Patrick Tanguy	Assistant Deputy Minister, Emergency Management and Programs Branch - Public Safety Canada
	16:40	10	Chile / Chile	Ricardo Toro Tassara	Director Nacional de la Oficina Nacional de Emergencia del Ministerio del Interior y Seguridad Pública, ONEMI
	16:46	11	Colombia / Colombia	Dr. Carlos Iván Márquez Pérez	Director General de la Unidad Nacional para la Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres - UNGRD
	16:52	12	Costa Rica / Costa Rica	Lic. Marco Vinicio Saborío Mesén	Jefe Unidad de Relaciones Internacionales y Cooperación de la Comisión Nacional de Prevención de Riesgos y Atención de Emergencias
	16:58	13	El Salvador / El Salvador	Lic. Jorge Antonio Meléndez López	Secretario para Asuntos de Vulnerabilidad y Dirección General de Protección Civil



17:04- 18:04	17:04	14	Estados Unidos de América / United States of America	Dr. Dan Kaniewski	Deputy Administrator, Resilience - Federal Emergency Management Agency
	17:10	15	Guatemala / Guatemala	Leonel Galán	Director de Gestión de Riesgo de la Coordinadora Nacional para la Reducción de Desastres SE-CONRED
	17:16	16	Haití / Haiti	Jerry Chandler	Director - Directorate for Civil Protection (DPC)
	17:22	17	México / Mexico	Carlos Valdés González	Director General del Centro de Prevención de Desastres (CENAPRED)
	17:28	18	Paraguay / Paraguay	Joaquín Daniel Roa Burgos	Ministro- Secretario Ejecutivo de Emergencia Nacional
	17:34	19	Perú / Peru	Javier Abugattás Fatule	Jefe del Centro Nacional de Planeamiento Estratégico – CEPLAN.
	17:40	20	República Dominicana / Dominican Republic	Jose Alcantara Betances	Subdirector Nacional de la Defensa Civil - Comisión Nacional de Emergencias y Defensa Civil
	17:46	21	Uruguay / Uruguay	Fernando Traversa	Director Nacional de Emergencias - Sistema Nacional de Emergencias (SINAE) - Presidencia de la República Oriental del Uruguay
	17:52	22	AEC/CDEMA/CEPRENAC/ SINAPRED	Arturo López-Portillo	Director de Reducción de Riesgo de Desastres de la Asociación de Estados Caribeños
	17:58	23	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency - CDEMA	Ronald Jackson	Executive Director

18:04- 18:56	18:04	24	Centro de Coordinación para la Prevención de los Desastres Naturales en América Central (CEPREDENAC)	Jose Donderis	Presidencia Pro Témpore CEPREDENAC
	18:10	25	Grupo de Trabajo sobre Medición y Registro de Indicadores Relativos a la Reducción del Riesgo de Desastres	Elizabeth Barrios	Dirección General de Estadística, Encuestas y Censos (DGEEC) de Paraguay en representación del GT-RRD de la CEA/CEPAL
	18:16	26	Organización Panamericana de la Salud-Organización Mundial de la Salud - ENG	Dra. Gina Watson	Representante de la OPS/OMS Colombia
	18:22	27	Parlamento Centroamericano	Mrs. Gloria Guadalupe Ouelí	Parlamentaria por el Estado de Honduras
	18:28	28	ParlAmericas	Asambleista Ana Belen Marin (Ecuador) en	Representación de ParlAmericas y vicepresidenta de la Red Parlamentaria de Cambio Climático de ParlAmericas.
	18:34	29		Diputado Juan Carlos Villalonga (Argentina)	Parlamentario y miembro de la delegación de ParlAmericas a la VI Plataforma Regional.
	18:40	30	MERCOSUR - Reunión de Ministros y Altas Autoridades de Gestión Integral de Riesgos de Desastres (RMAGIR) del MERCOSUR	Fernando Traversa	Presidencia Pro Témpore de Uruguay



Día 2 -21 de Junio 2018 / Day 2 - June 21, 2018

Horario Time	Inicio Start	No.	País u Organización Country or Organization	Presentador Presenter	Título Title
15:30			Representantes de Gobierno de Colombia y UNISDR que presiden la sesión de Declaraciones oficiales acuden al Salón Pegasus / Representatives from the Government of Colombia and UNISDR that chair the Official Statements go to the Pegasus Room		
15:35			Representantes de los países y organizaciones que presentan Declaraciones Oficiales acuden al Salón Pegasus / Representatives from countries and organizations that present Official Statements go to the Pegasus Room		
15:40 – 16:04	15:40		Introducción por el Gobierno de Colombia y los representantes de UNISDR que reciben declaraciones oficiales / Introduction by the Government and UNISDR representatives that receive Official Statements		
	15:46	33	Bolivia (Estado Plurinacional de) Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Carlos Bru Cavero	Viceministro de Defensa Civil
	15:52	34	Cuba / Cuba	América Santos Rivera	Viceministra de Ciencia, Tecnología y Medio Ambiente (CITMA)
16:04- 17:04	16:04	36	UNICEF Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean	Douglas C. Reimer	Regional Emergency Advisor
	16:10	37	Asociación de Municipios de Panamá	Víctor López	Directivo de la Comisión de Gestión integral de Riesgo de Desastre y Desarrollo Comunitario de AMUPA
	16:16	38	GOBIERNO REGIONAL DE LIMA	WALTER HUAMAN RODRIGUEZ	PROGRAMA ADAPTACIÓN BASADA EN ECOSISTEMAS DE LAS CUENCAS DE LA REGIÓN LIMA - PERU
	16:22	39	CORELAC	Susana Urbano	
	16:28	40	Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja - ENG	Walter Cotte	Director Regional para América
	16:34	41	Grupo para la gestión del riesgo del sector educación en LAC	Ruth Custode	Asesora de educación de UNICEF LACRO
	16:46	43	Red de Gestión Inclusiva del Riesgo de Desastres y Discapacidad de Latinoamérica y el Caribe (RED GIRDD LAC)	Persona por determinar de ONG Inclusiva, RIADIS, ASB u otro miembro de la red	Persona por determinar de ONG Inclusiva, RIADIS, ASB u otro miembro de la red
	16:52	44	RET International	Remi Mannaert	Director Regional
	16:58	45	World Vision República Dominicana	Jose Sergio Abreu	Director de Asuntos Humanitarios y emergencias

17:04- 18:04	17:04	46	Agentes de Cambio para la Prevención (El Salvador)	Dennys Bonilla Valladares	Fundador y Presidente
	17:10	47	Comunidad Andina	Silvia Helden	Secretaría Técnica del Comité Andino para la Prevención y Atención de Desastres
	17:16	48	Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction-GNDR	Graciela Salaberri	Board South America GNDR Board
	17:22	49	O.N.G ACHE Internacional , Ecosoc consultative Status since April 2016 (Canada)	Roberto BRUTUS	Profesor y Empresario Social
	17:28	50	Organización de Bomberos Americanos	Lic. Marco España	Secretario de Relaciones Institucionales
	17:34	51	Punto de Encuentro Familiar Puerto Rico	Yolanda Rivera Rivera	Presidente -
	17:40	52	Union des Amis Socio Culturels d'Action en Developpement (UNASCAD) (Haiti)	Severe Joseph	The resilience level in the hour and the era of Sendai/Le niveau de la résilience dans l'heure et l'ère de Sendai (Presentation in French)
	17:46	53	Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México, Facultad de Enfermería y Obstetricia. Red Internacional de Gestión del Riesgo de Desastre	Dra. Edu. P. Miriam Gómez Ortega	Coordinador de la Red Internacional de Gestión del Riesgo de Desastre
	17:52	54	World Animal Protection - ESP	Daniella Hiche	External Affairs Advisor
	17:58	55	Consejo Noruego Para Refugiados	Andrés Lizcano Rodriguez	Monitoring Expert, Data and Analysis Department, IDMC



CLOSING CEREMONY



The closing ceremony commenced with the participation of the Swiss Ambassador in Colombia, Mr. Kurt Kunz, who invited all participants of the PR18 to continue cooperating in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), to create resilient societies, and to carry the progress and commitments of the region in relation to DRR and the Global Agendas to the Global Platform to be held in Geneva, Switzerland from May 14 to 19, 2019.

Following this, the Minister of Local Government and Community Development of Jamaica, Mr. Desmond McKenzie, spoke on behalf of the Government of Jamaica and extended his thanks and appreciation to the Government of Colombia for the work done in the organization of a successful VI Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. He further announced that the Government of Jamaica will host the VII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean in 2020. This is to be the first Regional Platform to be organized in the Caribbean and will seek to continue the high standards demonstrated in the organization of previous platforms. Finally, he extended an invitation to all delegates to continue facilitating the next stage of Sustainable Development and its agenda through the reduction of disaster risk, and through resilience and adaptation to climate change.

The closing ceremony was also an opportunity for the Inclusive Disaster Risk Management and Disability Network of Latin America and the Caribbean to award a recognition to the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management and to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction for the constant and outstanding work in the promotion and defense of the rights of people with disabilities in disaster risk management. Likewise, the Colombian Red Cross presented a condecoración to the Director of UNGRD, Carlos Iván Márquez Pérez, for his distinguished services in humanitarian work. The award was presented by its President, Judith Carvajal, and volunteers of the National Society.

Subsequently, the Chair Summary of the VI Regional Platform for Risk Reduction in the Americas was read. Finally, closing speeches were made by the Director of the National Disaster Risk Management Unit, Dr. Carlos Iván Márquez, and the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction, Mami Mizutori.

Museum of Risk Management



With the special participation of the Museum of Knowledge in Disaster Risk Management, the first of its kind in Colombia and the second in the South America region, in addition to an online consultation space, attendees of the VI Regional Platform for Reduction of Disaster Risk in the Americas had the opportunity to get to know first-hand why Colombia is a less vulnerable country and has the most resilient communities, which is of importance to all the Americas in moving towards this common goal.

During the three days of PR18 around 1,354 attendees visited a part of the Museum's permanent exhibition, which is located in the City of Bogotá D.C.

A digital exposition was on show at the VI Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas, based on instruments such as the sandbox, with augmented reality giving dimension to collapsed structures, and with 3D equipment being employed in order to permit the visualization of the geological faults which cause earthquakes.

Within the framework of the opening ceremony, and as one of the stops during his attendance to the conference, President Juan Manuel Santos Calderón visited the Museum and stressed the importance of spreading knowledge of risk management through technological and didactic mechanisms, as is currently being advanced in the Museum of Knowledge in Disaster Risk Management.

Community Resilience Video Contest / #CommunityResilience



Recognizing that at the center of efforts to reduce disaster risk and build resilience is the well-being of people, the Community Resilience Video Contest sought to promote a shared responsibility approach throughout society. It is important to recognize, highlight and strengthen the role and leadership of community networks, volunteers, civil society, academia and the scientific community, women, people with disabilities, indigenous populations and groups living in highly vulnerable conditions as agents of change in disaster risk reduction and the strengthening of resilience in the entire Americas region.

In this way the participating videos highlighted how disaster risk reduction can be improved at the community level. Members of local communities demonstrated how they can help reduce the impact of disasters at the local level and strengthen the resilience of their communities, through videos which they made themselves.

The winner of the contest “For Community Resilience” was CORPORESILIENCIA (Colombia), with the video Resiliencia para Niños [“Resilience for Kids”]. Mention was also made of the videos that came in second, third and fourth place, these being the video entitled Gestión del Riesgo [“Risk Management”] by Lina Ruiz (Colombia); the video entitled Comités Barriales Samarios COBASA [“COBASA Samarian Neighborhood Committees”], by DADSA Santa Marta and the Office for Risk Management and Climate Change (Colombia); and El redes comunitarias: primera línea de la resiliencia [“Community networks: the first line of resilience”] by Plan International and Oxfam (Dominican Republic).

Award for Good Practices of the Private Sector in Disaster Risk Reduction



The Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction, Mami Mizutori, presented the Certificate of Recognition to the winners of the Call for Good Practices for the Private Sector in Disaster Risk Reduction, 2018. The winner was Molinos Modernos, which is the business unit of Corporación Multi-Inversiones, which focuses on the development of the value chain of wheat and cereals through the production of wheat and corn flours, pasta and cookies. The certificate was received on behalf of CMI Molinos Modernos by the engineers Jocelyn Chang and Alejandro.

The company is currently executing the project **“Improving resilience in Central America in support of the implementation of the Sendai Framework 2015-2030”** and has demonstrated through the Good Practice in DRR “Strategies for the management of risks of natural phenomena” that Disaster Risk Management helps safeguard lives and minimizes material damage as a result of integration and the internal and individual commitment of each of its employees.

Ignite Stage

The Ignite Stage was a space in which the participants in the Regional Platform had 20 minutes to present and disseminate new products or initiatives in the field of disaster risk reduction. The objective of this space was to complement and expand the range of agendas discussed at the Regional Platform, beyond those presented in the main sessions and parallel events. 71 presentations were made on the Ignite Stage, as listed below:



List of Sessions - IGNITE Stage

Miercoles - Wednesday - 20 - 11:00 - 11:20	Educación para la Respuesta ante Desastres de la Defensa Civil Colombiana	Defensa Civil Colombiana
Miercoles - Wednesday - 20 - 11:20 - 11:40	Partnering with CEPREDENAC to Protect Animal Owner Livelihoods in Central America & Dominican Republic	World Animal Protection
Miercoles - Wednesday - 20 - 11:40 - 12:00	Rol de Cuidadores de Personas con Discapacidad durante Emergencias y Catástrofes, Lecciones Aprendidas en América Latina y El Caribe	ONG Inclusiva
Miercoles - Wednesday - 20 - 12:00 - 12:20	Metodología para Reducir el Riesgo de Desastres por Inundaciones en Cuencas Hidrográficas Urbanas.	UNAM, México
Miercoles - Wednesday - 20 - 12:20 - 12:40	Índice Gestión del Riesgo Inclusiva de Desastres en Hospitales - INGRIDH	PAHO/WHO
Miercoles - Wednesday - 20 - 12:40 - 13:00	Invertir en la RRD a través de la Capacitación de los Bomberos de America	Bomberos Americanos
Miercoles - Wednesday - 20 - 13:00 - 13:20	DP Makes the Difference	DG European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations – (ECHO)
Miercoles - Wednesday - 20 - 13:20 - 13:40	Reducción Riesgo Inundaciones y Atenuación de Tsunamis, Mediante Restauración de Manglares	Universidad Nacional de Tumbes

Miercoles - Wednesday - 20 - 13:40 - 14:00	"Unpacking Sendai" Animals in Disasters Initiative	World Animal Protection
Miercoles - Wednesday - 20 - 14:00 - 14:20	Prevención + Formación = Resiliencia	ASONBOMB
Miercoles - Wednesday - 20 - 14:20 - 14:40	Sistema de Alerta Temprana ante Eventos Climáticos Extremos como Medida de Reducción del riesgo en el Departamento del Norte de Santander	Universidad de Pamplona
Miercoles - Wednesday - 20 - 14:40 - 15:00	Experiencia Nacional de la Comisión Técnica Nacional Asesora de Riesgo Tecnológico CENARIT	Consejo Colombiano de Seguridad - CCS
Miercoles - Wednesday - 20 - 15:00 - 15:20	The Long-Term Resilience of São Luiz do Paraitinga City, Brazil	CEMADEN- National Early Warning and Monitoring Centre for Natural Disasters
Miercoles - Wednesday - 20 - 15:20 - 15:40	Monitoreo y Reducción del Riesgo en Actividades Marítimas y Costeras	Dirección General Marítima
Miercoles - Wednesday - 20 - 15:40 - 16:00	Buenas Prácticas sobre Gestión del Riesgo y Discapacidad	Red de Gestión Inclusiva del Riesgo de Desastres de Latino América y El Caribe (RED GIRDD LAC)
Miercoles - Wednesday - 20 - 16:00 - 16:20	La transformación, Lecciones Aprendidas, Oportunidades, iniciativas y Acciones de la RMAGIR en la Subregión	SECRETARÍA DE EMERGENCIA NACIONAL (PARAGUAY) Remagrir
Miercoles - Wednesday - 20 - 16:20 - 16:40	Modelos Alianzas Público-Privadas para Enfrentar el Riesgo a Desastres en Centroamérica	Acción Contra el Hambre
Miercoles - Wednesday - 20 - 16:40 - 17:00	Promoviendo Cultura de Prevención para Aumento de la Resiliencia	Ministerio de Cultura y Deportes de Guatemala
Miercoles - Wednesday - 20 - 17:00 - 17:20	Fortalecimiento Institucional con Enfoque de Protección: Equipo Consultivo de Protección, Genero y Edad de la Comisión Nacional de Emergencias	Consorcio Ponte Alerta Caribe - Oxfam, Plan, Habitat, Humanity & Inclusion
Miercoles - Wednesday - 20 - 17:20 - 17:40	Curso de Respuesta inicial a Desastres – CRID	Escola de Defesa Civil
Miercoles - Wednesday - 20 - 17:40 - 18:00	Apropiación Social del Conocimiento Geocientífico, Estudio de Amenaza por Movimientos en Masa en el Área Urbana, Periurbana y de Expansión a Escala 1:5.000	Oficina Asesora De Gestión Del Riesgo de Desastres. Municipio de Popayán
Miercoles - Wednesday - 20 - 18:00 - 18:20	Estrategia para Reducir la Amenaza de inundación "Villavicencio una Ciudad más Resiliente"	Consejo Municipal de Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres (CMGRD) - Villavicencio

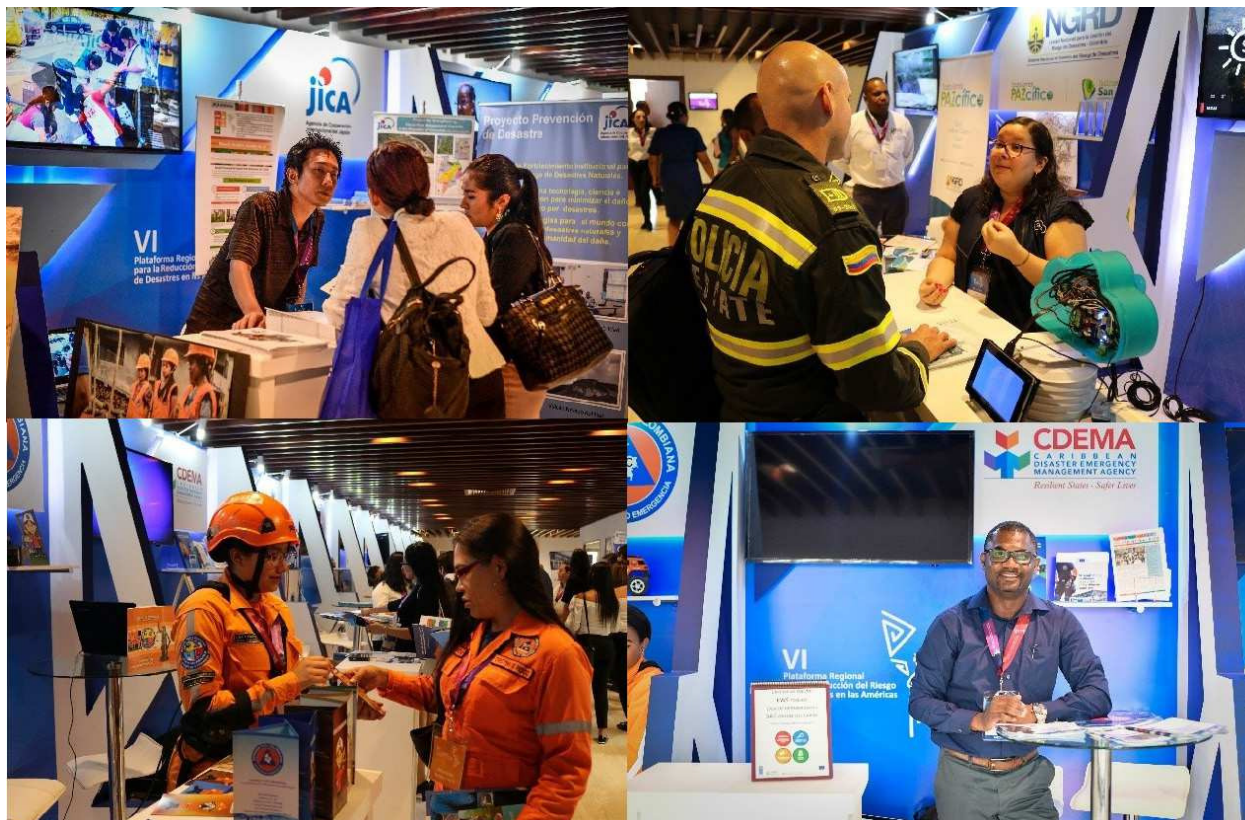
Miercoles - Wednesday - 20 - 18:20 - 18:40	Modelos de Alianzas Público Privadas en Centroamérica	Acción Contra el Hambre
Jueves - Thursday - 21 - 09:00 - 09:20	Preparacion del Ministerio de la Defensa Nacional para responder a los desastres	Ministerio de la Defensa Nacional Guatemala
Jueves - Thursday - 21 - 09:20 - 09:40	Acción de Jóvenes en Entornos Comunitarios para la Construcción de Resiliencia: una Propuesta Integrada para el Desarrollo Local tras el Terremoto del 16 de abril de 2016 de Ecuador	RET Internacional (Grupo Joven JORES-RET)
Jueves - Thursday - 21 - 09:40 - 10:00	Siniestro y Oportunidad para las Comunidades Madereras y Pesqueras Australes de Chile, una Propuesta para el Desarrollo Local	RET Internacional (Fundación Superación de la Pobreza)
Jueves - Thursday - 21 - 10:00 - 10:20	Santander Menos Vulnerable	Dirección de Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres de Santander
Jueves - Thursday - 21 - 10:20 - 10:40	Proyecto Satelital Peruano: Herramienta para la Respuesta a Desastres y la Recuperación Posdesastre	PNUD - Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo
Jueves - Thursday - 21 - 10:40 - 11:00	Niños y Niñas del Departamento de Caldas, una Apuesta a un Futuro Más Resiliente	Consejo Departamental de Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres (CDGRD) - Caldas
Jueves - Thursday - 21 - 11:00 - 11:20	Exploring the Role of Trade in Disaster Risk Reduction	World Trade Organization
Jueves - Thursday - 21 - 11:20 - 11:40	Disaster Preparedness Make the Difference! Evidences Captured in Central America	DG European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations – (ECHO)
Jueves - Thursday - 21 - 11:40 - 12:00	Disaster Preparedness Make the Difference ! Evidences Captured in the Caribbean	DG European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)
Jueves - Thursday - 21 - 12:00 - 12:20	Herramientas Virtuales para la Gestión del Riesgo	Instituto Distrital de Gestión de Riesgos y Cambio Climático -IDIGER-
Jueves - Thursday - 21 - 12:20 - 12:40	Experiencia de Fenalco Antioquia en el Marco del Programa de Conocimiento y Reducción del Riesgo de Desastres	Fenalco Antioquia
Jueves - Thursday - 21 - 12:40 - 13:00	Las experiencias del PNUD Ecuador en el Posterremoto	PNUD - Ecuador
Jueves - Thursday - 21 - 13:00 - 13:20	Preparing to Respond or Business Continuity Planning: Initial Findings From The Caribbean	University of West Indies
Jueves - Thursday - 21 - 13:20 - 13:40	Liderazgo y Resiliencia Empresarial	SOLUCIONES RESILIENTES

Jueves - Thursday - 21 - 13:40 - 14:00	Estrategias para la Gestión de Emergencias Derivadas de Fenómenos Naturales	Molinos Modernos Organización Internacional (Naciones Unidas, Organizaciones Regionales)
Jueves - Thursday - 21 - 14:00 - 14:20	Consortio de Agencias Humanitarias en Bolivia una Experiencia de Trabajo Mutuo	CAHB
Jueves - Thursday - 21 - 14:20 - 14:40	Guía de Gestión de Eventos Inclusivos	ONG Inclusiva
Jueves - Thursday - 21 - 14:40 - 15:00	Gestion de Riesgos de Radiacion No Lonizante	Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos
Jueves - Thursday - 21 - 15:00 - 15:20	Factores Subyacentes del Riesgo de Desastres, Herramienta de Autodiagnóstico Municipal	ONEMI
Jueves - Thursday - 21 - 15:20 - 15:40	La Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres Cuenta con Vos	Departamento Administrativo de Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres DAGRD - Alcaldía de Medellín
Jueves - Thursday - 21 - 15:40 - 16:00	"Resiliencia Biopsicosocioambiental"	O.N.G ACHE INTERNACIONAL , Ecosoc Consultative Status since April 2016
Jueves - Thursday - 21 - 16:00 - 16:20	Arquitectura y Protección Civil	Atogapan
Jueves - Thursday - 21 - 16:20 - 16:40	Plan de Administración de Vulnerabilidades y Emergencias	Municipio de Guatemala
Jueves - Thursday - 21 - 16:40 - 17:00	Estrategia Digital SIATA. Información y Conocimiento al Alcance de Todos	Área Metropolitana del Valle de Aburrá
Jueves - Thursday - 21 - 17:00 - 17:20	Experiencia de Capacitación en la Campanha Desarrollando Ciudades Resilientes en Brazil.	Centro Universitário de Estudos e Pesquisas sobre Desastres - CEPED/PR
Jueves - Thursday - 21 - 17:20 - 17:40	Reducing Seismic Risk by Seismic Retrofitting in Latin America and the Caribbean	Build Change
Jueves - Thursday - 21 - 17:40 - 18:00	Bienal Nacional de Niños, Niñas y Jóvenes que Viven en Zonas de Riesgo Volcánico	Servicio Geológico Colombiano
Jueves - Thursday - 21 - 18:00 - 18:20	Gobierno Autónomo Descentralizado Municipal del Cantón El Empalme – Ecuador, Fortaleciendo La Resiliencia Local	Gobierno Autonomo Descentralizado Municipal El Empalme
Jueves - Thursday - 21 - 18:20 - 18:40	Sistemas de Información Contribuyendo con las Estrategias de Prevención de Violencia.	Mercy Corps
Jueves - Thursday - 21 - 18:40 - 19:00	Una Apuesta por el Dialogo de Saberes Comunitarios, Institucionales y Académicos para la Gobernanza del Riesgo	Universidad de Manizales - Observatorio Psicosocial para la Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres
Viernes - Friday - 22 09:00 - 09:20	Hospitales Seguros ante Desastres	Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana
Viernes - Friday - 22 09:20 - 09:40	Alianza Público - Privada para la Gestión de Riesgos en Energía	Ministerio de Energía I Gobierno de Chile

Viernes - Friday - 22 - 09:40 - 10:00	Posibilidades y Desafíos de la Enseñanza En Defensa Civil. La Experiencia de la Escuela de Defensa Civil en la Preparación para Reducción de Desastre	Secretaria Estadual de Defesa Civil
Viernes - Friday - 22 - 10:00 - 10:20	Puerto Rico, From Response to Recovery: Resilience Hub Model	Mercy Corps
Viernes - Friday - 22 - 10:20 - 10:40	El Bambú en la Reducción De Riesgos de Desastres Caso: Construcción de Locales Comunes en el Distrito de Carabayllo, Lima Perú	MUNICIPALIDAD DISTRITAL DE CARABAYLLO
Viernes - Friday - 22 - 10:40 - 11:00	Sistema de Información en Tiempo Real para Clasificación y Traslado de Pacientes Víctimas de Desastres - Software "GESTVIC"	Escuela Militar de Ingenieros
Viernes - Friday - 22 - 11:00 - 11:20	De la Reacción a la Prevención: Implementación de la Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres en el Servicio Médico Legal de Chile	Servicio Médico Legal
Viernes - Friday - 22 - 11:20 - 11:40	Resilience Against Disasters: Piura River's Early Warning System	Colegio de Ingenieros del Perú
Viernes - Friday - 22 - 11:40 - 12:00	La Defensa en el Sistema Nacional de Protección Civil para la Reducción de Riesgos ante Eventos Destructivos.	Universidad de Valparaíso
Viernes - Friday - 22 - 12:00 - 12:20	In South America Disaster preparedness Make the Difference!	DG European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations – (ECHO)
Viernes - Friday - 22 - 12:20 - 12:40	Formación de Hacedores de Políticas públicas en Reducción del Riesgo de Desastres	Universidad del Salvador Facultad de Historia Geografía y Turismo
Viernes - Friday - 22 - 12:40 - 13:00	En qué los Indicadores de Eventos Extremos y Desastres Contribuyen a la Gobernanza del Riesgo de Desastres?	Grupo de Trabajo de Indicadores de Eventos Extremos y Desastres (Perú y Paraguay)
Viernes - Friday - 22 - 13:00 - 13:20	Epicentro	Epicentro
Viernes - Friday - 22 - 13:20 - 13:40	Simulaciones Vinculadas a Competencias Humanitarias: Enfoque y Beneficios	CIRDES-Humanitarian Productions
Viernes - Friday - 22 - 13:40 - 14:00	Campaña Mundial Desarrollando Ciudades Resilientes en las Américas	UNISDR - Las Américas
Viernes - Friday - 22 - 14:00 - 14:20	Video de Trabajo Realizado en Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres en el Municipio, Hablado en Lengua Nativa	Municipio de Puerto Inírida
Viernes - Friday - 22 - 14:20 - 14:40	Diplomado de Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres	Cruz Roja Colombiana

Market Place: A diverse market in risk reduction

With around 29 exhibitors, the Market Place became a great exchange space where public, private and community institutions displayed their progress and products related to disaster risk reduction.



Expositors

- FAO Bolivia and Colombia
- CORPO RESILIENCIA
- Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations - ECHO
- Group for disaster risk management in the education sector in Latin America and the Caribbean and CORELAC.
- Japan International Cooperation Agency
- CARE
- The Spanish Red Cross
- UNITED NATIONS
- City Hall of Villavicencio
- INVIAS
- Colombian Civil Defense

- The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)
- Senior Council of Central American Universities (CSUCA)
- CEPREDENAC
- IGAC
- NASA
- Humanity and Inclusion
- FIDUPREVISORA
- Inclusive Disaster Risk and Disability Management Network of Latin America and the Caribbean (GIRDD-LAC Network)
- COSUDE
- DARAPD
- COLOMBIAN GEOLOGICAL SERVICE
- Colombian Red Cross
- SIATA - the Early Warning System of Medellín and the Aburrá Valley
- Divided between San Andrés and Plan Pazcífico - UNGRD and FNGRD



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The National Unit for Disaster Risk Management, on behalf of the Government of Colombia (UNGRD) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) wish to acknowledge the valuable support provided by partners and counterparts in the organization of this VI Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

We wish to express special thanks for the financial support received from various donors and cooperation agencies, for the commitment and support of the various hosts and co-hosts of the plenary and parallel sessions, as well as all the volunteers who worked on the organization of the event. Without your valuable contribution, this Regional Platform would not have been possible. This collaborative work is a reflection of the fact that Disaster Risk Reduction is the responsibility of everyone.

Special thanks go to:

- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (COSUDE)
- Development Bank of Latin America
- UPS Foundation
- Government of Argentina
- Office of the United States for Foreign Assistance USAID/OFDA
- European Union

Thanks to hosts and co-hosts of the sessions:

- German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GIZ)
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Caribbean Agency for the Management of Disaster Emergencies (CDEMA)
- Colombian National Infrastructure Agency
- National Association of Businessmen of Colombia (ANDI)
- Development Bank of Latin America - CAF
- World Bank
- Coordination Center for the Prevention of Disasters in Central America and the Dominican Republic (CEPREDENAC)
- White Helmets Commission of Argentina
- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- Colombian Security Council (CCS)
- Colombian Red Cross
- Colombian National Planning Department (DNP)
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)



- Florida International University
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM by its acronym in Spanish)
- National Roads Institute (INVIAS by acronym in Spanish)
- Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Government of Colombia
- Ministry of Finance and Public Credit of Colombia
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia
- Ministry of Transportation of Colombia
- Ministry of Housing, Cities and Territories of Colombia
- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
- UN Women
- Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)
- Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR)
- University Network of Latin America and the Caribbean for Disaster Risk Reduction (REDULAC/ DRR)
- National Secretary of Protection and Civil Defense (SEDEC) of Brazil
- National Geological Service (SGC) of Colombia.
- United Nations System in Colombia

Finally, we wish to express our gratitude to all the operational and technical entities at the National Disaster Risk Management System of Colombia (SNGRD).



ANNEXES

1. Cartagena Declaration

2. Additional information, photos and videos:

• Website

- UNGRD: http://portal.gestiondelriesgo.gov.co/Paginas/Slide_home/Plataforma-Regional-para-la-Reduccion-del-Riesgo.aspx
- UNISDR Las Américas: <http://eird.org/pr18/>

• Flickr

- UNGRD: UNGRD SNGRD
- UNISDR: UN ISDR

• Twitter:

- @UNGRD
- @UNISDR_Americas

• YouTube:

- UNGRD Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres
- UNISDRAmericas

• Facebook:

- <https://www.facebook.com/ComunicacionUngrd>
- <https://www.facebook.com/UnisdrLasAmericas/>





ANNEX I: CARTAGENA DECLARATION

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

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

9. Recognizing that the coordinated work helps us to address common priorities and challenges as a region in the area of Disaster Risk Reduction and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals - SDG - of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development related to this field;
10. Recognizing the disproportionate impact of disasters on women and girls, children and youths and other vulnerable groups, and their importance as agents of change, as well as the need to apply an equitable, participatory and inclusive approach to disaster risk reduction in order to reduce social, economic and psychological impact of such events;
11. Recognizing the need to consider indigenous communities in the event of disasters while integrating their traditional knowledge into relief and aid activities through a participatory approach;
12. Recognizing the importance that States strengthen their institutional frameworks in order to integrate disaster risk reduction into development measures, making nations and communities resilient to disasters;

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

1. Provide continuity to the implementation of the Regional Action Plan for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in the Americas and the Caribbean and address the proposed responsibilities as part of the development agendas in our countries, in line with the relevant goals and areas of the 2030 Agenda, Habitat III and, as applicable, actions to implement the Paris Agreement;
2. Commit to strengthen through systematic organization within the internal management processes, the institutional platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction in order to generate coordination spaces for actions between local and national governments, the private sector, academic sector and civil society in recognition of the multidisciplinary and interinstitutional nature of Disaster Risk Reduction with the goal of increasing and promoting resilience in the region;
3. Promote, in collaboration with subregional, regional and global mechanisms through mutual cooperation strategies, joint research into phenomena that potentially cause losses in the region, and exchange of best practices and experiences in relation to disaster risk reduction in accordance with the guidelines included in the Regional Action Plan;
4. Promote awareness and knowledge among adults and children, as appropriate, related to a culture of disaster prevention, resilience and responsible citizenship;
5. Commit to make progress on monitoring the Regional Action Plan in order to assess its effectiveness and the response by the region's countries to the planned initiatives and establish follow up arrangements, in line with the baselines to be assessed in the context of the 7th Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean to be held in 2020 in Jamaica;



6. Recognize the impact recent disasters have had in the Americas and the Caribbean, particularly the impact of natural hazards, highlighting the urgent need to strengthen national efforts, regional cooperation and partnerships, including public-private partnerships, in order to make progress on the implementation of the Regional Action Plan and the Sendai Framework targets in accordance with the national needs and priorities of the affected subregions;
7. Take note of the declaration of civil society members and grassroots and women's organizations in this 6th Regional Platform, that in collaboration with public institutions provide practical knowledge and guidance in the application of normative frameworks, standards and plans to reduce disaster risk and facilitate inclusive disaster risk reduction for all society;
8. Call on the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction to continue providing institutional support for the implementation, monitoring and review of disaster risk reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean in collaboration with relevant regional and sub-regional organizations;
9. Reiterate our commitment to achieve the Sendai outcome of substantial reduction of disaster risk and loss of life, livelihoods and health, and particularly to reduce mortality and the number of people that are affected by disasters, as well as the resulting economic losses from disasters, including by investing our own domestic resources in planning and preparedness;
10. Make an appeal to continue broadening existing efforts and best practices in the region to integrate disaster risk reduction in all of the sectors and promote support to the private and public sectors with the goal of uniting efforts against disaster risk and damage to critical and productive infrastructure;
11. Promote a less vulnerable region with more resilient communities through involving governments and government control agencies with the goal of positioning Disaster Risk Reduction as a public policy priority at the national level and with an increased impact in local areas;
12. Recognizing that during the occurrence of a catastrophic event the mobility of people with disabilities, people with serious and chronic diseases and older adults may be limited, and that special attention to the needs of these individuals is crucial to protect their lives and fundamental rights, efforts should be taken to provide for their safety, protection and well being, including through the implementation of inclusive risk management policy according to national context;
13. Strengthen the development and dissemination of methodologies and science-based tools that facilitate the timely implementation of measures of prevention and preparation as well as identification and communication of the losses caused by disasters through online monitoring platforms that are designed for this purpose and adopted for the monitoring of the Sendai Framework;
14. Encourage Member states and relevant actors in accordance with their respective mandates and priorities to actively participate in the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Management to be implemented between the 13th and 17th of May 2019, in Geneva, Switzerland;



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

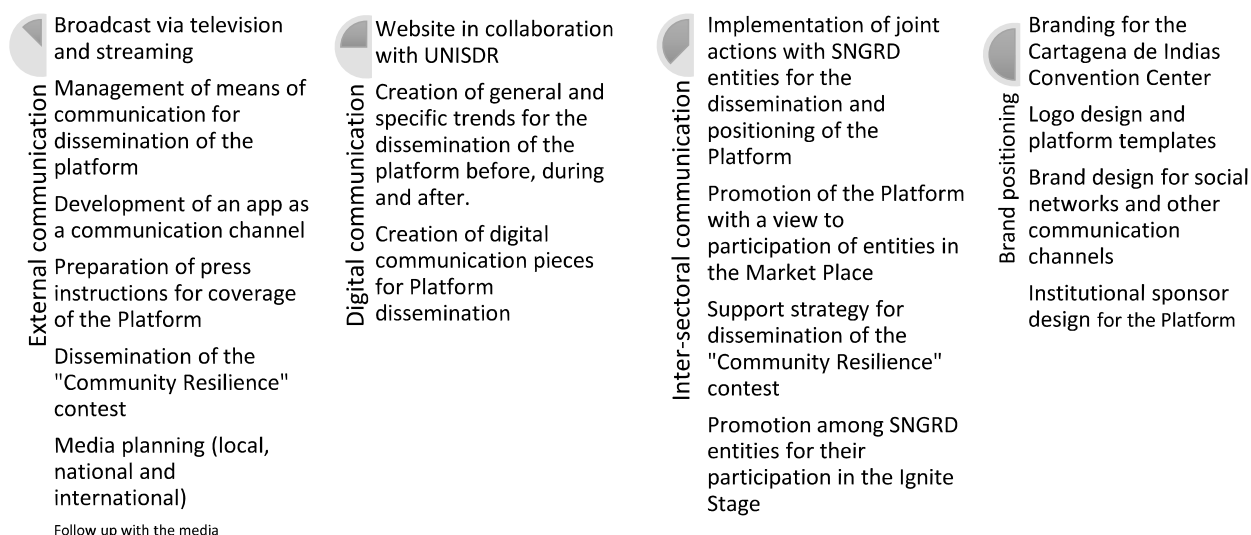
Adopted on June 22nd of 2018 in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia.



ANNEX II: STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS PR18

The VI Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas had broad dissemination in terms of strategic communication, in order to satisfy the information needs of the various target audiences of this region-wide event

To this end, this component was implemented along the following lines:



The following tactics were established for the foregoing, in common agreement with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction - UNISDR.



The following actions were taken for specific products in the implementation of the above items, which contributed to the implementation of communication for PR18.

Mounting and operation of the Press Room PR18

A space was made available for the Press Room in the Cartagena de Indias Convention Center where all facilities necessary for PR18 were provided, including daily information on the events and the various conference presentations that took place during the three days of the event. All accredited media, journalists and technical staff had access to these spaces, in order to provide for their comfort during their coverage of the event. The space was provided with technological resources such as WiFi, electrical connections, workstations, computers, streaming transmission in two languages (Spanish and English), printing, scanning and photocopying facilities.

Likewise, live broadcasting was available via the official television signal of the Government of Colombia, in accordance with the availability of the programming schedule for space for the RP18 agenda.

Transmission via Streaming and Institutional Channel

An open signal from Radio Televisión de Colombia RTVC was available for the official transmission of the VI Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas, as well as via the official websites:

UNGRD: <http://portal.gestiondelriesgo.gov.co/>

Platform: <http://eird.org/pr18/index.html>

Institutional Channel: <https://www.canalinstitucional.tv/>

The above was cataloged as per the IBC model (International Press Center) in digital version, accompanied by the official Web TV of the platform, where the material from the conference transmissions continues to be stored in order that periodical publication journalists have access to the material in its English and Spanish versions.

Web streaming interaction statistics

The web streaming statistics were analyzed as follows:

- 1- Per day
- 2- Per session
- 3- By number of visitors and their concurrence during transmission
- 4- Visitors by country
- 5- Devices
- 6- Language



a) Mobile 1 in the Getsemaní Room

In the period of transmission in Spanish from June 19 to 22 a total of 6,896 visitors accessed the stream, with an average concurrence of 57.47. On June 20 there were a total of 518 visitors, this being the highest number.

For this transmission the majority of visitors were from Colombia with 3,890, followed by Peru with 594 and in third place Mexico with 566. The countries with the least visits were Thailand with 1, Bolivia with 2 and Barbados with 2.

The most used devices were Windows with 5,999, Macintosh with 262, Android with 496 and iOS with 101.

The English version of the same transmission had a total of 506 visits with an average concurrence of 4.22. On June 20 there were a total of 66 visitors, this being the highest number.

The countries that contributed the most visitors were Colombia with 283, the United States with 95 and Peru with 91. The countries with the least views were Mexico, Ecuador and Canada with 1.

The most used devices were Windows with 471, Macintosh with 7, Android with 20 and iOS with 5 users respectively.

The sessions transmitted were: the Opening Event, Plenary Session 1, Parallel Sessions 1 and 2; this was the day with the largest audience.

On Day 2 the transmissions were: Plenary Session 2, Parallel Session 7, Plenary Session 3, Parallel Sessions 10 and 13.

The final transmission on Day 3, broadcast through Mobile 1 were: Plenary Session 4, Parallel Session 17, Parallel Session 18 and the closing ceremony.

b) Mobile 2 in the Barahona Room

In the period of transmission in Spanish from June 19 to 22, a total of 6,106 visitors accessed the stream, with an average concurrence of 42.40. June 20 had the highest number of visitors, with 393.

For this transmission, 3,004 visitors were from Colombia, 646 from Mexico, and 566 from Peru - these being the countries that contributed the most visits. On the other hand, Paraguay, Bolivia and Barbados contributed the least, with 1 visitor each.

The most used devices were Windows with 5,532, Macintosh with 322, Android with 212 and iOS with 9 users respectively.

The English version of the same transmission had a total of 491 visits with an average concurrence of 4.10. June 21 had the highest number of visitors, with 75.

The countries with the most visitors watching the streaming were Panama with 216, Colombia with 178 and Peru with 91. In the case of the United States, Mexico and Guyana, there was only 1 viewer.

In terms of devices, 474 were Windows, 6 Macintosh, 7 Android and 5 iOS.



The sessions broadcast on Day 1 with the highest audience were: the event opening, Plenary Session 1, Parallel Sessions 4 and 6.

The transmissions on Day 2 were: Plenary Session 2, Parallel Session 14, Plenary Session 3, Parallel Sessions 18 and 21.

On Day 3 the transmissions were: Plenary Session 4, Parallel Meeting 16 and the closing ceremony, as well as a tour of the event rooms.

c) Mobile 3 in the Barahona Room

In the period of transmission in Spanish from June 19 to 22, a total of 3,542 visitors accessed the stream, with an average concurrence of 29.52. June 20 had the highest number of visitors, with 289.

For this transmission 1,385 visitors were from Colombia, 455 from Peru, 353 from Mexico, these being the countries that provided the most visitors. On the other hand, the Philippines with 0, Guyana with 1 and Guatemala with 1 were the countries that provided the fewest visitors for the stream.

In terms of devices, 2,892 were Windows, 439 Macintosh, 113 Android and 15 iOS.

The English version of the same transmission had a total of 186 visits with an average concurrence of 1.55 per day. June 20 was the only day that had visitors, with peak of 64.

For this transmission, 176 visitors came from Spain and 10 from Colombia. In terms of devices, 178 were Windows, 6 Android and 2 iOS.

This mobile unit transmitted on Day 1: the opening of the event and Plenary Session 1. It is important to note that this was the day with the largest audience.

On Day 2 the following were transmitted: Plenary Session 2 and Plenary Session 3.

On Day 3, Plenary Session 4 and the closing ceremony were broadcast.

Remarks

An important observation which must be mentioned in relation to the statistics and analysis for the transmission is that no specific schedule was analyzed, only a daily basis.

Day 1 was the day that had the largest audience for all three transmission mobile units.



Social Networks and Information App

The VI Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the Americas could be followed at a distance thanks not only to the live broadcast, but also through social networks: UNISDR and UNGRD Facebook, Twitter and YouTube accounts.

The principle #hashtags for the virtual Platform conversation at the regional level, and to follow the events on networks were:

#SendaiAmericas

#RP18

#ComunidadesResilientes

At the national level, the Government of Colombia implemented the following #hashtags:

#ColombiaMásResiliente

#ColombiaMenosVulnerable

#AméricasMásResilientes

#AméricasMenosVulnerables

#VIPlataformaReducción

Mobile Application

The VI Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) was a paper-free space, as such an informative App was developed and implemented, through which participants could access all the information via the mobile application which available from the Google Play and IOS stores

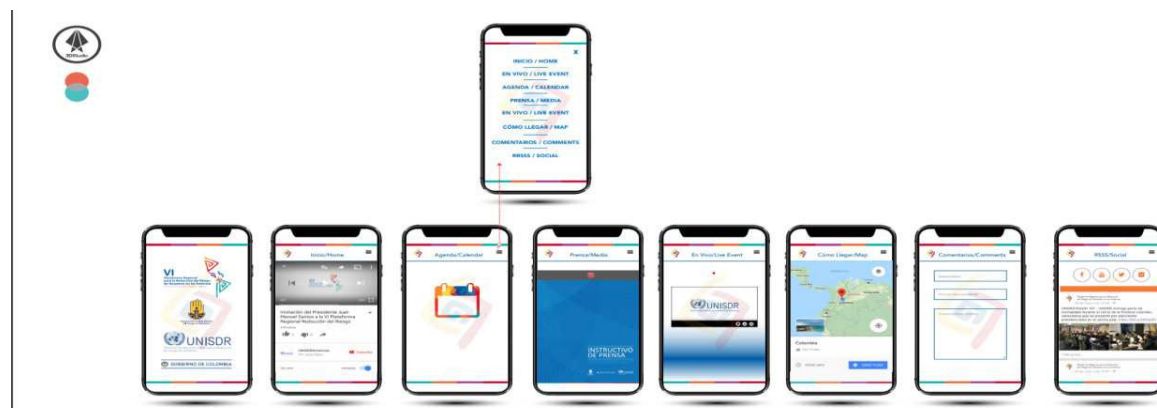
- Mobile application for iPhone/iPad.
- Mobile application for Android.

App Structure

1. Schedule: PDF in English and Spanish. Audio with the agenda
2. Virtual Brochure: PDF in English and Spanish
4. Press instructions: PDF in English and Spanish
5. Social networks: Link to UNGRD and UNISDR networks
6. Web streaming transmission: Link to embedded codes in order to follow the transmission.
7. Tourist information: link to an official tourist page of Cartagena
8. News
9. Official Declarations (content feed in real time)
10. Georeferencing - How to get to the CCCI - Route location service for the arrival of the participants according to their location in the city.
11. Tell us about your experience in PR18



Mockup APP



PR18 App use statistics

IOS Application

512 downloads from the digital store in the period from June 15 to July 20, 2018, with the highest peak during the days on which PR18 was held.

Android application

The Android application had 123 downloads from the digital store, with a rating of 5 points; downloads in Colombia were 63.41%, with 9.76% in Panama.

PR18 official social networks

UNISDR:

- Facebook
- Twitter
- YouTube
- Flickr

UNGRD:

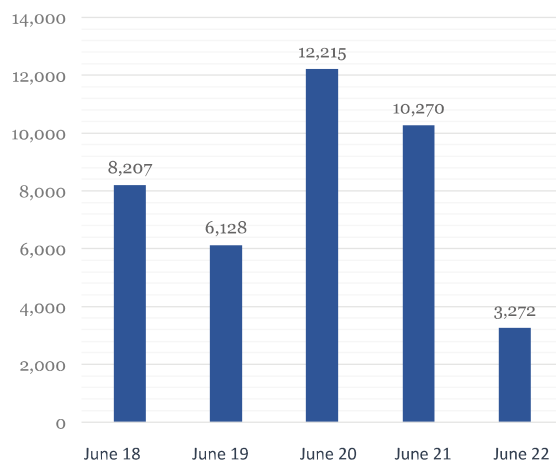
- Facebook
- Twitter
- YouTube
- Flickr

UNISDR Social Media Interactions

Facebook analysis

Scope: Number of times a publication appears on the "timeline" of others

Total Scope of All Publications Summed by Day



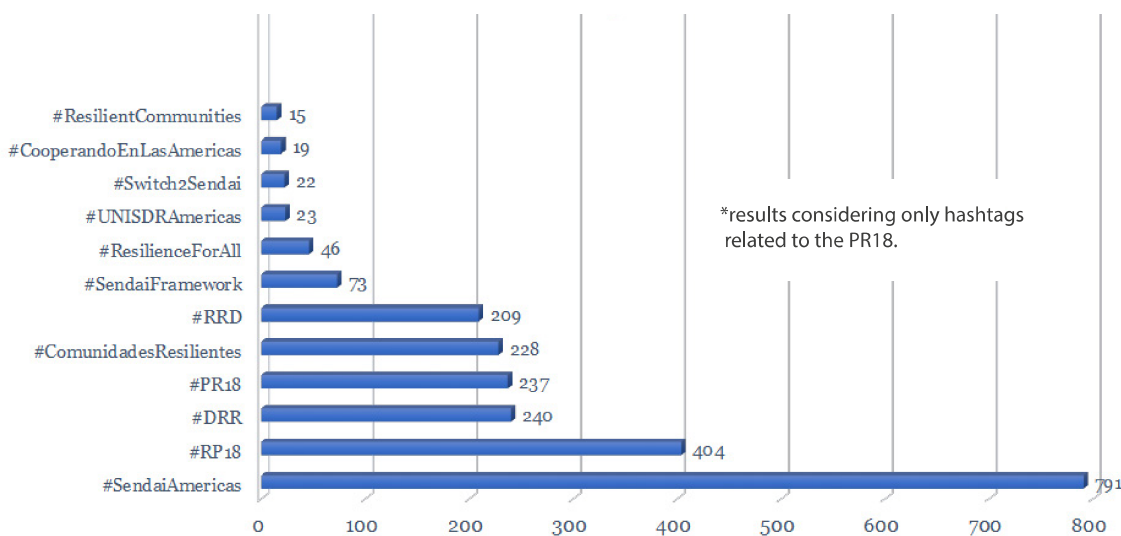
Fan Increase Trend



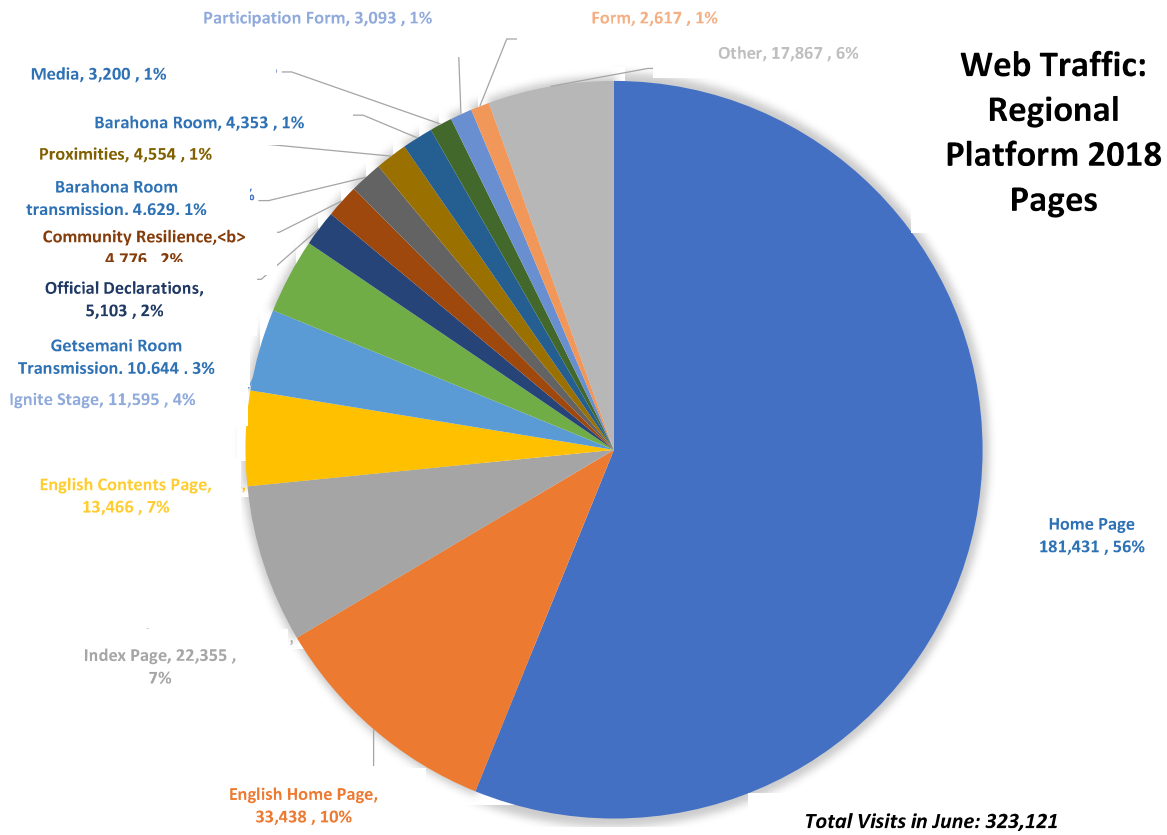
UNISDR Americas Data considered only

Use of #Hashtags

Hashtag counting during the week of the PR18

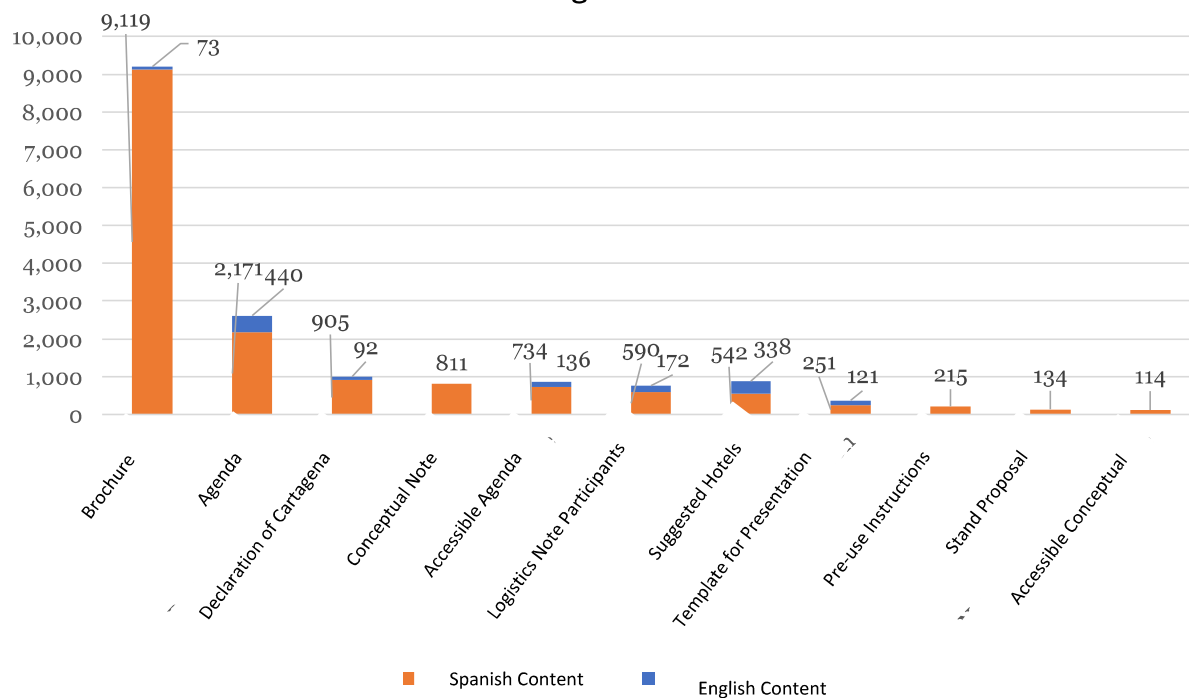


Website Statistics



Statistics taken from the UNISDR Las Americas website

Total Content Downloads Regional Platform 2018 Month of June



Interviews Conducted

Interviewee	Entity	Interviewee	Entity
St. Clair Prince	Minister of Education, Government of St. Vincent & the Grenadines	Jonathan Del Cid	Municipality of Guatemala City
Fernando Traversa	MERCOSUR	Alfredo Martinez	Municipality of Santo Domingo Este
Jeremy Collymore	Barbados University of the West Indies	Pauline Leonard	CEPAL
Joaquin Roa	National Emergency Secretary, Paraguay	Peter Abad	Government of Peru
Ronald Jackson	CEDEMA	Jorge Cabrera Hidalgo	SIGA
Francois Lavalette	Government of France	Carlos Kaiser	Inclusiva NGO
Juan Carlos Mendez	Platform for Disaster Displacement	Gustav Wilches Chaux	Disaster Expert
Carolina Giral do Gonzalez	UNGRD	"Tichico"	ANCI
Marcela Diaz	Universidad de Concepcion, Chile	David Green	NASA
Kim Jones	Sagcor Life Inc.	Desmond McKenzie	Minister of Local Government, Jamaica



Interviews Conducted: 24
 Number of Interviewees: 20
 View count: 206

EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION AND RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MEDIA

In terms of media and public information, several lines of communication were implemented:

Free press

From May 10th the Communications Advisory Office sent the directors of 5 of the country's main media outlets invitations to accompany the events of the VI Platform, in order to be able to inform the country of the actions that are taking place in Colombia and in the region related to the agenda.



CONVOCATORIA DE MEDIOS

El director general de la **Unidad Nacional para la Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres-UNGRD-**, **Carlos Iván Márquez Pérez**, invita a la rueda de prensa de **DECLARACIÓN DE CONCLUSIONES** de la Sexta Plataforma Regional para la Reducción del Riesgo de Desastres de las Américas.

Viernes 22 de junio de 2018
12:20 p.m.
Sala de prensa
 Centro de Convenciones Cartagena de Indias - Segundo piso



VI
Plataforma Regional
para la Reducción del Riesgo
de Desastres en las Américas
20 - 22 de junio 2018 - Cartagena, Colombia



GOBIERNO DE COLOMBIA
UNISDR

Más información:
Anamaria Escobar
+57 311 5064840

In addition to this, and with the accompaniment of the communications office of the Colombian Government, two media calls were made for press conferences held on the first and last day of the VI Platform, in order to divulge both the expectations of this important forum, as well as to provide a closing balance of the event, which had coverage by national, regional, local and community media, as well as of the international media invited by UNISDR and UN News in Spanish.

Press Releases

The unit issued three press releases. The first of these was issued days prior to the event, in order to communicate the event taking place, the location and general information. The second was issued prior to the inauguration of the VI Platform, and the last press release was issued at the closing of the event, in order to present a balance and conclusions.

These communications were disseminated nationwide to a database of more than 3,000 contacts, including national, regional, and international media, entities of the National Risk Management System, International Cooperators, institutional and government communications entities and the community.

Likewise, two articles on the before and after of PR18 were issued through two articles published in editions of the UNGRD external bulletin, "Sistema al día".

UNISDR divulged several press releases and news summaries before, during and after the VI Regional Platform in Cartagena. These communiqués were published through the web pages of UNISDR Americas and the UNISDR headquarters in Geneva.

The first press release promoting the VI Regional Platform was published one month prior to the event, and provided information on the dates, location and purpose of the Platform. Eleven communiqués were published by UNISDR during the Regional Platform, in which various events and experiences were highlighted as they occurred. The translation of these documents was a priority, and they were made available in both English and Spanish in order to promote greater outreach.

These official press releases were shared with entities that included the public and private sectors, governments, international organizations, official delegations, and other entities who were present or not at the VI Regional Platform in Cartagena. The press releases had wide circulation, and were published through various social media channels. All of these promoted and informed the public on the content of the VI Regional Platform.

Audiovisual Pieces

Two audiovisual pieces were prepared for the opening of PR18, in addition to the coverage of the inauguration and the format of the entire event being aired via streaming and via the Institutional Channel, through an agreement with the Public Media System of Colombia - RTVC.

The first of these (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AuMWTuNID-4>) was an account of the evolution of risk management in Colombia, and in particular what has been done in terms of reduction of disaster risk in the country.

The format video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LT0Z8JAYOY>) was a compendium of the VI Regional Platform for Risk Reduction in the Americas region over the three days of events, parallel sessions, ignite stage, market place and the remaining events.

These pieces were broadcast both during the opening and closing events, being transmitted via streaming and the institutional channel as well as via institutional social network channels, and made available for viewing on the UNGRD and UNISDR YouTube channels.



BRAND DESIGN AND POSITIONING

Branding:

The following were made available as part of brand and logo positioning:

1. Main auditorium (Getsemaní Room)



2. Branding for digital lectern



3. Branding for parallel session rooms



4. Branding Ignite Stage



5. Branding market place



6. Backing for press room and bilateral meeting rooms



7. Branding for the Ministerial meeting room



8. Branding for common areas



9. Branding for the registration point



Promotional Material

Promotional material was provided to each of the participants at the VI Platform:

Agenda



Bag



Pen



Fan



Badge ribbon



Badge



NOMBRE
APELLIDO

ENTIDAD

Cargo

PAÍS



Bottle



PROCEEDINGS VI REGIONAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN THE AMERICAS



GOBIERNO DE COLOMBIA



UNISDR

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction