



CONCEPT NOTE

Introduction

The Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the Americas is the main venue that brings together key actors in DRR from throughout North America, Central America, South America and the Caribbean. It is a multi-stakeholder forum that reflects the commitments and concerns of Governments (national, sub national and local), regional intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), international organizations (IOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations, scientific and academic institutions, the private sector, donors and the media. It provides an opportunity to exchange information and knowledge, while facilitating processes for planning, progress monitoring, collective strategic decision-making and action in order to enhance the implementation of DRR and the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA); all the while linking to international and national efforts including those that contribute the integration of the processes of climate change adaptation (CCA) in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In addition to defining trends and priority areas for moving forward in the region, the outcomes from Regional Platform sessions also serve as input into the upcoming session of the Global Platform for DRR.

The third session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas will be held in Santiago, Chile from 26-28 November 2012. This session is being co-organized by the Regional Office of UNISDR for the Americas (UNISDR Americas), the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Government of Chile as host country. As with the previous session, the structure and contents of this third session are determined by an Advisory Council comprised of regional intergovernmental organizations from the Americas – CAPRADE, CDEMA, CEPREDENAC, REHU and OAS; key ISDR partners from the region - World Bank, IDB, UNDP, OCHA, PAHO; as well as Chile as host country, the Government of Mexico as previous host country to the 2011 session held in Nayarit, and UNISDR Americas.

Results of Previous RP Sessions

RP2009

The first session of the Regional Platform for DRR in the Americas, organized by UNISDR Americas and the OAS, was held from 17-19 March of 2009 in Panama City, Panama. It looked to bridge the gap between the Global and National Platforms, with the purpose of establishing a formal multi-stakeholder mechanism at the hemispheric level. It centered upon defining responsibilities and priorities for moving forward with a hemispheric DRR agenda in coming years, based on the main tendencies, challenges, areas of progress and opportunities in the region. The outcomes of this 2009 session involved the consolidation and institutionalization of the Regional Platform of the Americas, strengthening of partnerships, fostering understanding of the HFA reporting mechanism, promoting opportunities for cooperation, and dissemination of information surrounding DRR in the Americas.



RP2011

With the support of the Advisory Council, this second session of the RP was held in Nuevo Vallarta, Nayarit, Mexico from March 15-17, 2011. Its outcomes were captured in the Communiqué of Nayarit¹ which highlighted the need to prioritize DRR at the highest level of action as well as the development of a hemispheric agenda for furthering DRR. The main thematic areas of focus of RP11 involved: DRR and Climate Change Adaptation, Measurable increases in investments in disaster risk reduction, Disaster-resilient cities, schools and hospitals, Institutional strengthening of DRR, HFA Mid-Term Review, and Messages to the Global Platform 2011. It served to reaffirm the commitment to the guiding principles of DRR and climate change adaptation (CCA), while providing a set of recommendations to the Global Platform. The RP11 witnessed a significant increase in terms of both the number and level of representation as compared with the 2009 session, thus reflecting growing interest surrounding DRR from throughout the region.

Main Areas of Focus for RP2012

Adhering to the advice of the Advisory Council and building upon previous sessions of the RP and the Global Platform (GP), on the Communiqué of Nayarit as the outcome document of the RP11, as well as on the priorities of the upcoming 2013 session of the GP; the RP12 will look to address the following issues:

- Advances and challenges at the local, national, sub/regional levels as expressed through HFA progress monitoring and statements to RP12;
- Promote a consultation process for a post-2015 as the way for moving forward beyond the HFA;
- Advancing towards the definition of guidelines for the preparation of regional and/or sub regional Plans of Action;
- Support the development of Disaster Resilient Cities and local implementation of DRR;
- Identify and analyze the main processes of development of public policies for DRR at the national, sub regional and hemispheric levels;
- Promote the discussion and gather regional advances on public investment and economics of DRR;
- Promote the discussion of the role of the private sector not only in emergency and response but also its role and advances in DRR;
- The role of community participation, civil society, community-based organizations and volunteers in DRR.
- Promote a high-level segment which would contribute to raising the level of political commitment with the results of the RP 2012 and the GP 013.
- Consolidate a message for the GP 013, which should focus on providing elements and criteria based on multiple experiences and good practices in the region, taking into consideration the various mechanisms (policies, strategies, plans) of regional, sub regional, national and local levels currently underway in the Americas, for the implementation of the HFA, as well as inputs from in the process of global discussion of the Post HFA 2015 mechanism.

¹ <http://www.eird.org/plataforma-2011/pdf/Comunicado-de-%20Nayarit-en.pdf>



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Expected Outcomes of RP12

- **Identification of the recent mechanisms** (policies, strategies, plans and programmes) to strengthen DRR at the regional, sub-national, national and local level leading to the implementation of the HFA, presenting diverse experiences and good practices available in the region.
- A stronger and more sustainable **ISDR movement** throughout the Americas that leads to increased responsibility for reinforcing resilience to disasters;
- A roadmap with guidelines for the development of Sub/regional action plans;
- Consolidation of a dynamic and trend-setting **forum** for decision-makers, partners, experts and practitioners to announce initiatives, launch products, share information, promote campaigns, and provide evidence around DRR;
- Directions and new alliances for the development and use of new tools and methodologies aimed at understanding and applying the **economics and investment in DRR**;
- A forum to discuss progress and consult over mechanisms and instruments **post-HFA**;
- A compendium of **good practices** for DRR
- Provide a summary of regional inputs to the **Global Platform**



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Annex 1: Session summary matrix

Thematic session		Relator for report to plenary	
Thematic coordinator			

Action Level	Critical Factors	Priority Actions	Expected Outcomes 2012 / 2015 (per action)	Agencies and Key Agents	Successful Experiences/Good practices
Regional/Sub-regional					
National/Sub-national					
Local					



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Annex 2- Regional Platform sessions 2012

Sessions	Sessions Goals	Sub-subjects per Session	Coordinating Institution (Underlined)	UNISDR focal Point
Mechanisms, tools and instruments towards a disaster risk reduction framework beyond 2015	Contribute with the discussion of a new post-HFA DRR framework and identify areas of agreement or general guidelines regarding the tendencies, challenges and emerging solutions, connection with other important areas such as climate change adaptation, sustainable development and poverty eradication, environment and disaster preparedness, that could be reached as inputs to be considered by the participants of the Global Platform for DRR IV Session in Geneva, Switzerland, 2013.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HFA progress assessment and steps to follow regarding gaps in progress and the challenges faced. 	<p><u>UNISDR</u></p> <p>Key partners : 8-9 partners from different sectors</p>	<p>Julio Garcia jgarcia@eird.org</p>
Public policies for DRR at national, regional and continental level	The goal of this session will be to synthesize through the discussion and review of concrete experiences, critical points in successful processes followed by the countries towards the development of national and regional policies that had generated important changes and progresses regarding the integration of DRR to development. Beyond the concrete experiences, the discussion will aim to identify a group of elements and critical steps within the national or regional policy formulation processes that had been successfully implemented and could be followed as guidelines to formulate a roadmap for a plan of action in countries and sub-regions, in order to tackle underlying risk factors within the sub-regional and national planning processes towards the fulfillment of the HFA priorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key elements within the public policies development process. Progresses on DRR Governance (legal frames, regional frames, national platforms) Public policies on DRR within transversal subjects: Access to water and land, gender and DRR 	<p><u>CEPRENAC</u></p> <p>Key partners: CAPRADE, REHU, CDEMA</p>	<p>Raul Salazar rsalazar@eird.org</p>
Public investment and financial tools for disaster risk reduction	To share experiences at local, national and regional level concerning different incorporation processes of DRR and CCA within the Public Investment National Systems, the Insurance and Financial risk transfer market systems, as well as funds or financial instruments for financial security in case of disaster, expecting to establish a success criteria linked to such experiences, identifying gaps and challenges to increase the relevance of DRR within the mechanisms and systems above mentioned, as well as recommendations for its implementation in the region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experiences on public investment processes. Mechanisms/Indicators of DRR and CCA investment monitoring within public policies Insurance and re-insurance systems and financial risk transfer and contingency credit mechanisms 	<p><u>IDB, BM</u></p> <p>Key partners: México, Perú, Costa Rica, Panamá, PNUD, Honduras, GIZ.</p>	<p>Julio Garcia jgarcia@eird.org</p>



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Annex 2- Regional Platform sessions 2012

Civil society participation in disaster risk reduction	Identify and promote processes and mechanisms of civil society and its linkages to public policies for DRR. Identify the current situation, barriers and limitations among them and how to promote its actions to favor DRR and humanitarian relief.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community participation • DRR and private sector • Volunteering for disaster risk reduction 	<u>Chile, IFRC</u>	<u>Margarita Villalobos</u> <u>mvillalobos@eird.org</u>
Technical cooperation for disaster risk reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify lessons learned and challenges to the development and consolidation of regional cooperation mechanisms (horizontal/South-South, Triangular) for disaster risk reduction. • To establish general guidelines for the strengthening of technical cooperation mechanisms on DRR and CCA in the Americas, within the sustainable development context (South-South and Triangular cooperation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DRR Technical Cooperation Progresses and challenges • Guidelines for the strengthening of DRR and CCA technical cooperation mechanisms within the sustainable development context. • Relevant experiences in the technical cooperation area. 	<u>PNUD, OEA</u> Key partners: SEGIB.	Ruben Vargas rvargas@eird.org
Urban Risk in the Americas: A challenge for achieving the sustainable development goals	The session goal will be to promote the political commitment of local and national governments towards the urban risk reduction through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlighting progress on the enhancement of local government capabilities regarding disaster risk management and climate change adaptation within the decentralization process. • Identifying cooperation mechanisms at local, national, regional and global level to strengthen the local governments' capacity and knowledge on DRR and CCA aiming towards the reflection on both subjects during planning and development processes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DRR decentralization: increasing of local government capabilities • City to City interchange: capacity building instrument • Urban Risk Platform as a mechanism for capacity building interchange 	<u>FLACMA, UNISDR.</u> Key partners : ONUHABITAT, ICLEI, IFRC, Thematic Platform	Sandra Amlang samlang@eird.org

1. Parallel Events

- a) Assessment of extreme events recovery processes with Haiti and Chile as a base. Reconstruction and early recovery (PNUD, WB, IFRC)



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- b) Education and DRR (UNICEF, PLAN, UNESCO)
- c) Probabilistic Models (WB)

2. “Ignite Stage” :

Presentations during the whole day of projects and new Disaster Risk Reduction initiatives: “15 minutes to ignite a long lasting communication”.

The IGNITE Stage, is an space where the Regional Platform participants will have 15 minutes to present a project or initiative about Disaster Risk Reduction. The goal of this space is to expand the range of subjects discusses within the Regional Platform that go beyond those presented in the main sessions and parallel events.