

## CONCEPT NOTE

# **Sixth Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas: "Towards a less vulnerable region with more resilient communities"**

**Cartagena, Colombia, June 20th – 22th, 2018**

### **1. Context**

During the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in March 2015, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework) was adopted. This Global Framework, along with the other global agreements adopted during 2015<sup>1</sup>, 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 "the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries".

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 a dynamic multi-sectorial space that promote the exchange of knowledge among the disaster risk management actors, stimulate discussion and encourage the formulation of policies at the regional, national and local level. They also constitute a space for the launching of new initiatives, the promotion of campaigns and alliances, the presentation of the advances and the progress achieved in disaster risk reduction.

Under the auspices of the Government of Colombia as host country, in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the sixth session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas will represent 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 on 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.

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

## **2. Results from the previous sessions of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas**

### **RP09- Panama City, Panama, 2009**

The first session 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<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

This first session sought to bridge the gap between the National Platforms and the Global Platform by establishing a mechanism for broad participation at a hemispheric level. This session 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 session 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 session of the Regional Platform was held in Nayarit, Mexico from March 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>, 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 session 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; included a mid-term review of the Hyogo Framework for Action; and the region-wide message to be transmitted during the next session of the Global Platform. RP11 also reaffirmed a 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 charged with the organization of the third session of the Regional Platform, which was held on the 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> of November 2012 in Santiago, Chile. During the three-day session, 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 session 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 of the continent.

#### **RP14 - Guayaquil, Ecuador, 2014**

The fourth session of the Regional Platform was held in Guayaquil, Ecuador from 27<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> of May 2014. The particular importance of this session was the consolidation of considerable political contributions from the Americas from previous sessions as inputs relevant to the Third Conference World Summit on Disaster Reduction, which took place from 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015 in Sendai, Japan, and the adoption of the Sendai Framework.

This session of the Regional Platform brought together high-level political and executive authorities, along 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 the area of 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 the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> March 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 High Level Authorities on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in the Americas, on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> June 2016 in Asunción, Paraguay, and was adopted during the RP17 in Montreal.

The Plan of Action 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 objectives linked to the different priorities of the Sendai Framework. The three general objectives are to:

1. Present and analyse the progress achieved at the regional level regarding 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 at the centre of all efforts to reduce the risk of disasters and to build resilience lays the wellbeing of individuals; 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 objectives of the Sixth Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction are articulated to the four priorities of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. They are:

#### **Priority 1: Understand disaster risk**

1. Exchange experiences about risk knowledge including on national and local monitoring tools, on 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 preparedness measures, including and promoting 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 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 resilient investments.
7. Analyze incentive mechanisms for resilient investments that could be promoted by States, as well as by multi-lateral finance institutions.
8. Share successful experiences of continuity of critical services in case of disasters and identify lessons for a better preparedness and articulation between the private and public spheres.

The sixth session 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 the national and local levels. Similarly, it is expected that this session 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 integral management of disaster risk as a key component for sustainable development.

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

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. And finally, the Platform also 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 relevant global agreements.

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

The main expected outcomes of the sixth session of the Regional Platform are:

1. Chairman's summary,
2. Communiqué from the high-level segment,
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 session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas,

#### **4. The Advisory Board**

Due to the intergovernmental and inter-sectoral nature of the sessions of the Regional Platform, there is an Advisory Council charged with defining and establishing the structure and content of the sixth session 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 session of the Regional Platform, and the Government of Canada as the host country of the previous session 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 UNISDR<sup>2</sup>.

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

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<sup>2</sup> Acronyms: CAN, Andean Community; CDEMA, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency; CEPREDENAC, Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America; REMAGIR, Meeting of High-Level Ministers and Authorities of Integral Management of the Risk of Disasters in Mercosur; 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 Program; ECLAC, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.