SESSION 3
The role of regional stakeholders and international cooperation in the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

PANEL 1
The role of regional intergovernmental mechanisms in the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

Please refer to the agenda by entering: http://eird.org/ran-sendai-2016/eng/agenda-english.html

1. Introduction

The Americas continues to be one of the most vulnerable regions facing natural hazards, and one of its main gaps is the need to integrate disaster risk reduction within the development planning processes and the related sectoral efforts.

This task is one of the biggest challenges for the region, and its advancement will only be possible if governments, civil society and the private sector integrate disaster risk reduction as a key element of their development planning and investment.

In this context, the commitment by United Nations Members States, having adopted the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (March, 2015, Sendai, Japan), is to address disaster risk reduction and increased resilience to disasters with a renewed sense of urgency in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

The structure of this new Framework includes, among others, a set of principles, goals and priorities with global, regional, national and local lines of action. The new Sendai Framework thus aims to achieve the following outcome in the next 15 years:

"The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses caused by disasters, both in terms of lives, livelihoods and health as well as economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of individuals, companies, communities and countries."

To attain the expected outcome, the Framework suggests pursuing the following goal:

"Prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery, and thus strengthen resilience."
The achievement of this outcome requires the strong commitment and involvement of political leadership in each country at all levels both in the implementation and follow-up of the present Framework as well as in the creation of the necessary conducive and enabling environment. To this end, the National Emergency Secretariat of Paraguay (SNE) jointly with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), through its Regional Office for the Americas, aims to promote a discussion of ministerial representatives and high-level authorities of all countries of the Americas, to identify a regional action plan for the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the Americas.

2. Background

Why is this topic important and why does it justify a work session?

Different sections of the Sendai Framework 2015-2030 highlight opportunities of intergovernmental mechanisms to support countries in implementing the Sendai Framework 2015-2030. Within four (4) priority actions, the Sendai Framework suggests different elements that should be considered by intergovernmental organizations:

- **To guide action at the regional level through agreed regional and sub-regional strategies and mechanisms for cooperation for disaster risk reduction, as appropriate, in the light of the present Framework, in order to foster more efficient planning, create common information systems and exchange good practices and programmes for cooperation and capacity development, in particular to address common and transboundary disaster risks.**

- **To promote transboundary cooperation to enable policy and planning for the implementation of ecosystem-based approaches with regard to shared resources, such as within river basins and along coastlines, to build resilience and reduce disaster risk, including epidemic and displacement risk.**

- **To promote mutual learning and exchange of good practices and information through, inter alia, voluntary and self-initiated peer reviews among interested States.**

- **To promote the development and strengthening of disaster risk transfer and sharing mechanisms and instruments in close cooperation with partners in the international community, business, international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders.**

Intergovernmental organizations of the Americas region are in the process of harmonizing sub-regional frameworks for disaster risk reduction with the Sendai Framework. This session will discuss, the main ways in which intergovernmental organizations can support the implementation of the Sendai Framework to reflect its general elements in sub-regional frameworks, national strategies and action plans.
1. Objective of panel 1

Define priorities for action and identify opportunities provided through intergovernmental mechanisms to strengthen the implementation of the Sendai Framework 2015-2030 at the national level:

- Disseminate among participating ministries the main challenges faced by intergovernmental mechanisms to strengthen and deepen their actions aimed at achieving the DRR objectives set in the region.
- Disseminate among participating ministries how sub-regional mechanisms will support the implementation of the Sendai Framework.
- Disseminate the opportunities offered by intergovernmental mechanisms to support countries in implementing the Sendai Framework.
- Know the priorities for intergovernmental bodies to achieve the goals of the Sendai Framework.

2. Session outline and issues to address

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<td>• <strong>Zoraima Cuello</strong>, Vice-Minister of the Presidency, Dominican Republic</td>
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<td>2. Contribution of intergovernmental bodies to Disaster Risk Management (56 min.)</td>
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<td>• <strong>George Nicholson</strong>, Director of Transport and Disaster Risk Reduction, Association of Caribbean States (ACS)</td>
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<td>• <strong>Ronald Jackson</strong>, Executive Director, Coordination Centre for Natural Disaster Prevention in Central America</td>
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(CDEMA)

- **Roy Barboza**, Executive Secretary, Central American Integration System for natural disaster prevention, mitigation and response (CEPREDENAC)

- **Fernando Traversa**, President Pro Tempore of REMAGIR, Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR)

- **Pablo González**, Head specialist in Disaster Risk Management and climate change adaptation, Organization of American States (OAS)

- **Javier Gordon**, Director of Integration and Cooperation, Latin American Economic System (SELA)

- **Angel William Martínez**, Vice-Minister of Risk Management and Civil Protection, Venezuela, UNASUR