

"The Director of Transport and Disaster Risk Reduction of the Association of Caribbean States, Luis Carpio-Govea, intervened in the proceedings (Plenary and Working Groups) in order to convey an ACS perspective as appropriate to each forum.

To this effect, the Director welcomed the initiative by the OAS/ISDR to promote the establishment of a Regional Platform for the Americas which will, in turn, feed into the larger process of the Global Platform.

Though the ACS Secretariat believes that OAS would seem to be an appropriate anchor for the establishment of a Regional Platform for the Americas and looks forward to renewed cooperation with the Hemispheric Body, care should be taken to ensure the maximum inclusiveness of the initiative. There are many countries in the Greater Caribbean, which are not members of the OAS, such as the case of Cuba, where a wealth of experience is readily available. The case of many non-sovereign countries and territories of the Greater Caribbean (some of them ACS Associate Members) also comes to mind, as they are not *directly* represented at the UN, OAS, CEPREDENAC, CAPRADE nor CDERA, but are nonetheless exposed to the same hazards and in some cases, similar vulnerabilities as the rest of the sub-region and also have valuable input to share.

There is also a host of regional and sub-regional organizations with high-level mandates from Ministers and Heads of Government/State in the field of DRR which need to be met. The case of the ACS *Saint-Marc Plan of Action* was emphasized, particularly given its direct link to the HFA and its cross-cutting mandate to find synergies among stakeholders with a view to improving efficiency and to limit duplication and overlapping.

The ACS Director also underlined the importance of building a Global and Regional Platforms on the basis of the National Platforms as outlined in Hyogo. In this endeavour, however, there must be a constant reminder that, in spite of the similar names, the Platforms at the Global and Regional levels are reporting mechanisms meant to provide a framework for the evaluation of HFA implementation. National Platforms, on the other hand, should not become entirely focused on this (admittedly important) aspect, but rather on the formulation and execution of national policy towards actual implementation of HFA goals".