

**Second Hemispheric Encounter**  
**National Mechanisms and Networks for Risk Reduction**  
**“Encounter of Santa Marta: From Theory to Practice”**

**Second Thematic Session**  
**Institutionalization (sectorial agendas, planning at different government levels,**  
**decentralization and the participation of civil society)**

**April 14, 2010**  
**2:30 – 5:30 PM**  
**Santa Marta, Colombia**

- Chairman:** Mr. José Luis Barbier, Deputy Director of Provincial Development and Promotion, Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Argentina
- Moderator:** Mr. Xavier Castellanos, Head of the Americas Zone Office, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
- Panelists:** Guillermo Escobar, Director, Emergency Prevention and Response Agency (DPAE), Colombia
- Jacob Opadeyi, Head, Department of Geomatic Engineering and Land Management, University of West Indies, Caribbean
- Ambassador Gabriel Fuks, Chairman of the White Helmets Commission, Argentina
- Javier López, Principal hydrologist consultant, Department of Sustainable Development, Organization of American States (OAS/DSD)

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***Introduction to the Theme***

This session will explore experiences with decentralization processes for risk management, emphasizing models centered on the active participation of civil society, including private companies, stores and businesses in local communities, and local government. It will also explore experiences at the national and subnational level on institutional risk management policies and on sector agenda planning.

This session is based on priority for action 1 of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). Along these lines, this session will seek to identify successful models, obstacles and gaps, and opportunities and challenges in making risk reduction a priority for all sectors and levels of government, in all segments of civil society, and in institutional policies and plans in government agencies,

HFA Priorities for Action:

1. Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.
2. Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning.
3. Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.
4. Reduce the underlying risk factors.
5. Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.

private enterprise and all civil society organizations.

## Preliminary Agenda

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Time	
2:30 PM	Introduction to the session and introduction of the moderator, rapporteur and panelists, by the session's chairman (15 minutes)
2:50 PM	Introduction to the theme, by the moderator, based on a discussion paper to be distributed beforehand (15 minutes)
3:10 PM	<p><b>Colombia:</b> <i>After the Earthquake, Bogotá has a life plan</i>, Guillermo Escobar – DAPD (15')</p> <p><b>Caribbean Region:</b> Disaster Risk Management Benchmarking (BTool), Jacob Opadeyi - University of West Indies (15')</p> <p><b>Argentina:</b> <i>Regional Network of Volunteers for Humanitarian Assistance in Latin America</i>, Ambassador Gabriel Fuks - White Helmets (15')</p> <p><b>Central America:</b> <i>Central America Small Valleys Flood Alert and Vulnerability Reduction Program (SVP): Regional Platform Development</i>, Javier López - OAS/DSD (15 ')</p>
4:30 PM	Discussion in plenary (45 minutes)
5:15 PM	Conclusions by the moderator (15 minutes)
5:30 PM	End of the first day

### Notes:

The chairman will introduce the session, making some remarks on public and/or institutional policies, based on his experience in his current position.

The moderator will make brief comments or may ask specific questions to the panelists after each presentation, in order to offer an expert analysis of the experiences presented and encourage subsequent reflection and discussion with the audience.

The time available for presentations, introductions and conclusions will be 1h 45m, leaving 30 minutes for additional comments and questions by the moderator and panelists, and 45 minutes for discussion in plenary.

At the end of each thematic session, the rapporteurs will produce a brief report that will be distributed at the beginning of the following day. The rapporteurs' reports will include the moderator's conclusions, the most important observations and comments from the audience and panelists, and conclusions from the working groups. These reports will be the main input for the Final Encounter Report, which will be distributed by the organizers, together with a compendium of experiences and good practices, several weeks following the event.

