

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

Fifth Thematic Session
Preparedness, Early Warning and Education: (Early Warning Systems, Emergency Preparedness, Mutual Aid Protocols, Public Education and Awareness Raising)

April 16, 2010
09:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Santa Marta, Colombia

- Chairman:** Ambassador Albert Ramdin, Assistant Secretary General, General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (SG/OAS)
- Moderator:** Mr. Gerard Gómez, Head of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, Office for de Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
- Panelists:** Karema Aikens-Mitchell, Mitigation Programme Officer, Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (OPDEM), Jamaica
- Jean Luc Poncelet, Head of the Disaster Preparedness, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
- Marjorie Soto, Regional Delegate for Disaster Risk Reduction, International Federation of Societies of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC),

Introduction to the theme

This session will explore experiences in disaster preparedness and prevention for humanitarian aid and response –including early warning systems and mutual aid protocols, as well as various aspects related to education and awareness raising.

This session is based on priorities for action 2, 3 and 5 of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). Along these lines, special attention will be given to early warning systems, not only to observation and monitoring systems but also to community-based organization, and emergency planning and response. In light of the recent experience in Haiti —which on January 12, 2010 was hit by a major earthquake measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale—, special attention will also be given to multi-hazard early warning systems and mutual aid protocols.

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.

In addition, this session will analyze experience with education programs in primary, secondary and higher education institutions, as well as with informal education and mass awareness programs.

Preliminary Agenda

Time	
09:00 AM	Introduction to the session and introduction of the moderator, rapporteur and panelists, by the session's chairman (15 minutes)
09:20 AM	Introduction to the theme, by the moderator, based on a discussion paper to be distributed beforehand (15 minutes)
09:40 AM	<p>Jamaica: <i>Nacional Emergency Response Data análisis Tool (NERDAT) A Tool for Post-impact Response decisión parking</i>, Karema Aikens-Mitchell - OPDEM (15')</p> <p>Latin America and the Caribbean: <i>Hospital Safety Index</i>, by Jean Luc Poncelet - OPS (15')</p> <p>Latin America and the Caribbean: <i>Mechanisms of exchange of Innovative experiences knowledge and practical results</i>. Marjorie Soto Franco - IFRC (15 ')</p>
11:00 PM	Discussion in plenary (45 minutes)
11:45 PM	Conclusions by the moderator (15 minutes)
12:00 PM	Closing ceremony

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.