



Fifth Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas

March 7 - 9, 2017 | Montreal, Canada | #SendaiAmericas

Towards Risk Informed Sustainable Development

Montreal Declaration

Second Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in the Americas

1. We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation participating the Second Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) 2015-2030 in the Americas, during the Fifth Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas (RPA17) held in Montreal on March 7 to 9, 2017:
2. Benefiting from the rich discussion by a wide range of stakeholders during the Fifth Regional Platform, and informed by the expressed needs, capacities and interests of diverse groups;
3. Appreciating the hospitality and warmth accorded to the RPA17 delegates by the Government and people of Canada and commend them for their achievements towards reducing disaster risk;
4. Recognizing the particular vulnerabilities and specific needs of small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, in the region as a result of their exposure to extensive and intensive disaster risks;
5. Noting the significant achievements of countries and stakeholders to reduce disaster risk in the Americas, and the continued need for progress to better ensure the safety, resilience, sustainable development and overall well-being of peoples across the region in light of the growing incidence of disasters, many of which are exacerbated by climate change;
6. Recognizing the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, all countries and stakeholders, for the productive process to develop the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, which serves as the roadmap for reducing disaster risk and building resilient communities at the local, national and regional levels;



7. Recognizing that DRR, as reflected in the Sendai Framework, requires a whole-of-society approach, under the leading role of Member States, being part of sustainable development, as captured in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
8. Noting the adoption of the health sector Plan of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction 2016-2021, by Ministers of Health of the Americas in September 2016, and the contribution it could have to the implementation of the Sendai Framework; and
9. Recalling the Asuncion Declaration endorsed at 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, held in Paraguay in June 2016, and the guidance provided towards the development of a Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework.

10. We Ministers and Heads of Delegation:

11. Commit to pursue, with a sense of urgency, the paradigm shift from disaster management to disaster risk management, including reducing vulnerabilities and enhancing disaster risk-informed decision-making in the development of other sustainable initiatives;
12. Endorse the Regional Action Plan for the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the Americas, as recommended by the Fifth Regional Platform;
13. Reaffirm the determination to implement the Sendai Framework and achieve the targets set therein, and measure progress using the set of indicators and terminology endorsed by United Nations General Assembly;
14. Highlight the importance of strengthening regional coordination in the face of disasters, while ensuring human dignity, equality, inclusion and the respect for national frameworks and international humanitarian assistance principles.
15. Encourage the United Nations and other international and regional organizations and donor agencies to incorporate DRR considerations into multilateral and bilateral arrangements and to enhance the coordination of their strategies;

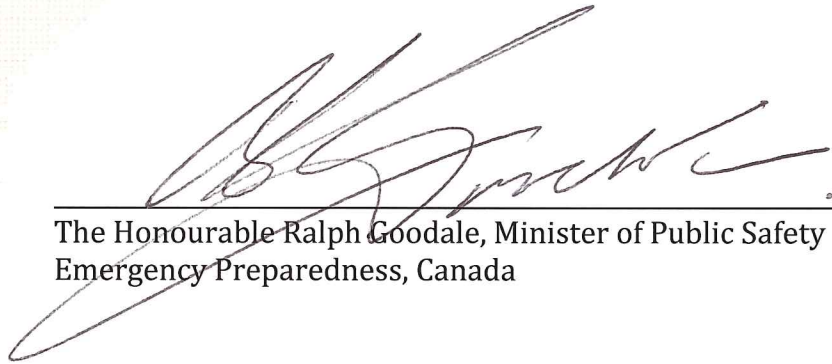


16. Encourage the implementation of the Regional Action Plan in a culturally, linguistically and gender sensitive manner, as appropriate, taking into consideration the diversity of the region, including Indigenous Peoples, traditional communities and the use of traditional knowledge;
17. Invite international financial institutions, including the Inter-American Development Bank, the Development Bank of Latin America-CAF, the Caribbean Development Bank, Central American Bank for Economic Integration and the World Bank, to consider the priorities of the Regional Action Plan when establishing financial and technical support to Member States for integrated approaches to disaster risk reduction in the region;
18. Call on Member States to include Disaster Risk Management in their national strategies and planning frameworks, as appropriate, with the aim of contributing to reducing the region's vulnerability to disasters and increasing its resilience;
19. Encourage relevant regional and sub-regional intergovernmental organizations and other relevant actors to continue their efforts to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework;
20. Call upon the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction to continue providing institutional and policy support for the implementation, monitoring and review of disaster risk reduction in the Americas, in collaboration with other regional and sub-regional organizations;
21. Encourage Member States and relevant stakeholders, in accordance with respective mandates and priorities, to actively participate in the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to be held 22-26 May 2017 in Cancun, Mexico;
22. Invite Canada, as host country of the Fifth Regional Platform, to present the Montreal Declaration and Regional Action Plan to the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction as a regional contribution to the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the Americas; and

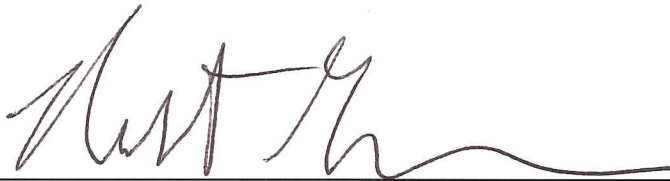


23. Strive, through our collective efforts, to reduce disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries in order to build resilience.

Adopted on 9 March 2017, in Montreal, Canada.



The Honourable Ralph Goodale, Minister of Public Safety and
Emergency Preparedness, Canada



Mr. Robert Glasser, Special Representative of the Secretary
General for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations