

# Fifth Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas

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*Towards Risk Informed Sustainable Development*

## ***Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030 in the Americas***

### ***Introduction***

This Regional Action Plan (RAP) is meant to serve as a foundational document, of a non-legally binding nature, that identifies practices and processes to advance implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) 2015–2030 among the Americas. It marks an evolutionary step towards a concerted regional approach to supporting countries in their efforts to build community resilience and reduce disaster risk and impacts. The RAP helps further the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the Americas through the identification regional initiatives that contribute to one or more of the Sendai Actions. This approach helps Member States to collectively build upon the Guiding Principles established in the Sendai Framework, in particular those aimed at fostering a whole-of-society approach, in line with the groups and stakeholders identified in the Sendai Framework and coherence across the DRR, climate change and sustainable development frameworks, as well as the Regional Actions listed in the “Guidelines Towards a Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework 2015-2030”. The latter were agreed 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 hosted by the Government of Paraguay on 9 June, 2016.

The Initiatives included in this RAP are initiatives, which Members States, civil society organization, volunteers, and other relevant actors and organizations may wish to advance collectively. Over the next 14 to 18 months, interested Member States will work together to establish, and make progress on, tasks that will contribute to the achievement of the regional initiatives. To ensure consistency among the region, this Action Plan is also meant to serve as a guiding document for further RAPs. It encourages interested actors to become lead partners or supporting partners and, some elements for appropriate follow-up mechanisms.

This Action Plan respects the whole-of-society approach that features prominently within the Sendai Framework. Relevant actors, in accordance to respective mandates and priorities, will continue to be engaged throughout all stages of the process, taking into account their needs,



capacities and contexts. We recognize the leading role of Member States in DRR while acknowledging the contribution of stakeholders.

To promote the implementation of this action plan, interested member states, and stakeholders, in accordance with respective mandates and priorities, could develop activities based on initiatives listed below. In addition, they should provide follow-up with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and the subsequent Regional Platform host on the status of activities. This RAP could also support the implementation of DRR actions included in existing Regional and Sub-Regional agreements. Member States and relevant regional organizations are invited to inform UNISDR of these DRR actions, which could contribute to the implementation of this RAP, in order to rally support and avoid duplication of efforts.

### ***Priority One: Understanding disaster risk***

*Policies and practices for disaster risk management should be based on an understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity, exposure of persons and assets, hazard characteristics and the environment. Such knowledge can be leveraged for the purpose of pre-disaster risk assessment, for prevention and mitigation and for the development and implementation of appropriate preparedness and effective response to disasters (paragraph 23).*

	<b>Regional Initiative</b>
1	Strengthen disaster risk information systems through supporting national multi-hazard systems, disaster risk mapping initiatives, traditional knowledge, and methodologies for calculating economic, cultural and social losses from extensive and intensive disasters.
2	Strengthen of monitoring and recording of potential and existing disaster risks, with specific focus on historical record-keeping to inform future actions.
3	Strengthen systems and mechanisms for sharing disaster risk assessment guidance, best practices and methodologies across regions and sectors, promoting open access to data where applicable and as appropriate.
4	Promote comprehensive studies and integral evaluations on multi-hazard disaster risk, including climate change projections, and the identification of regional research priorities.
5	Promote the implementation of education programs and the use of disaster risk information, including by working with media outlets, as appropriate, for understanding disaster risk at all levels of society.
6	Strengthen dialogue, cooperation and sharing of knowledge on disaster risk reduction and management among decision makers, planning entities, scientific, academic and technological communities, civil society organizations, volunteers and other relevant actors, in accordance with respective mandates and priorities.



## **Priority Two: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk**

*Disaster risk governance at the national, regional and global levels is of great importance for an effective and efficient management of disaster risk. Clear vision, plans, competence, guidance and coordination within and across sectors, as well as participation of relevant stakeholders, are needed. Strengthening disaster risk governance for prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation is therefore necessary and fosters collaboration and partnership across mechanisms and institutions for the implementation of instruments relevant to disaster risk reduction and sustainable development (paragraph 26).*

	<b>Regional Initiative</b>
<b>7</b>	Strengthen disaster risk management strategies, governance and mechanisms and their evaluation at appropriate levels.
<b>8</b>	Enhance of capacity building programs and cooperation on disaster risk management and governance.
<b>9</b>	Foster multi-stakeholder and multi-national exchanges through sharing of experiences and best practices for integrating actions in DRR in all areas, including climate change adaptation, and sustainable development spheres.

## **Priority Three: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience**

*Public and private investment in disaster risk prevention and reduction through structural and non-structural measures are essential to enhance the economic, social, health and cultural resilience of persons, communities, countries and their assets, as well as the environment. These can be drivers of innovation, growth and job creation. Such measures are cost-effective and instrumental to save lives, prevent and reduce losses and ensure effective recovery and rehabilitation (paragraph 29).*

	<b>Regional Initiative</b>
<b>10</b>	Encourage regional studies on best practices concerning financial instruments for disaster risk transfer and management.
<b>11</b>	Enhance and mobilize investment in DRR, including through multiple sources and funding such as public and private partnerships, multi-lateral institutions and other means of cooperation.
<b>12</b>	Promote the sharing of best practices on the continuity of vital services taking into consideration all-hazards, as appropriate and applicable.



**Priority Four: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to ‘Build Back Better’ in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction**

*The steady growth of disaster risk, including the increase of people and assets exposure, combined with the lessons learned from past disasters, indicates the need to further strengthen disaster preparedness for response, take action in anticipation of events, integrate disaster risk reduction in response preparedness and ensure that capacities are in place for effective response and recovery at all levels. Empowering women and persons with disabilities to publicly lead and promote gender equitable and universally accessible response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction approaches is key. Disasters have demonstrated that the recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phase, which needs to be prepared ahead of a disaster, is a critical opportunity to “Build Back Better”, including through integrating disaster risk reduction into development measures, making nations and communities resilient to disasters (paragraph 32).*

	<b>Regional Initiative</b>
<b>13</b>	Strengthen the coordination, collaboration and participation of Member States, communities, regional and international organizations, civil society organizations, volunteers and other stakeholders, in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery, within the scope of respective mandates and priorities.
<b>14</b>	Promote the exchange of post-disaster recovery knowledge and best practices that incorporate the perspective of building back better to protect communities and their livelihoods.
<b>15</b>	Strengthen knowledge sharing and exchange of experiences on urban and rural development plans that take into consideration disaster risk with the aim of enhancing planning tools such as building codes and master plans.
<b>16</b>	Develop and share best practices and strategies to improve integrated multi-hazard early warning systems, disaster risk information systems, monitoring networks, and exploring ways for stronger linkages among scientific and technical agencies, communities, and decision makers.