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Système Economique  
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# Final Report of the meeting on the institutional framework for disaster risk reduction in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and Africa

*Meeting on the Institutional Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and Africa*  
*Panama City, Panama*  
*13 and 14 December 2010*  
*SP/RIALC-AA-RRD/IF-10*

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## RAPPORTEUR'S REPORT

1. The "Meeting on the Institutional Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and Africa" was held in Panama City on 13 and 14 December 2010. This event was organized by the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), the Ibero-american General Secretariat (SEGIB) and the Perez Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF) of the Group of 77.

2. This meeting was attended by representatives of regional and subregional institutions in the field of disaster risk reduction, such as the Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Assistance (CAPRADE), the Central American Coordination Centre for Natural Disaster Prevention (CEPREDENAC), the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the Specialized Meeting on Social and Natural Disaster Risk Reduction, Civil Defense, Civil Protection and Humanitarian Assistance (REHU) of the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR) and the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR).

3. The event was also attended by representatives of the United Nations System and other international organizations specialized in disaster risk reduction, such as the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Food Program (WFP), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Center for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean (CATHALAC), the European Commission for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) and the Disaster Preparedness Programme (DIPECHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the White Helmets Commission of Argentina, as well as representatives of the Asia - Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC) and the Economic Commission for Africa United Nations (CEA), who made presentations on the experiences of Asia and Africa in disaster risk reduction.

4. Participants in the meeting also included special guests from some Member States of SELA and representatives of the sponsoring institutions: the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB), the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) and the Permanent Secretariat of Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA). The list of participants is included in **Annex V**.

5. The objectives of the meeting were: i) promote cooperation, coordination and development of institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and Africa in the area of disaster risk reduction through a meeting aimed at sharing experiences and exchanging offers and requests for cooperation; ii) establish inter-institutional agreements and pinpoint areas of mutual interest in the corresponding work programmes for 2010; and iii) identify the institutions of Asia and Africa in the area of disaster risk reduction and the main mechanisms, instruments and devices available for emergency response and disaster prevention.

6. Speakers during the opening ceremony included:

a) The Deputy Director of the Representation Office for Central America and Haiti of the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB), Mrs. Yariela Vega. Ms. Vega thanked especially the Permanent Secretariat of SELA, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) United Nations and the Perez Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF) for the invitation

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to co-sponsor this important regional meeting as another initiative undertaken jointly with SELA to contribute to the ongoing efforts in the region to strengthen the culture of prevention and contribute to cooperation and coordination in this matter of such regional relevance.

b) The Chief of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) of the United Nations, Ricardo Mena. Mr. Mena thanked the Permanent Secretariat of SELA, the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) and the Perez Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF) for the invitation to co-sponsor this meeting which undoubtedly represents a significant contribution to the efforts of cooperation and coordination in the region. He noted that this meeting is a valuable opportunity to join forces with the intention of coordinating the agenda for 2011 in this matter, in a very important year that will be active and dynamic with the conduction of the Meeting on the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas, which will evaluate the progress of the commitments made in the Hyogo Framework for Action. He also welcomed the participation of representatives of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), who travelled from such geographically distant regions to share their experiences with Latin American and Caribbean institutions, and

c) The Director of Relations for Integration and Cooperation of the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), Mr. Antonio Romero. Romero thanked the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) of the United Nations, the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) and especially the Perez Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF) of the Group of 77, for the support and cooperation extended to the conduction of this regional meeting. He stressed that cooperation and coordination for disaster risk reduction have an increasing relevance and significance for Latin American and Caribbean countries particularly at this time due to increased frequency and impact of disasters in the region and the effects of climate change on the environment. He noted that only during the first half of 2010 there were 162 major disasters worldwide, which killed about 230,000 people and affected over 107 million, and caused economic losses exceeding US\$ 55 billion. Of these totals, unfortunately our region ranks first in number of deaths to 224.124, and estimated economic losses of more than US\$ 40 billion. Regrettably, two nations in our region topped the worldwide list of deaths and economic losses from disasters: Haiti and Chile. He also made reference to the impact of disasters in Mexico caused by the torrential rains that affected many parts of the country, causing major damage and displacement, in Guatemala by the eruption of the Pacaya volcano and the tropical storm "Agatha", in Belize, by the damage caused by the tropical storms Alex and Mathew and Hurricane Richard, in Colombia, Venezuela and Panama by the heavy rains that hit these countries. He stressed that all these recent adverse events highlight the impact of climate change and global warming in Latin America and the Caribbean, and how the damages resulting from disasters can be exacerbated by the emergence of epidemics and pandemics. Hence the need for more effective and efficient coordination activities and regional cooperation in the field of disaster risk reduction. Finally, he referred to the commitment of the Permanent Secretariat to the reduction of disaster risks and the actions it plans to develop in 2011, with the "Meeting on the Contribution of the Private Sector to Disaster Risk Reduction: Opportunities for Cooperation available to Governments", an activity that was agreed to in the framework of the XXXVI Regular Meeting of the Latin American Council.

7. After the speeches delivered by the authorities of the Ibero-America General Secretariat (SEGIB), the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) of the United

Nations, and the Permanent Secretariat of SELA, the "Meeting of the Institutionalization of Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and Africa for Disaster Risk Reduction was formally opened.

8. The speeches of the Opening Session are included in Annexes II, III and IV, respectively.

#### **A. DEVELOPMENT OF WORKS**

9. The moderator presented the Draft Agenda of the Meeting for consideration of the subregional, regional and international participants, who approved it without amendment. Both the agenda and supporting documents submitted by the Permanent Secretariat and the presentations of all participating institutions are listed on the SELA's Web site (<http://www.sela.org>).

10. **INTRODUCTORY SESSION.** Mr. Antonio Romero, Director of Relations for Integration and Cooperation of the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), presented the paper "SELA in the regional institutions for disaster risk reduction" (SP / RIALC-AA-RRD / Di No. 6-10). He began his speech by describing the various institutions that integrate the international, regional and subregional framework in the field of disaster risk reduction. Subsequently he referred to the SELA, its formation and objectives, and the main actions carried out in the field of disaster prevention in its 35 year history. Finally, he referred to the activities implemented in 2010 and to be developed in 2011, making particular mention of the "Meeting on the Contribution of the Private Sector to Disaster Risk Reduction: Opportunities for Cooperation available to Governments", which will be held with the co-sponsorship of the ISDR and other regional bodies.

11. **SESSION I: LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION: SPECIALIZED REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL BODIES: AGENDAS AND WORK PROGRAMMES FOR 2011.** This session was moderated by Mr. Ricardo Mena, Chief of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) of the United Nations. After a brief introduction to the subject Mr. Ricardo Mena gave the floor to the speakers.

12. The representative of the Central American Coordination Centre for Natural Disaster Prevention (CEPREDENAC), Mr. Walter Wintzer, Regional Coordinator for Preparedness and Response, delivered a presentation entitled "Central-American policy on Disaster Risk Management" (PCGIR) (SP / RIALC-AA-RRD / Di No. 2-10), in which he explained the objectives and functions that the body has in disaster risk reduction within the structure of the Central American Integration System (SICA) and presidential mandates. He also addressed the vulnerabilities and risks of the Central American countries, as well as the trends and economic losses that have been caused by disasters in the subregion. He described both, the path and the actions taken to strengthen the disaster risk management and the objectives and principles guiding the action of that institution. He also explained the relevant concepts and scope of the Central-American policy in the field of integrated risk management. He referred to the activities to be developed in 2011, which will be posted on the Web site of CEPREDENAC and the various initiatives that are underway and require planning and coordination to avoid duplication of efforts.

13. The representative of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), Mr. Jeremy Collymore, Executive Director of the institution, delivered the

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presentation entitled "Advancing DRR in CDMA Participating States" (SP / RIALC-AA-RRD / Di No. 8-10) , which described the operation and objectives of the organization as an institution responsible for disaster risk reduction within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), consisting of 18 Member States. He explained the paradigms that have guided the action of the Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) and its structure revised for 2007-2012. He also referred to other aspects of the functioning of the organization and the methods and philosophy that guide their institutional and organizational levels and areas that require priority action, particularly those developed in the tourism sector. Similarly, he noted the complexity of the conceptual framework of disaster risk reduction and the progress made through time. Finally, he explained the vision of CDEMA for building resilient communities and facing the challenges ahead.

14. The representative of the Specialized Meeting on Social and Natural Disaster Risk Reduction, Civil Defense, Civil Protection and Humanitarian Assistance (REHU) of the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR), Mr. Ricardo Daskal, Third Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, delivered a presentation entitled "REHU-MERCOSUR: Agenda and Work Programme (SP / RIALC-AA-RRD / Di No. 18-10), which outlined the background to the organization, membership, objectives and priorities for action and the main agreements and mandates adopted within MERCOSUR in this area. He also referred to recent actions undertaken by the institution and further actions to develop proposals for activities in 2011.

15. The representative of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), José Emilio Ochoa Moreno, Advisor to the National Civil Defense of Ecuador, presented "UNASUR Haiti: Lessons and Challenges of the Future" (SP/RIALC-AA- DRR / Di No.10-10), which referred to the history of the institution and the chronology of the main activities undertaken since its inception. He also made a summary of humanitarian assistance provided to Haiti after the earthquake that shook the country in January 2010 and the action plan agreed with the Haitian government, which was implemented for emergency response and recovery of affected areas in the country. On the other hand, he referred to the commitments and disbursements from the US\$ 100 million fund that was agreed to be created between the member countries for humanitarian aid. He also mentioned the UNASUR- Haiti Technical Secretariat that was created to have a permanent presence in the Caribbean country and to monitor the ongoing relief efforts. Finally, he noted the lessons learned regarding the regulatory framework, cooperation and resource management of the fund, as well as future challenges in the short term and key issues yet to be faced.

16. The representative of the Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Assistance (CAPRADE). Mr. Percy Alvarado, Director of International Affairs and Cooperation of the National Institute of Civil Defense of Peru, presented "The CAPRADE: Events and programs 2011" (SP / RIALC-AA-RRD / Di No. 11-10), in which he referred to the agency in the context of the Andean integration process, its operation and fundamental objectives, the Andean strategy for prevention and disaster management (2004-2015) and the harmonization that was developed in 2009 to suit the objectives of the Hyogo Framework for Action. He also described the annual plans and monitoring system of the strategic plan and national agenda on disaster risk management and the progress that has been achieved to date in the various topics. He also noted the contributions made through the development of specialized documents and the Web site of the institution and other instruments devised for disaster prevention. Finally, he referred to the obstacles and challenges of the institution, as well as the work agenda for 2011 and priority issues to be addressed. In addition, he reiterated that the Latin American and Caribbean region has been developing an institutional framework for disaster risk reduction and some of



these institutions have constituted the "Forum on Cooperation and Coordination of Regional Mechanisms for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas", conceived as a forum for coordination and technical cooperation for the exchange of knowledge and experience in disaster risk management, to help strengthen national, subregional and regional mechanisms and platforms.

17. Once the presentations delivered by the panelists were concluded, the moderator gave a brief summary of the interventions and offered the floor to the participants to initiate discussions and exchange of ideas.

18. The representative of CDEMA noted the importance of policy cooperation and coordination activities that have been developed by sub-regional institutions for disaster risk reduction. He also noted the invaluable experience that has been gained in the region with the humanitarian assistance provided to Haiti and the extraordinary cooperation initiative that UNASUR has implemented in that country, underscoring the military challenges faced by said agency to make regional aid more effective and efficient.

19. The representative of ECHO noted the difficulties present in the region due to the diversity of specialized forums and regional institutions for disaster risk reduction, and welcomed initiatives such as this, which help to clarify the role that each institution has at the regional level to provide humanitarian assistance in disaster situations.

20. The representative of ISDR pointed out that many countries in the region, due to their condition of middle-income countries or due to the principle of political solidarity and their belief in South-South Cooperation, are becoming major donors within the region, especially as regards humanitarian aid and disaster prevention, which is certainly very beneficial for the region.

21. The representative of the Economic Commission for Africa reiterated the importance of strengthening the institutional and national capacities in the field of disaster risk reduction. He noted the importance of the ongoing coordinated actions in various geographical regions to improve coordination and cooperation for the prevention and mitigation of disasters. On the other hand, he mentioned the need for a clear picture of where we are, what challenges we face and what we should do to improve cooperation and coordination in the future.

22. The representative of the Permanent Secretariat of SELA said that there is a complex dialectic in the agendas, commitments and political beliefs on the issue of disaster risk reduction, and that this broad and diverse agenda demonstrates the importance that is given to this issue at the highest political level. That is precisely what enables all agendas to be important, necessary and legitimate, particularly because they allows us to continue the progress with the integration processes, cooperation and coordination in disaster risk reduction. He said that what is important is to identify those aspects that unite us and not divide or separate us. He noted that disaster risk reduction is present in all national agendas, as well as in all the subregional, regional and international organizations. Therefore, the attention that these agendas receive at the highest political levels is obvious, which turns this issue into a priority that not all the issues have achieved at the regional level. The issues of poverty reduction and disaster prevention are topics on which there is agreement and common ground in Latin America and the Caribbean, and therefore, they are issues that unite the countries in the search for joint solutions. So these subjects concentrate efforts to achieve greater coordination and cooperation to make effective and efficient the policies that have been already implemented in the region. He

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also referred to the important work being carried out in the Summit of Latin American and Caribbean on Integration and Development (CALC). It is important to note that the issue of natural disaster prevention and adaptation to climate change are listed as priority issues identified by member countries of the summit, for which there are specific mandates and recommendations. On the other hand, with regard to the issue of South-South Cooperation, he said that the agenda of aid effectiveness, the issues contained in the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action, has not achieved the necessary consensus among Latin American and Caribbean countries. However, this has not delayed the efforts achieved by South-South Cooperation. On the contrary, the region is currently very active, as evidenced by reports on the subject produced by SEGIB which, through the Permanent Secretariat of SELA, was requested to add in these reports the efforts that are being developed in Caribbean countries, in order to have a more complete and comprehensive vision of South-South cooperation in the region. In this regard, he reiterated that the interest and the priority of SELA are to achieve regional unity, to identify issues that facilitate this unity and allow us to advance cooperation, harmonizing but not homologating processes. Finally, he referred to the importance of the Forum on Cooperation and Coordination of Regional Mechanisms for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas, composed by CDEMA, CEPREDENAC, CAPRADE and REHU, and raised the possibility of inviting to the sessions of the Forum those countries that are not currently involved in such subregional, or regional integration schemes.

23. The representative of CEPREDENAC pointed out the need for strengthening existing regional and subregional institutions, and the necessity of developing strategic plans for concerted action in the event of disasters or in times when it is necessary to enable humanitarian aid. He also said that humanitarian aid mechanisms must comply with the conditions and realities of the region. He mentioned that Central America has relief and humanitarian assistance manuals for the Foreign Ministries and that these efforts should be maintained and updated. He recognized that it is also necessary to advance, where possible, as a bloc of Central American countries, in the standardization and homologation procedures for search and rescue to make these actions more effective and efficient, all this, taking into account the experience in Haiti, where the Central American subregion served with six teams individually, adding that such experience should leave some lessons for the future.

24. The CDEMA representative noted that capacity building within countries is essential in disaster risk reduction and that legislation should be revised to be adapted and adjusted depending on the new trends and needs for effective and efficient disaster management, he also recognized how the political dialogue can support or interfere with these processes. With regard to South-South Cooperation, he said that the countries of the region are developing good practices, but it is necessary to identify and disseminate these practices in order to be truly known in the region, especially in the field of disaster risk reduction and particularly in the areas of education, training and volunteering.

25. The representative of REHU mentioned the importance of dialogue and the necessity of advancing in cooperation and coordination for disaster risk reduction. He noted that the region is making significant efforts to provide cooperation and humanitarian aid and warned of the need to respect the principles governing humanitarian assistance and sovereignty of countries.

26. The representative of UNASUR referred to the actions undertaken by the agency in Haiti and acknowledged that the release of 69% of humanitarian aid shows the high political commitment to the region with Haiti, but acknowledged as well, that efforts should continue to be more efficient every day. He also referred to the need of bringing

together and integrate disaster risk management and development management. He also recognized the need to work harder in education and other social issues that are implicit in the holistic view of disaster risk reduction.

27. The representative of CAPRADE noted the importance of creating the Forum on Cooperation and Coordination of Regional Mechanisms for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas that seeks to promote South-South cooperation and exchange of experiences, and to avoid duplication of efforts and unnecessary loss of time and resources. He stressed that the Forum is not a new organization and has no structure, but has been created with the support of all countries that comprise it, and in this regard he thanked ISDR and SELA for their support to create a space for the development of this new Forum.

28. The representative of the White Helmets Commission said that the existence of the different agendas of subregional institutions for disaster risk reduction demonstrates the top priority attached to the issue in the region and the success of several actors who have the responsibility of influencing and raising awareness of the importance of this issue for development. He also made some inquiries about the various scenarios in which each institution acts, the diversity of models and actors in this sector, and the problems and instability often generated by the high rotation of qualified personnel in the institutions responsible for DRR. He also mentioned the vast experience that the region has in terms of emergencies and disasters, as well as humanitarian aid, and especially the experience that has been concentrated in sub-regional institutions which have managed to develop and validate tools and instruments across the spectrum of disaster risk reduction. He suggested the importance of including countries that are not present in these institutions, such as Mexico, Chile, Cuba and Venezuela.

29. The representative of the ISDR said that it is necessary to be aware of both, regulatory and political aspects that are involved in the Disaster Risk Reduction, so that the interventions in this matters should take into account what wants to be transferred, to whom and how. He also assured that the existence of subregional institutions for disaster risk reduction and the "Forum on Cooperation and Coordination of Regional Mechanisms for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas" opens a space that allows for further discussing the issue of disasters and humanitarian aid. He pointed out that the strategic focus of the initiatives developed in these instances may deliver a "roadmap" that would combine efforts of all institutions for the short, medium and long terms, aimed at meeting goals and targets that could surely serve as inputs for the Advisory Group of the Platform for the Americas. He also said that the issue of disaster risk reduction is a development issue, and therefore we need to work in that direction, trying to involve all actors for development and change, which although is a very complex dialogue this large number of actors is indispensable, due to the equally complex issues contained in these matters from its comprehensive approach. He also expressed the need to have mechanisms and instruments that allow us to measure progress in disaster risk management, in compliance with agreements and commitments of the Hyogo Framework for Action. In this regard, he publicly recognized subregional institutions for the excellent effort made to prepare progress reports and for the progress in implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action, which is becoming ever more detailed and comprehensive as well as more participatory.

30. The moderator thanked all the participants for their interventions and statements during the debate.

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**31. SESSION II: LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION: REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: AGENDAS AND WORK PROGRAMMES FOR 2011.**

This session was moderated by Mr. Luis Guillermo Solís, Director of the Representation Office for Central America and Haiti of the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB). After a brief introduction to the session, Solís offered the floor to the speakers.

32. The representative of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) of the United Nations, Ricardo Mena, Chief of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, made the presentation "ISDR agenda and work program for 2011" (SP/RIALC-AA-RRD/Di No. 15-10), which detailed the strategic objectives of the agency for 2011, including climate change adaptation, public investment and disaster risk reduction in cities, disaster-resilient schools and hospitals and strengthening international systems of disaster risk reduction. He also referred to meetings that would take place in 2011, especially the meeting on the Regional Platform for the Americas, to be held in Nuevo Vallarta, Nayarit, Mexico, from 14 to 18 March 2011, and the meeting on Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Geneva from 8 to 13 May 2011. Finally, he mentioned the most important issues for 2011 both globally and regionally, as well as other topics of interest.

33. The representative of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Mr. Gerard Gómez, Chief of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, made the presentation "OCHA: agenda and work program for 2011" (SP/RIALC-AA-RRD/Di No. 16-10), which showed a balance and trends of global disasters, and then analyzed the regional institutional framework for disaster risk reduction. He addressed the issue of the stages of disaster risk reduction and humanitarian crises from national to international levels, and how the international architecture for humanitarian aid is structured, the various actors and levels of action and the role of OCHA in that structure. Subsequently, he detailed the structure, functions and objectives of the agency in coordinating humanitarian aid and the United Nations resolutions that guide the action, and then he focused on the actions taken in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the various partnerships that are being developed. He also referred to the importance of regional meetings of international mechanisms for humanitarian assistance, which have been conducted since 2008, and whose next meeting is scheduled for April 2011 in Quito. Additionally, he referred to the objectives and activities that OCHA will develop in 2011.

34. The representative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Mr. Pablo Ruiz, Leader of the Conflict Prevention and Recovery Area, made a brief speech in which he referred to the work of various organizations, agencies and funds of the United Nations system in strengthening disaster risk reduction since 1990, actions to reinforce national capacities and even regional standards, where UNDP country offices play an important role. He also referred to the complex process of reform of humanitarian aid that took place within the United Nations, which coincided with the important work being developed in Latin America and the Caribbean in the field of disaster risk reduction for a more effective and efficient humanitarian assistance and early recovery. Finally, he addressed the activities of UNDP in Panama to support national institutions in disaster risk management as well as the partnerships that are being developed with various national organizations.

35. The representative of the World Food Program (WFP), Mr. Peter Gozens, Regional Emergency Coordinator, delivered a presentation entitled "WFP's strategy for disaster risk reduction in Central America" (SP / RIALC-AA-RRD / Di No. 14-10), which referred to the actions for disaster preparedness and mitigation taken by the agency, the institution's

strategic plan for 2008-2013 and their policies and tools to meet the targets set for disaster risk reduction. Later, he underscored the work being done in Central America and the regional strategy that they have achieved to improve the preparedness and response mechanisms and capacity building. Finally, he referred to the action plan for 2011.

36. The representative of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Xavier Castellanos, Director for the Americas, presented "IFRC Risk management: A race towards awareness" (SP / RIALC-AA-RRD / Di No. 13-10) in which he noted several factors that are driving the change of vision in risk management and are guiding the fundamental principles of action of that body. He explained the organization, objectives and mission of the Federation and networks of national societies of the Red Cross, whose main objective is to build safer and more resilient societies and communities. Finally, he referred to the presence of the IFRC in Latin America and the Caribbean through the office for the Americas its representation both, sub-regionally and in each country, as well as specialized centres.

37. The representative of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Christopher Gascon, Regional Coordinator for Emergencies in Latin America and the Caribbean made the presentation "IOM, CMCC: Coordination and management of collective centers for the care of IDPs (internally displaced persons)" ( SP / RIALC-AA-RRD / Di No. 3-10), which addressed disasters in the region and the problems arising with the displacements that are generated by earthquakes, floods and droughts, and the need to refine contingency plans and civil protection in order to ensure the return to normality of the families affected in the shortest time possible. He also referred to the challenges faced in these situations and the actions that are being developed in that direction. He underscored the complexity of managing these camps and collective centers and partnerships that are developed with other national and regional actors. Finally, he noted the actions that they intend to develop for 2011.

38. The representative of the Center for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean (CATHALAC), Joel Perez Fernandez, Chief Scientist, Climate Change and Adaptation, presented "CATHALAC: agenda and work program" (SP/RIALC-AA- DRR / Di No. 5-10), which outlined the objectives, operation and organizational structure of the organism and its relationship with the Mesoamerica Project. He described the activities being carried out within the areas of work of this organization and particularly in the scientific and environmental areas. He also mentioned the various publications and technological tools that the body can provide, particularly in the area of education and dissemination of knowledge, which can be accessed through its Web site.

39. The representative of the European Commission for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) and the Disaster Preparedness Programme (DIPECHO) Vicente Raimundo, Acting Chief of ECHO for Latin America and the Caribbean and Emergency Response Coordinator, presented "The Union European and disaster risk reduction "(SP / RIALC-AA-RRD / Di No. 4-10), in which he referred to the mandates of the agency and the European strategy for disaster risk reduction and specific actions taken in terms of fulfillment of the Hyogo Framework for Action. Later on, he explained the origins and scope and various components of DIPECHO, budget and the actions undertaken at international level, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean.

40. The representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Ruth Custode Officer for Disaster Risk Reduction and Education in Emergencies, delivered a presentation entitled "Disaster risk reduction in the UNICEF" (SP / RIALC-AA-DRR / Di No. 12-10), which outlined the major activities, which include working with various national

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actors, the programs in the area of education and psychological counseling, training workshops, production of informational materials, among others. She also referred to the progress made by UNICEF in the region in disaster prevention and in the strategy of disaster risk reduction and the pillars that support its action in this area. Finally, she detailed the activities that the organization will develop in 2011.

41. The representative of the White Helmets Commission of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina, Carlos Alberto Villalba, General Coordinator, delivered a presentation entitled "White Helmets Initiative: An Agenda for 2011" (SP/RIALC-AA- DRR / Di No. 7-10) in which he described the subregional institutions to reduce the risk of disasters and the importance of validating the tools and instruments that have been refined in the region by the specialized institutions matter. He also referred to the need to promote discussion in the forums and multilateral agencies to address the issue and strengthen the decisions and agreements emanating from those meetings, and continue to improve coordination and cooperation with agencies and subregional and national organizations. Later on, he explained and described the agenda of the White Helmets Commission for the year 2011, which intends to continue working with the OAS on the mechanisms that are available on prevention, disaster relief and humanitarian assistance, in addition to working with UNASUR and other regional institutions to reduce the risk of disasters.

42. The moderator thanked all the speakers and opened the floor to debate.

43. The representative of ECHO referred to the institutional changes and high rotation of officers responsible for disaster risk reduction at national levels and how this may affect the policy of prevention and disaster relief if necessary measures are taken. He stressed the importance of appointing qualified persons to fill positions in the areas of emergency and disaster prevention in order to improve and make more efficient the response and the policies implemented in this field. He also stressed the importance of leadership in the emergencies management and disaster response.

44. The representative of CDEMA noted the need of supporting programs for disaster risk reduction in countries and the importance of coordination between agencies and United Nations funds, he also recognized the importance of ensuring that policies and initiatives being developed in Latin America meet the reality of the institutions and the situations presented in these countries.

45. The representative of the ISDR said that the various agencies and United Nations system have been developing intensive efforts to promote further cooperation and coordination with governments to make more effective and efficient disaster risk management and all matters relating to humanitarian aid. That explains the fundamental reform that has been developed in this area. It should be emphasized that the reform and the actions that are being held for several years in the United Nations system have been focused from the integral dimension of the disaster risk reduction and development perspective. The reform has been made to include the risk variable in the management of cooperation projects and we have put special attention to prevent the implementation of individual agendas among the agencies and funds of the United Nations system, seeking that these agendas meet the consensus and agreements that have already been accomplished, especially in the context of the Hyogo Framework for Action. He stressed that the United Nations system is perfectible and that continue to make efforts to avoid duplication of efforts and enhance cooperation and coordination.

46. The ECHO representative reiterated that there is a high rotation of staff in public institutions responsible for disaster risk management and there is no continuity in policy implementation, which creates problems within those institutions and their capacity of response in disasters: Hence the convenience of ensuring policies that allows the maintenance of the professional staff, knowledge and experience within these institutions.

47. The representative IFRC mentioned that one of the challenges of disaster risk management is in the decentralization of responsibilities from the national level to the local one, the participation of local governments and municipalities could result in better community disaster response and preparedness. He highlighted his concern regarding the access of the most vulnerable people to humanitarian aid in disasters. Finally he recognized the fundamental role of the foreign ministries of each country in achieving the coordination of humanitarian assistance in the international context in moments of disaster response.

48. The moderator thanked all the speakers for the interventions made during debate.

49. Although the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) and the American Association of Governmental Organizations and Civil Defense could not attend the meeting due to scheduling problems, they sent their written contributions to the discussions that took place at this meeting. The sponsors of the meeting expressed their thanks and appreciation for the interest and the contribution made. These contributions are listed as background papers entitled "Association of Caribbean States (ACS): Presentation of the Directorate General for Disaster Risk Reduction" and "Plan of Action of the High Level Conference of the ACS on Disaster Reduction. Saint-Marc, Haiti (14-16 November 2007)" and "The American Association of Governmental Organizations and Civil Defense Projects of Action "(SP / RIALC-AA-RRD / Di No. 9-10.)

50. It is important to mention that in the context of the "Meeting of the Institutional Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and Africa" was held the "IV Meeting of the Forum on Cooperation and Coordination of Regional Mechanisms for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas" with the participation of subregional institutions specializing in this area (CAPRADE, CEPREDENAC, CDEMA and REHU), as well as guests from other international organizations such as the representative of the Asia-Pacific region, the Deputy Executive Secretary of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC), Mr. Li Wei-Sen.

51. **SESSION III: ASIAN AND AFRICAN INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION.** This session was moderated by Ricardo Mena, Chief of the Chief of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) of the United Nations. After a brief introduction, he offered the floor to the speakers.

52. On the institutional framework for disaster risk reduction in Asia, the intervention was made by Mr Li. Wei-Sen, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC), who delivered a presentation entitled "Establishment of APEC Emergency Preparedness. Working Group and Its Recent Development "(SP / RIALC-AA-RRD / Di No. 17-10) in which he explained the membership of APEC economies, its primary objectives, and the impact of disasters in the Asia-Pacific region, and the economic and social costs that they have generated. He also referred to the work carried out by the Task Force for Emergency Preparedness within the organization, the main recent activities and how the institutional framework for disaster risk reduction is structured in Asia-Pacific region and its subregions. On the other hand, he outlined the strategy for disaster risk reduction

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and emergency preparedness and responses from the Asia-Pacific region for the period 2009-2015. Finally, he described the activities that will be developed during 2011. He noted that the agency has been working very closely with Latin America and the Caribbean and especially with Mexico, Chile, Peru and other countries; he recognized that this experience, especially the work done by CAPRADE has been very instructive for APEC.

53. Subsequently, the contributions of the Institutional framework for disaster risk reduction in Africa, was made by Mr. Raby Hamdou Wane, Economic Affairs Officer, Division of Food Security and Sustainable Development Section of Agricultural Production Systems of the Economic Commission for Africa United Nations (CEA), who delivered a presentation entitled "ECA-UN Economic Commission for Africa: Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa" (SP / RIALC-AA-RRD / Di No. 19-10), he explained the levels of organization and regional planning at the various African institutions in disaster risk reduction and the actions that are being take this geographic region and other subregional bodies. He also referred to the objectives and organization of the CEA and various forums and meeting being held in Africa to deal with the issue of disaster risk reduction as well as environmental issues and climate change adaptation. Finally, he detailed the activities that will be developed by CEA for the year 2011. He also welcomed the invitation to participate in this meeting, seeing it as a certain contribution to South-South Cooperation to acknowledge the institutional framework for disaster risk reduction in other geographic regions, in order to share experiences and lessons learned in this important matter that has much impact on the economic and social development. He also noted the serious problems that are being developed in some African countries regarding new crops and displacement of people within the camp. He reiterated that it is essential that the agendas of disaster risk reduction and climate change move together because they are interrelated.

54. The moderator thanked the speakers for their presentation and opened the floor to debate.

55. The representative of Haiti thanked the invitation to the meeting and the presence of representatives of APEC and CEA and their presentations made. He also thanked the support that has been given to Haiti on the occasion of the earthquake. In addition, he requested information on the seminars that APEC is planning in 2011 and the possibility that Haiti could be invited to these events. He also asked about the strategy and the mechanisms that have been implemented to convince African States on the need to incorporate risk reduction loose on the political agenda.

56. The representative of the APEC answered to the representative of Haiti saying that the member economies are the one who calls to organize training activities, and therefore the participation of other economies other than them should be asked directly to the organizers and sponsors of each activity.

57. The representative of the CEA said that the incorporation of disaster risk reduction in Africa has taken time, but thanks to the work carried out by ISDR and United Nations system it has been possible to incorporate the issue into the political agendas of the 53 African countries. This is because we are aware that these problems are not new in our geographical region, therefore, we have had to organize ourselves from the seventies to cope with the diversity of problems that has faced over its history.



58. The representative of CDEMA noted the importance of sharing more experience with these geographic regions that result to be very instructive and to have so many similarities with Latin American and Caribbean experiences regarding the institutional development and that also shows us how such disasters are handled in these regions and how are the responses in specific issues such as volunteering. He reiterated the need to promote the exchange of notes and the ability to continue to promote cooperation and good practices.

59. The representative of the ISDR said that both the SELA and ISRD did all the necessary arrangements with the institutions responsible for disaster risk reduction in Africa and Asia, but scheduling issues hinder the participation of other regional and subregional organizations in this meeting. He recalled that a few days ago was held in Cancun COP-16 and that some of the experts on the subject of these geographical regions were involved in this international meeting precisely because of the importance and interrelationship between climate change and risk reduction disasters.

60. The representative of APEC reiterated that the information on the activities to be implemented in 2011 will be posted on the Web site of the institution and said that these initiatives strengthen coordination and cooperation among countries and regions in reducing the risk of disasters.

61. The representative of CEA noted that Africa with the help of other African organizations and the United Nations system is moving forward in the implementation of programs of information and knowledge on disaster management and that these experiences will soon be available on a Web site of the African Union, with specific content on disaster risk reduction and climate change to share via the Internet.

62. The representative of IFRC reiterated that the specialized centers of this organization are available to governments and NGOs and through them it is possible to have access to information, documentation, and various training and technical resources. He noted that these centers are also present in the regions of Asia and Africa that have equally detailed and specialized information.

63. The representative of CAPRADE referred to the work that has been done to create a network of volunteers, but seeing the volunteer as a specialist, so that the vision is "a volunteer, a leader." This is an experience that is spreading in thematic working groups in Peru to promote joint efforts and active participation of communities. Also he referred to the work being done regarding the regulatory matters regarding insurance, immigration, among many others, in which they have been working with national organizations with support from regional and international organizations.

64. The moderator thanked all the interventions during this debate and proceeds to declare this session closed.

65. As a result of the presentations and discussions that took place in the framework of the meeting, the participants adopted the following conclusions and recommendations:

## B. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The “Meeting on the Institutional Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and Africa” – organized by the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), the United Nations’ International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), **the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) and the Perez Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF) of the Group of 77** – was held in Panama City, on 13 and 14 December 2010.

2. Subregional, regional and international organizations specializing in disaster risk reduction took note with interest of the work documents presented as a contribution to discussions: “Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction. Institutional and Policy Landscape in Asia and Pacific” (SP/RIALC-AA-RRD/DT No. 2) and “Disaster Risk Reduction in Sub-Saharan Africa. ISDR Informs – 2009 Issue” (SP/RIALC-AA-RRD/DT No. 3). Participants were informed that in January 2011 the document “Disaster risk reduction. A challenge for institutionality, integration and cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean” (SP/RIALC-AA-RRD/DT No. 4), being prepared by the ISDR, will be ready for its release.

3. Participants thanked for the presentations made by the representatives of subregional, regional and international institutions specializing in disaster risk reduction, regional and international organizations and the agencies of the United Nations system that participated in the meeting. All these presentations are available on the mini site for the meeting on SELA’s Web site.

4. During the debates on the institutional framework for disaster risk reduction in Latin America and the Caribbean, the delegations highlighted the following aspects

- a) In recent years, there has been a significant increase in the impact of disasters in our region and consequently an increase in social and economic effects in most countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).
- b) The delegates underscored that there is a well-developed Latin American and Caribbean institutional framework for disaster risk reduction. In addition, they stressed the fact that the Forum on Cooperation and Coordination of Regional Mechanisms for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas was created as a space for coordination and technical cooperation and exchange of knowledge and experiences in disaster risk management, so as to contribute to strengthening the existing national, subregional and regional mechanisms and platforms.
- c) It is necessary to strengthen the commitment and actions of the various existing regional and subregional institutions in view of the importance of the agenda for 2011 in the area of disaster risk reduction. In this connection, participants took note of the Meeting of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas, to take place in Nuevo Vallarta, Nayarit, Mexico, from 14 to 18 March 2011, and the Meeting of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Geneva from 8 to 13 May 2011. Both events are organized by the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) of the United Nations
- d) It is essential to continue to improve mechanisms for measuring and assessing actions being taken in the area of disaster risk reduction in order to determine their progress. In addition, participants underscored the efforts made by the countries of the region

for the preparation of national progress reports on the implementation of the Hyogo Action Plan.

- e) Participants recognized the existence of different subregional, regional and international scenarios and forums dealing with disaster risk reduction, such as the Regional Meetings on International Mechanisms for Humanitarian Assistance and its Follow-up Group and the OAS Joint Working Group on Existing Mechanisms for Disaster Prevention and Response and Humanitarian Assistance, among others, which demonstrate the relevance of this issue in Latin America and the Caribbean and the emerging political commitment to deal with it in all areas of regional cooperation and integration.
- f) In this regard, it was underscored the need to move, in a concerted and coherent manner, towards greater coordination among the existing authorities and particularly the construction of an agreed position to be submitted for consideration of those authorities.
- g) In addition, the delegates stressed the importance of the interface between the technical role of subregional and regional institutions specializing in disaster risk reduction and those that are politically linked to the subject. They reiterated that both contribute to dealing with this issue in all its complexity and from a comprehensive and multidimensional point of view.
- h) Latin American and Caribbean institutions require a renewed and intensified political backing and a decisive financial support to meet the objectives assigned to Member States and effectively develop strategies, policies, action plans and programmes for a comprehensive disaster risk reduction.
- i) Participants stressed the need that the discussion, formulation and implementation of policies and programmes for disaster risk reduction take always into consideration that they are directly linked to development strategies and management procedures for development in each of our countries, as well as to programmes and projects for climate change adaptation.
- j) It was reiterated that the priority for subregional, regional and international organizations specializing in disaster risk reduction is to support government actions to build safer and more resilient societies, using active mechanisms for community participation.
- k) Emphasis was made on the fact that most countries in the region are increasingly playing a significant role as collaborators in the field of disaster risk reduction, which is promising for the development of South-South cooperation actions to be undertaken in this area. These actions are expected to strengthen regional cooperation, promoting the development of more effective mechanisms and instruments for such cooperation.
- l) Participants indicated as one of the most worrying features of the growing global urbanization phenomenon a sustained increase in urban risk. In this connection, local governments and civil society are key players called to get involved in increasing the resilience of cities in the context of sustainable development. In addition, it was stressed the importance of promoting the World Campaign for Disaster Reduction Building Resilient Cities: "My city is preparing", as an initiative of the UNISDR and its

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partners to ensure that local governments are actively involved in close coordination with national governments and other strategic actors in urban risk reduction.

m) Participants stressed that the construction of safe and resilient communities requires joint efforts to improve the quality of post-disaster recovery assistance and protection of livelihoods.

5. Regarding the debates on the work programmes of relevant institutions specializing in disaster risk reduction, participants in the event highlighted the following aspects:

a) It is important to continue to improve and update coordination and cooperation actions, mechanisms and protocols of subregional, regional and international organizations working in disaster risk reduction in Latin America and the Caribbean, harmonizing them with those in each country.

b) Participants agreed on the need to continue efforts to develop concrete partnerships among the various local, national, subregional, regional and international bodies linked to disaster risk reduction within the framework of cooperation and coordination efforts already underway.

c) Another important aspect for the action of subregional, regional and international organizations in the field of disaster risk reduction is to strengthen national and local capacities. In this connection, it is essential to prioritize capacity building and training of institutional and human resources linked to disaster risk reduction and humanitarian aid. Similarly, it is important to make efforts aimed at encouraging national and local institutions to strengthen their ability to offer services in the context of strategies for disaster risk reduction.

6. Delegates noted with interest the presentation made by the UNISDR representative on the outcomes and agreements reached at the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 16) held in Cancun, Mexico. In addition, they noted their possible implications in disaster risk reduction, in particular the decisions of the COP arising from the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action (AWG LCA) related to the fact that climate change adaptation will consider strategies for disaster risk reduction, based on the Hyogo Framework for Action, early warning systems, risk assessment and management, and exchange and transfer of mechanisms, such as insurance at the local, national, subregional and regional levels.

7. As part of this event, the Fourth Meeting of the Forum on Cooperation and Coordination of Regional Mechanisms for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas was held, with the participation of subregional institutions specializing in this area (CAPRADE, CEPREDENAC, CDEMA and REHU) and other international organizations as special guests, as well as the representative of Asia-Pacific.

8. The delegates recognized the usefulness of the presentations made by representatives of Asian and African institutions for disaster risk reduction, and stressed the importance of continuing these exchanges of inter-regional experiences to strengthen the effectiveness of their actions and programmes in LAC. In this regard, participants underscored several areas of interest where an inter-regional systematic exchange is considered advisable.

9. Likewise, participants took note of the upcoming “Seminar on Private Sector Contribution to Disaster Risk Reduction: Opportunities for cooperation at the disposal of governments”, to be held in 2011 and organized by the Permanent Secretary of SELA, with the support of the United Nations' International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) and regional collaborators.

10. Participants took note of the launch in 2011 of the virtual tool “Disaster Management System”, created with the support of the Brazilian government, under the terms of the Declarations of Florianopolis and Buenos Aires, in the II and III Regional Meetings on Enhancing International Humanitarian Partnerships.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Participants stressed the important work being developed – and to be improved in the future – by the Forum on Cooperation and Coordination of the Regional Mechanisms for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas, made up of subregional institutions specializing in this area. In this regard, they urged regional institutions such as SELA, SEGIB and multilateral organizations such as the ISDR to give the maximum political support to this experience of regional coordination and cooperation.

2. The actions to be taken by this Forum on Coordination and Cooperation should be aimed at promoting the design and improvement of tools, methodologies, procedures, protocols and guidelines to ensure a better and more efficient work, from a comprehensive perspective, as regards disaster risk reduction in LAC. Such information could become the “road map” for future work in the area of disaster risk reduction in our region, with doctrinal, thematic and instrumental components.

3. Participants urged national governments, with the support of relevant subregional, regional and international organizations, to include Disaster Risk Reduction in their development policies and planning processes. Similarly, the infrastructure for economic and social development must take into consideration the threats and vulnerabilities associated with disaster risk and climate change, and ensure the operation of facilities such as schools, hospitals and public transport through proper planning and management for development.

4. National and local authorities should promote the adoption and design of contents and practices related to disaster risk reduction in school curricula and community programmes, and strengthen networks for the development of knowledge, including traditional heritage, and capabilities for disaster risk reduction.

5. Participants urged local and national governments and subregional and regional organizations to promote systematic South-South cooperation actions on disaster risk reduction.

6. In this connection, they asked the UNISDR to promote the exchange of inter-regional experiences on disaster risk reduction, using existing mechanisms such as the various regional and global platforms.

7. In addition, it was recommended to consider the advisability of developing a medium-term array of Latin American and Caribbean offers and requests for cooperation among countries in the region on disaster risk reduction.

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8. The organizers of this regional meeting thanked all attendees for their active participation in this important event.

9. The delegations congratulated the Permanent Secretariat of SELA, the United Nations' International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) and the Perez Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF) of the Group of 77 for organizing and supporting the conduction of this meeting.

### **CLOSING SESSION**

During the closing session took floor to Dr. Luis Guillermo Solis, Director of the Office of Representation for Central America, Haiti and the General Secretariat (SEGIB), Dr. Ricardo Mena, Chief of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) United Nations and Dr. Antonio Romero, Director of Relations for Integration and Cooperation System Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA).

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**Program**





**MEETING ON THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION  
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, ASIA AND AFRICA**

**13 and 14 December 2010. Panama City, Panama**

Address: Hotel Holiday Inn (Ciudad del Saber). Av. Omar Torrijos Herrera, Clayton. Ciudad del Saber. Frente a las Esclusas de Miraflores. Ciudad de Panamá

**Objectives:** i) to promote cooperation, coordination and development of institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and Africa in the area of disaster risk reduction through a meeting aimed at sharing experiences and exchanging offers and requests for cooperation; ii) to establish inter-institutional agreements and pinpoint areas of mutual interest in the corresponding work programmes for 2010; and iii) to identify the institutions of Asia and Africa in the area of disaster risk reduction and the main mechanisms, instruments and devices available for emergency response and disaster prevention.

**Monday, 13 December 2010**

**Morning**

8:30 – 9:00      **REGISTRATION**

9:00              **OPENING SESSION**

- Speech by the Deputy Director of the Representation Office for Central America and Haiti of the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB), Yariela Vega
- Speech by the Chief of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the UN International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (ISDR), Ricardo Mena
- Speech by the Director of Relations for Integration and Cooperation of the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), Antonio Romero.

9:30 – 9:45      Coffee break

9:45              **INTRODUCTORY SESSION**

Antonio Romero, Director of Relations for Integration and Cooperation of the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA)

**Session I: LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION: SPECIALIZED REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL BODIES: AGENDAS AND WORK PROGRAMMES FOR 2011**

**Moderator:** Ricardo Mena, Chief of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the UN International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (ISDR)

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- Central American Coordination Centre for Natural Disaster Prevention (CEPREDENAC). Regional Coordinator for Preparedness and Response, Walter Wintzer.
- Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA). Executive Director, Jeremy Collymore.
- Specialized Meeting on Social and Natural Disaster Risk Reduction, Civil Defence, Civil Protection and Humanitarian Assistance (REHU) of the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR). Third Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, Ricardo Daskal.
- Union of South American Nations (UNASUR). Advisor. National Directorate of Civil Defence of Ecuador, José Emilio Ochoa Moreno.
- Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Assistance (CAPRADE). National Institute of Civil Defence of Peru (INDECI), Director of International Affairs and Cooperation, Percy Alvarado.

12:30 – 01:30 Debate

01:30 – 3:00 Lunch

<b>Afternoon</b>
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3:00

**SESSION II: LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN INSTITUTIONS FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION: REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: AGENDAS AND WORK PROGRAMMES FOR 2011**

**Moderator:** Luis Guillermo Solís. Director of the Representation Office for Central America and Haiti of the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB).

- UN International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (ISDR). Chief of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, Ricardo Mena.
- UN Office for the Coordination of Human Affairs (OCHA). Chief of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, Gerard Gómez.
- United Nations Development Program (UNDP). Leader of the Conflict Prevention and Recovery Practice Area, Pablo Ruiz.
- World Food Program (WFP). Regional Emergency Coordinator, Peter Goossens.
- International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). Director of Americas Zone, Xavier Castellanos.
- International Organization for Migration (IOM). Regional Coordinator for Emergencies in Latin America and the Caribbean, Christopher Gascon.
- Water Centre for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean (CATHALAC). Principal Scientist, Climate Change and Adaptation, Joel Pérez Fernández.

- Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Commission (ECHO) – Disaster Preparedness Programme of ECHO (DIPECHO). Acting Chief of ECHO for Latin America and the Caribbean and Emergency Rapid Response Coordinator, Vicente Raimundo.
- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). Officer for Disaster Risk Reduction and Education in Emergencies, Ruth Custode.
- White Helmets Commission. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina. General Coordinator, Carlos Alberto Villalba.

4:45 Coffee break

Debate

7:00 Dinner

**Tuesday, 14 December 2010**

**Morning**

09:00 **SESSION III: INSTITUTIONS OF ASIA AND AFRICA FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

**Moderator:** Ricardo Mena, Chief of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the UN International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (ISDR)

**Institutions for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia**

- Representative of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Deputy Executive Secretary, Li Wei-Sen.

**Institutions for Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa**

- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). Food Security and Sustainable Development Division, Agricultural Production System Section, Hamdou Raby Wane.

Coffee break

12:00 – 01:00 Debate

01:00 – 2:30 Lunch

**Afternoon**

2:30

**SESSION IV: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Moderator:** Antonio Romero, Director of Relations for Integration and Cooperation of the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA)

2:30 – 3:00

Presentation of the main agreements, conclusions and recommendations

3:00 – 5:00

Remarks by participants

5:00

**CLOSING SESSION**

- Speech by the Director of the Representation Office for Central America and Haiti of the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB), Luis Guillermo Solís.
- Speech by the Chief of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the UN International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (ISDR), Ricardo Mena.
- Speech by the Director of Relations for Integration and Cooperation of the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), Antonio Romero.

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**Speech by the Deputy Director of the Representation Office for Central America  
and Haiti of the Ibero-American General Secretariat Mrs. Yariela Vega**

Good morning everyone.

On behalf of the Ibero-American General Secretariat, I welcome you and also inform you that Don Guillermo Solis, Director of the Office of Representation for Central America and Haiti SEGIB, will join the meeting at noon.

It is a pleasure for SEGIB to join you at this meeting and share again with SELA, the organization of a new activity in the field of disaster risk reduction. On behalf of the SEGIB, we wish you all success in this event and hope you will meet the expectations and objectives. I take this opportunity to welcome everyone to Panama, hoping that this meeting is of great benefit.

Thanks.

**Speech by the Chief of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean  
of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) of the United Nations,  
Mr. Ricardo Mena.**

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Thank you very much.

Good morning everyone.

We are very excited to share with you this important event, during this year that is about to finish.

I would like to begin by expressing special thanks to SELA and his team for having organized jointly with the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction this meeting, I would like to talk about how important it is that we senior representatives of relevant subregional and intergovernmental organizations together with the senior leadership of international institutions and United Nations, are here gathered around the table, working together in promoting disaster risk reduction in the Americas.

I would like to welcome all those who are here, who come from outside of Panama, and in particular, those who have had to travel more than 20 hours from Africa and Asia to join us, and I refer particularly to delegate APEC, as well as the delegate of the Economic Commission of Africa that are here accompanying us.

I consider that we rarely have the chance to be gathered in one place with this select group of people to discuss issues that are absolutely essential for the proper working of our institutions and for the promotion of disaster risk reduction. So that I would like to express my congratulations for this initiative, I am happy to be part of it too and we hope that during these next two days, we, through sharing our agendas and our priorities, build some partnerships, seeking greater synergies and maximize the opportunities of our discussions close work, through a combination of efforts that could make possible to promote the agenda of disaster risk reduction more vigorously in 2011.

The year 2011 is an important year and I will not refer much of it now because I have a presentation on that topic, but it is a very important year in the context of disaster risk reduction, because there is a number of important events happen in 2011 that somehow going to lead the way and future strategies for disaster risk reduction, especially from here until the completion of the period for implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action in 2015.

Then, said this on behalf of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, we hope we have two very interesting days of deliberations and discussions and again, welcome to all.

Thanks.



**Speech by the Director of Relations for Integration and Cooperation of the Permanent  
Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA),  
Mr. Antonio Romero.**

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Mr. Ricardo Mena, Chief of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) of the United Nations,

Mr. Luis Guillermo Solis, Director of the Representation Office for Central America and Haiti of the Ibero-American General Secretariat,

Representatives of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency, the Central American Coordination Centre for Natural Disaster Prevention, the Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Assistance, the Specialized Meeting on Social and Natural Disaster Risk Reduction, Civil Defence, Civil Protection and Humanitarian Assistance (REHU) of the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR) and the Union of South American Nations,

Fellow representatives of the United Nations System,

Fellow representatives of the regional and international organizations,

Ladies and gentleman,

On behalf of the Permanent Secretary of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), Ambassador José Rivera, I am pleased to welcome you to this "Meeting on the Institutional Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and Africa" that we have had the chance to organize with the active collaboration of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction United Nations, the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) and the Perez Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF) of the Group of 77.

The formal objectives of this meeting are aimed at:

- i) promoting cooperation, coordination and development of institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and Africa in the area of disaster risk reduction through a meeting aimed at sharing experiences and exchanging offers and requests for cooperation;
- ii) establishing inter-institutional agreements and pinpoint areas of mutual interest in the corresponding work programmes for 2010; and
- iii) identifying the institutions of Asia and Africa in the area of disaster risk reduction and the main mechanisms, instruments and devices available for emergency response and disaster prevention.

We considered this opportunity appropriate to review the activities that are driven various Latin American and Caribbean institutions specialized in the field of disaster risk reduction, and especially the activities they intend to develop in 2011.

There is no doubt that coordination and cooperation for disaster risk reduction is a top priority for the region. Recent developments have resulted in torrential rains that occurred in Colombia, Venezuela and Panama, to mention just three examples nearby, aggravating the already delicate situation in the region which has been battered mercilessly by various natural disasters in 2010.

It should be recalled that only during the first half of 2010 there were worldwide, 162 disasters of magnitude, which killed about 230,000 people and affected over 107 million, and caused economic losses exceeding the 55.000 million dollars. Of these totals,

unfortunately our region occupies the first place in number of deaths to 224.124, and estimated economic losses of more than 40.000 billion dollars. Regrettably, two nations in our region topped the worldwide list of deaths and economic losses from disasters: Haiti and Chile.

The earthquake occurred in Haiti on January 12 2010, killed about 222,570 and affected some 3.7 million people, causing economic damage that exceeds 8.000 billion. On the other hand, the earthquake in Chile on February 27 2010, killed about 562 people, affected more than 2.6 million and caused damage estimated at 30.000 million dollars.

But to these extreme cases, we must add the rainfalls in Mexico, the eruption of Pacaya volcano and tropical storm "Agatha" in Guatemala. Belize has been hit hard by tropical storms and Alex and Matthew and hurricane Richard, we must remember as well the severe floods in Colombia, Venezuela and Panama.

These are difficult times that require solidarity and cooperation efforts in the region to address the broad range of problems that arise with these disasters which have left thousands of people displaced and homeless. It is for this reason that the Permanent Secretariat attaches great importance to this type of coordination meetings of the Latin American and Caribbean institutions for disaster risk reduction. Moreover, the experiences of Asia and Africa on this matter are useful and of particular importance to strengthening South-South cooperation.

As for SELA, I reiterate that we are fully convinced of the importance of this issue which has been considered a high priority within our Member States. Therefore, next year we will continue examining this regional problem as set out in the Thirty-Sixth Regular Meeting of the Latin American Council, which adopted the Work Programme of the Permanent Secretariat for the year 2011. As approved by this program, we will feature the "Meeting on the Contribution of the Private Sector to Disaster Risk Reduction: Opportunities for Cooperation available to Governments". This SELA activity is aimed at complement the efforts that are being developed in the regional level to improve the capacity of disaster response policies and strengthen disaster risk reduction, incorporating the private sector as an actor with potential to support the work of governments.

I just want to thank again to the International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction of the United Nations, the Ibero-American General Secretariat and the Perez Guerrero Trust Fund for their support in holding of this meeting, which we are sure will help with coordination efforts and regional cooperation for disaster risk reduction, and will strengthen solidarity among Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Thank you very much.



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<b>WORKING DOCUMENTS (DT)</b>	
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<p>Palabras del Director de Relaciones para la Integración y Cooperación de la Secretaría Permanente del Sistema Económico Latinoamericano y del Caribe (SELA), Dr. Antonio Romero. Sesión Inaugural</p>	<p>SP/RIALC-AA-RRD/Di N° 1-10</p>
<p><b>Política Centroamericana de Gestión Integral del Riesgo de Desastres (PCGIR)</b></p> <p>Walter Wintzer, Coordinador del Área Programática de preparación y Respuesta del Centro de Coordinación para la Prevención de Desastres Naturales en América Central (CEPREDENAC)</p>	<p>SP/RIALC-AA-RRD/Di N° 2-10</p>
<p><b>OIM-CCCM: Coordinación y Gestión de Centros Colectivos Atención a IDPs (personas desplazadas)</b></p> <p>Christopher Gascon, Coordinador de Emergencia para Latinoamérica y el Caribe de la Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM)</p>	<p>SP/RIALC-AA-RRD/Di N° 3-10</p>
<p><b>La Unión Europea y la Reducción de Riesgos a Desastres</b></p> <p>Vicente Raimundo, Jefe Interino de la Oficina de Ayuda Humanitaria de la Comisión Europea (ECHO) para Latinoamérica y el Caribe y Coordinador de Respuestas Rápidas a Emergencias. Dirección General de Ayuda Humanitaria y Protección Civil Programa de Preparación de Desastres (DIPECHO)</p>	<p>SP/RIALC-AA-RRD/Di N° 4-10</p>
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<p><b>FICR. Gestión del riesgo: Una carrera a la concienciación</b></p> <p>Xavier Castellanos, Director para las Américas de la Federación Internacional de la Cruz Roja y la Media Luna Roja (FICR)</p>	<p>SP/RIALC-AA-RRD/Di N° 13-10</p>
<p><b>Estrategia de PMA para la Reducción del Riesgo de Desastres en Centroamérica</b></p> <p>Peter Goossens, Coordinador Regional de Emergencias del Programa Mundial de Alimentos (PMA)</p>	<p>SP/RIALC-AA-RRD/Di N° 14-10</p>
<p><b>EIRD: Agenda y Programa de Trabajo para el 2011</b></p> <p>Ricardo Mena, Jefe de la Oficina Regional Las Américas de la Estrategia Internacional para la Reducción de Desastres (EIRD) de Naciones Unidas</p>	<p>SP/RIALC-AA-RRD/Di N° 15-10</p>
<p><b>OCHA: Agenda y Programa de Trabajo para el año 2011</b></p> <p>Gerard Gómez, Jefe de la Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe. Oficina para la Coordinación de Asuntos Humanitarios (OCHA)</p>	<p>SP/RIALC-AA-RRD/Di N° 16-10</p>
<p><b>Establishment of APEC Emergency Preparedness. Working Group and its recent development</b></p> <p>Li Wei-Sen, Chair of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) EPWG Steering Committee</p>	<p>SP/RIALC-AA-RRD/Di N° 17-10</p>
<p><b>REHU-MERCOSUR: Agenda y Programa de Trabajo</b></p> <p>Luis Felipe Lopes, Asistente Técnico de la Secretaría Nacional de Defensa Civil de Brasil. Reunión Especializada en Reducción de Riesgo de Desastres Socio-Naturales, Defensa Civil, Protección Civil y Asistencia Humanitaria (REHU) del Mercado Común del Sur (MERCOSUR)</p>	<p>SP/RIALC-AA-RRD/Di N° 18-10</p>

<b>ECA-U.N. Economic Commission for Africa: Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa</b>  Hamdou Raby Wane, Agricultural Production System Section, Food Security and Sustainable Development Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)	SP/RIALC-AA-RRD/Di N° 19-10
Lista de Participantes	SP/RIALC-AA-RRD/Di N° 20-10
Palabras del Jefe de la Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe de la Estrategia Internacional para la Reducción de Desastres (EIRD) de Naciones Unidas, Ricardo MENA. Sesión Inaugural	SP/RIALC-AA-RRD/Di N° 21-10
Conclusiones y Recomendaciones	SP/RIALC-AA-RRD/CR
Conclusiones y Recomendaciones	SP/RIALC-AA-RRD/CR Rev 1

<b>DOCUMENTOS DE APOYO</b>	
<b>Asociación de Estados del Caribe (AEC)</b> Presentación general de la Dirección de Reducción del Riesgo de Desastres 13 de diciembre de 2010	
<b>Asociación de Estados del Caribe (AEC)</b> Plan de Acción de la Conferencia de Alto Nivel de la AEC sobre la Reducción de Desastres Saint-Marc, República de Haití, 14-16 noviembre de 2007	