

EU-LAC PARTNERSHIP ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RISK MANAGEMENT

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Issue 1

EU LAC Summit – July 2023

The three events organised by DG ECHO, in collaboration with UNDRR, at the margins of the EU LAC Summit last July in Brussels gathered political and technical counterparts from Latin America and the Caribbean region and from the European Union to discuss the proposed memorandum of understanding on disaster preparedness and comprehensive disaster risk management between the two regions. The public event "Disaster preparedness saves lives" showcased examples of disaster preparedness in the region and explored areas for strengthening cooperation between the EU and LAC countries on disaster preparedness and comprehensive disaster risk management. The technical workshop held between the concerned EU services and the four regional intergovernmental organisms, namely **CEPREDENAC** (Coordination Centre for Disaster Prevention in Central America and Dominican Republic), **CDEMA** (Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency), **SGCAN** (General Secretariat of the Andean Community), **MERCOSUR/RMAGIR** (Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities for Integral Management of Disaster Risk) presented the existing capacities and resources from both sides to explore possible areas of further collaboration. In the high-level political event chaired by the Commissioner for Crisis Management, Janez Lenarčič and with the participation of the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, Mami Mizutori, the decision was endorsed collectively to move forward with the negotiations of a dedicated memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the EU and LAC region. The read-outs of the events are attached to this edition.

Current status

The MoU drafting team composed of all parties involved has been established and is ongoing. The process will lead to the preparation and signature of the MoU. The intention is to sign a non-binding multi-lateral agreement between the EU and the four sub-regional intergovernmental organisms mandated by LAC member states in the area of comprehensive disaster management, namely SICA/CEPREDENAC CARICOM/CDEMA, SGCAN, MERCOSUR/RMAGIR. Chile, Cuba and Mexico that do not belong to any of these institutions will be kept informed of the MoU negotiations, in the event of an interest on their side to participate. The proposed components of the MoU will revolve around the three main areas of common interest and where synergies and complementarities have been identified. The **first** is to support reinforcing the regional response capacities; the **second** should strengthen risk detection and early warning systems; the **third** will promote knowledge sharing and information networks. The suggested comments and additional information proposed by the different intergovernmental institutions for said



areas will be taken into consideration. Possible signature of the MoU is foreseen for the first semester of 2024.

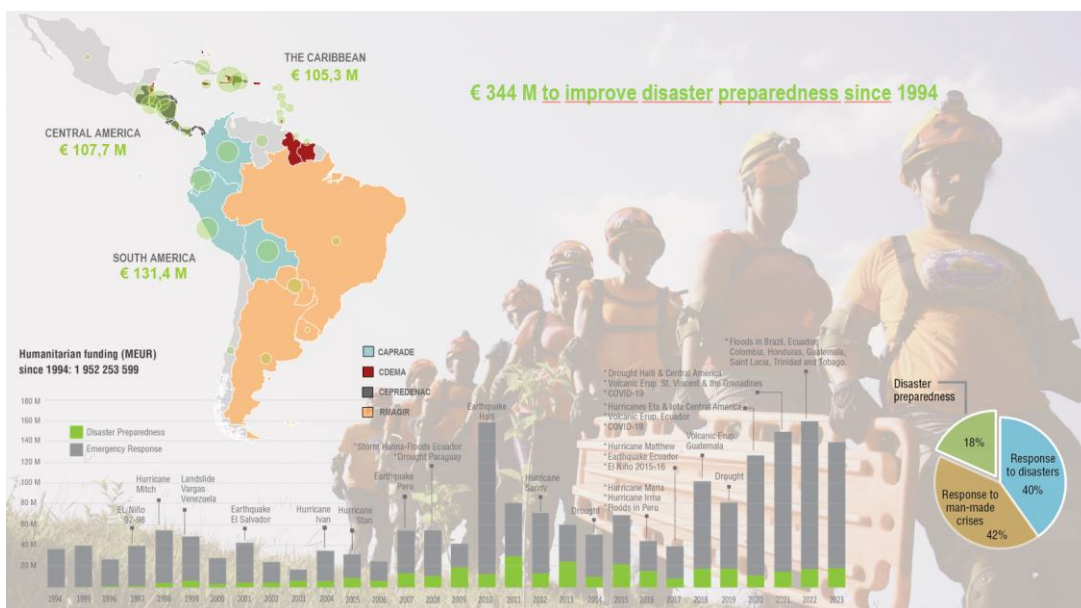


Past and upcoming events

On the 6th of October, DG ECHO in cooperation with UNDRR organised a technical workshop, in virtual modality, to discuss the third possible pillar of cooperation within the envisaged MoU (information sharing on DRM experience and existing cooperation frameworks). The workshop had a similar format as the one organised for pillar 1 and 2 in Brussels in July, included the participation of the concerned EU services and three of the intergovernmental organisms.

Next opportunities to concretely engage in this dialogue on disaster preparedness and comprehensive disaster risk management and share the progress done in the elaboration of the MoU are offered by the Climate Week in Panama (23-26 October), the 25th anniversary of the hurricane Mitch in Honduras in October (30 October – 2 November), and COP28 in Dubai in December. Such opportunities will provide space for follow up discussions between the parties involved in the drafting of the MoU but also to sensitise and update the interested counterparts on the initiative.

Background



[EU-CELAC summit, 17-18 July 2023](#)

[Main results](#)

[Disaster preparedness](#)