

EU-LAC PARTNERSHIP ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RISK MANAGEMENT

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Issue 2

MoU DRAFTING COMMITTEE

The MOU Drafting Committee, composed of representatives of the **European Commission** (DG ECHO), **CEPREDENAC** (Coordination Centre for Disaster Prevention in Central America and the Dominican Republic), **CDEMA** (Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency), **SGCAN** (General Secretariat of the Andean Community), **MERCOSUR/RMAGIR** (Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities for Integrated Disaster Risk Management) and accompanied by UNDRR, met throughout October and November. The Republic of **Chile** officially joined the process of elaborating the Memorandum in November this year. In August, suggested adjustments to the Concept Note had been presented by MERCOSUR and agreed to by the IGOs. In September, MERCOSUR presented a draft version of the Memorandum to serve as the basis and starting point for the discussions of the Drafting Committee. In October, the initiative of the Memorandum was presented to the members of the CEPREDENAC Representative Council at the III ordinary session in San Pedro de Sula, Honduras, who endorsed it.

The Drafting Committee has worked efficiently, demonstrating the dedication and interest of all representatives to advance the process through a dynamic and collaborative dialogue. The last meeting of the Drafting Committee took place on 6 December, with the purpose to finalise the process of developing the draft Memorandum, which will be formally submitted for consideration by the authorities of the respective participating bodies.

Recent Events

COP28 Event at SICA Pavilion in Dubai

In the framework of COP28, on 3 December, SICA/CEPREDENAC together with DG ECHO co-organised an event on the EU-LAC partnership, aimed at promoting and developing actions to contribute to the process of strengthening disaster preparedness, early warning and climate resilience. The high-level event was attended by the European Union Commissioner for Crisis Management, Janez Lenarčič; the Minister of Education and Sustainable Development of Saint Lucia, Shawn Edward; the Minister of Risk Management of Honduras, Dario Garcia; the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction, Mami Mizutori; the Secretary General of the General Secretariat of the Andean Community, Gonzalo Gutierrez; and the Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Jagan Chapagain. The event allowed for an exchange on the importance of building partnerships to reduce the impact of adverse events. Drawing from longstanding EU-LAC cooperation in the

field of disaster reduction and preparedness, the added value of such partnerships being negotiated was highlighted.



Mitch+25 Forum

Around 400 people participated in person at the [Mitch+25 Forum](#) held between 31 October and 2 November in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. Participants included UN agencies, donors (European Union, Japan, Spain, Switzerland, and the United States, among others), local and international NGOs, disaster risk reduction specialists, civil protection and disaster risk management officials from different countries in LAC, scientists, academia, private sector, civil society and others. The main objective of the Forum was to analyse the progress achieved in the 25 years since hurricane Mitch, identify current challenges, and create a joint roadmap that promotes resilience, innovation, and collaboration in the Central American Integration System -SICA- region to build a safer and more sustainable future better prepared to face emerging risks and multiple hazards. The Forum provided the opportunity to take stock of progress made and current challenges of disaster risk management in Central America. During the Forum, Alvaro de Vicente, Head of the ECHO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, together with Dr. Claudia Herrera, Executive Secretary of CEPREDENAC, presented the MoU during one of the panels.

For further information, please refer to the recently published report by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) [América Central a 25 años del Huracán Mitch: El difícil avance de la gestión integral de riesgo de desastres](#) (Spanish only, English translation forthcoming).

