

EU-LAC PARTNERSHIP ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RISK MANAGEMENT

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Issue 3

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) State of Play

As the MoU's drafting phase was completed in December, the document was submitted to the respective authorities of the participating bodies for consideration and final approval.

The **European Commission** has internally adopted the document, which is now under validation at the Council of the EU. The **Coordination Centre for Disaster Prevention in Central America (CEPREDENAC)** has accepted the drafted document, which is in the process of approval by the Council of Representatives. For the **Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)**, the 13th meeting of its Council of Ministers endorsed the Concept Note: Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation on Disaster Preparedness and Risk Management between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean in June 2023. CDEMA acknowledges that the MOU is aligned with their regional and institutional strategic frameworks and will be pleased to sign the MOU at the signing ceremony. The **Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR)** has held meetings with the states parties in order to make them aware of the document and requested them to carry out the corresponding procedures and consultations in their Ministries of Foreign Affairs or cooperation agencies working in the area of Disaster Risk Management, in order to obtain the approval to enable them to sign the document. The **General Secretariat of the Andean Community (SG CAN)** is in the process of reviewing the document in order to ensure its alignment with the Andean Strategy for Disaster Risk Management of the Andean Community Member Countries. The **Republic of Chile** is in the process of final review of the document, in order to verify its alignment with its national regulations and to establish the appropriate level of signature of the document.

Update on Mexico and Cuba

Mexico and Cuba, as not belonging to any of the institutions, have been kept informed throughout the drafting process and have been invited to join the MoU at different stages, last time after completing the drafting in December 2023. **Cuba** has now formally expressed their interest to sign the MoU together with the other participating bodies and initiated its internal validation process.

Upcoming Events

Signature Event in Barbados – May 2024

The formal signature of the MoU will take place in Barbados on 15 May 2024, with the presence of the United Nations Regional Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) as a witness of honour.

The signature event will be hosted by the Prime Minister of Barbados, Mrs. Mia Mottley, and CDEMA, and co-organised by the European Commission together with UNDRR. The Signature of the MoU will be combined with a first High-Level Ministerial Dialogue on the perspectives and objectives of the strategic alliance that will be established between the two regions within the framework of the Memorandum.

The participants of the high-level session will conduct a joint field visit in Barbados. Additionally, a technical workshop among the MoU actors will be held at the margins of the high-level events. The purpose is to provide an opportunity to discuss lines of cooperation within and among sub-regions, the broader LAC region and between the EU and LAC region. The parallel events will also provide an opportunity to review advances and contributions to the Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and Caribbean 2015-2030.

Initial discussions note that immediate actions within the framework of the renewed collaboration could include South-South and triangular exchanges to test cross-border humanitarian assistance protocols, opportunities to strengthen information and data collection and exchange through COPERNICUS and other systems, as well as capacity strengthening on related issues.

EU Humanitarian Implementation Plan 2024

The European Commission has published its Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP) for Latin America and the Caribbean for the year 2024, which details the priorities on Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Preparedness the Commission has identified.

Under Disaster Preparedness, the focus remains on regional and national multi-hazard preparedness for response and early action, while exploring synergies with the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) and Nexus opportunities with development actions and Team Europe Initiatives.

The overall aim of Disaster Preparedness actions in the region is to create better prepared and more resilient communities and institutions to face natural and human-made hazards, through strengthened relations between preparedness, emergency and resilience actions with grass-root communities, civil society organisations as well as local, national and regional authorities and institutions.

For further information, please refer to the [ECHO website](#) and the [Latin America and Caribbean Humanitarian Implementation Plan 2024](#). Please note that the press announcement of the HIP 2024 has not been made yet.