

EU-LAC PARTNERSHIP ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RISK MANAGEMENT

November 2024
Issue 7

Latest on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

The MoU signatories have adopted an implementation plan, which outlines short-, medium- and long-term activities to be implemented within the scope of three areas of collaboration: 1) strengthening response capacities; 2) strengthening prevention, preparedness, response and early recovery capacities; and 3) exchange of knowledge, experiences and good practices. The MoU signatories have included activities that align with the common priorities of all the signatories, as well as their own individual priorities.

In this first phase of implementation, priority is given to short-term actions that are feasible and largely beneficial across the region. This aims at producing more immediate results, while simultaneously planning the medium- and longer-term actions, including a focus on identifying and strengthening possible synergies and partnerships. The MoU implementation is already fully underway, as evidenced by the events and activities listed below, marking important progress on several key priority areas outlined in the implementation plan.

Recent events and updates

In response to the ongoing very active Atlantic hurricane season, the EU and its partners have been mobilising support across the Caribbean and Central America. For more on the EU's support so far: [click here](#). CDEMA has followed up on the after-action reviews of the different partners to identify challenges and lessons learned and has conducted a regional simulation exercise with WFP on port operations in humanitarian response, as well as an ITU-ETC Caribbean Emergency Telecommunications Preparedness workshop. In addition, a comprehensive review of post-emergency actions following the 2024 emergency events will be held in Barbados from 14-16 January 2025. In parallel to the process of updating the Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) strategy until 2030, the 2024 hurricane season has highlighted the need to establish new models for humanitarian preparedness and response in the Caribbean, which will be presented during the CDM event.

On 10-11 October, the **VII Forum on Integrated Disaster Risk Management Policies (PCGIR) in Central America** took place in Guatemala City. The Forum provided an opportunity for CEPREDENAC member countries to discuss PCGIR implementation, in line with the Sendai Framework and the 2024-2030 Regional Plan for Integrated Disaster Risk Management. There



were several side events, that included participation of MoU signatories, namely CEPREDENAC, Chile and the EU. The Forum reaffirmed a strategic agenda that promotes regional resilience through financing, anticipatory action and greater multi-sector integration under the leadership of CEPREDENAC.

On 5-8 November, the **7th meeting of the Group of Experts on Forest Fires for Latin America and the Caribbean (GEFF LAC)** was held in Quito, Ecuador. The meeting gathered donors and relevant organisations from across the region to establish synergies with the work of the expert group. More information can be found [here](#).

On 12 November, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the General Secretariat of the Andean Community (SG CAN) held a **technical exchange for the prevention and management of crises caused by forest fires in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru**. The event, framed in the implementation of the MoU, provided the opportunity to exchange knowledge and experiences in the management of forest fires between the authorities that lead disaster management in the CAN countries and representatives of the United Nations and the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM).

On 26-27 November, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) held a Regional Policy Dialogue under the Disaster Risk Management Network in Santiago, Chile, entitled **Strengthening Alliances and International Cooperation for Combating Forest Fires in the Context of Climate Change**. The dialogue provided a space to share findings and lessons learned from the provision of mutual aid in combating forest fires. As next steps, the Network will analyse the dialogue's outcomes to consider permanent mechanisms for exchange and cooperation among Latin American countries.

Upcoming Events

CDEMA and partners continue preparations for the upcoming 13th Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Conference entitled **CDM Road to Resilience: Checkpoint 2024 – Levelling Up for a Dynamic Future** to be held in St. Kitts and Nevis between 2-6 December 2024. On 2 December, a hybrid and closed side-event for MOU signatories, together with UNDRR, will take place. Among other items on the agenda is a session on 5 December on the Anticipatory Action model as an alternative humanitarian response mechanism in the Caribbean. Further information on the CDM Conference can be found here: <https://cdema.org/cdm13>

Relevant publications

The Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network has published its latest [newsletter](#) that contains updates, learning and scientific developments concerning the civil protection community. The Knowledge Network also recently organised a workshop on *Artificial Intelligence in Disaster Risk Management* that is publicly available [here](#).

The Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) training programme is also pleased to share with you a new online training module - the [Mechanism Introduction Course for National Civil Protection and Disaster Management Staff \(NAT\)](#). The NAT course is designed to support disaster management authorities at all levels to better understand the UCPM and its functioning.

