

# EU-LAC PARTNERSHIP ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RISK MANAGEMENT

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## Latest on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

2025 implementation of the MoU is in full swing! The year was off to a busy start, with some events already taking place and many more planned ahead.

### Upcoming second High-Level Dialogue on disaster risk management

The first dialogue, which took place in Barbados in May 2024 on the margins of the EU LAC MOU signature event, was a landmark high-level exchange between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean on disaster risk management. This first dialogue also marked an important opportunity for MoU signatories to come together in person to discuss critical issues, such as the impacts of climate change, the importance of early warning systems and resilient infrastructure for a more risk ready region. The second dialogue is scheduled to take place as a closed side event during the UNDRR Global Platform in Geneva in the week of 2-6 June. For more details about the Global Platform event, or to register for the event itself, find all the latest details [here](#).

## Recent events and updates

On 24-26 February, CDEMA undertook an **after-action review of its own regional response mechanism (RRM) in 2024**, with a particular focus on the response to Hurricane Beryl. The event, which was also attended by the EU and UNDRR, provided an opportunity to strengthen regional coordination frameworks and develop an action plan to prioritise interventions that enhance the RRM's future effectiveness.

The European Space Agency, together with DG INTPA of the European Commission, is undertaking a series of **Copernicus trainings for the LAC region** this year in close coordination with the Copernicus hub in Panama. On 24-28 February, representatives from MoU signatories' entities participated in the first of a series of Copernicus trainings planned for 2025. This was a five-day virtual course on **applications of remote sensing for disaster risk reduction and forest fire preparedness**. MOU signatories also participated in an in-person Copernicus training from 24-28 March in Bogota, Colombia on **remote sensing applied to flood risks**, which included attendance from three MOU signatory representatives. Find out more about upcoming trainings [here](#).



## Upcoming Events

Several **disaster risk management events** are scheduled to take place in the coming weeks, including the [Sustainable Development Forum](#) organised by the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC) between 31 March-4 April that will include discussions on climate change, disaster risk management and resilient infrastructure. In addition, the **South American DRM Working Group – Brasília Consensus** is currently finalising a 2025-2026 action plan together with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF).

On 26-30 March, the **IDB hosted its annual meeting** in Santiago de Chile. During these four days, a technical workshop will be organised on disaster risk management, during which IDB will launch its programme, entitled “*Ready and Resilient Americas - Regional Impact Program on Disaster Risk Management*”. Disaster Risk Management national and sub-regional institutions took part in the meeting.

On 1-4 April, a technical meeting will take place in Panama on the **coordination mechanisms between the health sector and the national civil protection systems in response to epidemics**. The workshop, organised by PAHO, is part of the DG ECHO-funded emergency response to PAHO for the dengue outbreak in Central and South America and will include the participation of CEPREDENAC.

On 14 April, **CDEMA will conduct its Synergy exercise**, a flagship simulation designed to test and enhance the coordination, resource mobilization, logistics, information management and multi-agency collaboration of emergency response operations among partners of the Caribbean Development Partners Group (ECDPG). The exercise was conceptualized as a command post exercise to improve collaboration among four key CARICOM agencies and serves as a vital tool for stress-testing the RRM.

On 7-8 May, in response to the very active 2024 Atlantic hurricane season, the **First Regional Coordination Meeting** will take place for the **2025 Hurricane Season**. Hosted by the Dominican Republic and organised by CEPREDENAC, this event aims to analyse key lessons learned across the region, as well as the challenges and opportunities in humanitarian coordination. The discussion will focus on strengthening hurricane preparedness for 2025 from a regional perspective. MoU signatories have been invited to attend, to ensure that the event has a fully regional perspective.

In early May, CDEMA delegates plans to undertake a visit to Cuba, together with representatives from the civil protection authorities and research institutes from other Caribbean countries to exchange on disaster prevention and preparedness, and in particular on seismic risks.

From 19-23 May, the next Copernicus training will take place, this time in Barbados. This English training will be targeted for the Caribbean region and CDEMA will be participating from the MOU signatories.



Also in May, following recent engagements between the European Commission and the **Amazon Cooperation Organisation Treaty (ACTO)** to further enhance synergies between wildfire management and forest governance, ACTO representatives will be in Brussels. During this study trip, ACTO representatives will take the opportunity to visit the EU's Emergency Response Coordination Centre and to learn more about its Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

## Relevant publications

The European Commission recently published an in-depth independent expert report on [Exploring the state-of-play of nature-based solutions in the EU and LAC : building a foundation for collaboration](#). It is available for you to download in English, Spanish and Portuguese!

More information on UNDRR's Regional Assessment Report on Disaster Risk in Latin America and the Caribbean 2024 (RAR24) can also be found [here](#). The RAR24 focuses on financing and investment for disaster risk reduction (DRR) in Latin America and the Caribbean. The report presents various analyses and recommendations, based on evidence and a thorough historical understanding of risk, to support the design and promotion of innovative, inclusive, and sustainable financing mechanisms and instruments that underpin investment in DRR in its prospective, corrective, and compensatory elements.

Please also click here to explore the fourteenth edition of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism [Knowledge Network newsletter](#), featuring updates on critical communication systems, scientific analysis on drought risks and wildfires in Europe, and much more!

Finally, on 26 March, the European Commission adopted its communication on the "European Preparedness Union Strategy". [Click here](#) to find more information.

