

EU-LAC PARTNERSHIP ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RISK MANAGEMENT

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Issue 9

Latest on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

Following the one-year anniversary of the MoU in May of this year, Chile and CDEMA has passed the metaphorical baton of technical secretariat rotating membership to Cuba and CEPREDENAC. While thanking Chile and CDEMA for their dedication over the past year, we welcome Cuba and CEPREDENAC and look forward to their leadership for the next 12-month period, together with the sustained support from the permanent secretariat members, the EU and UNDRR.

A detailed report on the first year of implementation of the MOU is available [HERE](#).

Recent events and updates

Second High-Level Dialogue on disaster risk management

The Second High-Level Political Dialogue, organised under the MOU framework, between the European Union (EU) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) took place on **5 June 2025** in Geneva during the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP2025). The dialogue, centred on disaster risk financing, provided an opportunity to consolidate political commitment and deepen technical collaboration. The dialogue saw several high-level speakers, including the EU's Commissioner for Equality, Crisis Preparedness and Management, Hadja Lahbib; the Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Jagan Chapagain; and the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), Kamal Kishore. Other speakers at the dialogue included international financial institutions engaged in disaster risk management across LAC (the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean), as well as an intervention from AECID, Spain on its Financing for Development Conference that took place in Sevilla in July.

More information about the high-level event can be found in the press release [HERE](#).

Copernicus trainings



From 30 June-4 July 2025, the CopernicusLAC Panama Centre launched a regional training on remote sensing applied to land use, land cover and floods. This training took place in Clayton, Panama and the participants were trained in intermediate and advanced Earth Observation tools designed to decipher and manage land use and land cover dynamics, as well as to mitigate the impact of floods and effectively manage disasters.

Additionally, from 7-11 July, the CopernicusLAC Panama Centre conducted another training course, this time in Mexico City at the National Centre for Disaster Prevention of Mexico (CENAPRED) facilities. The course focused on creating a deeper understanding of the fundamental role of Earth Observation in environmental protection, by delving into the vast potential of Copernicus data and enhancing skills in forest ecosystem monitoring and assessment.

These training included participants from Mexican and Panamanian institutions, as well as other MOU signatories, including Chile, CEPREDENAC and CAN.

Update on the hurricane season

By end of August, the 2025 Atlantic hurricane season, which began on June 1, has seen five named storms so far (Andrea, Barry, Chantal, Dexter, and Erin), with Erin becoming the first major hurricane, even reaching Category 5 at peak intensity. Forecasters in the region and internationally indicate above-normal activity, expecting more named storms, hurricanes, and potential rapid intensification events.

In the Caribbean region, the outer bands of Hurricane Erin brought heavy rains, strong winds, and power outages to territories like Turks and Caicos, Central Bahamas, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, prompting tropical storm watches for northern islands. Authorities monitored additional tropical waves tracking westward from Africa, some with low to moderate development potential, and there's elevated vigilance as the season enters its peak in late August and September.

EU-LAC Digital Alliance Week

From 22-26 September, the EU-LAC Digital Alliance Week took place in Antigua, Guatemala, to showcase all the progress of the EU-LAC Digital Alliance since its inception in 2023. It served as a space to discuss jointly upcoming cooperation initiatives. It covered important regional topics, such as artificial intelligence, earth observation, data governance and cyber security.

Upcoming Events

From 6-8 October, the *South American Dialogue on Inclusive Disaster Preparedness: Gender, Displacement, and Migration*, will take place in Quito, Ecuador, convened by IOM and funded by DG ECHO, in coordination with the South American Conference on Migration (CSM) and the SG CAN. The event will bring together representatives from the MOU signatories as well as all South American countries, with a specific focus on risk management and human mobility.

Relevant publications

Please also click [here](#) to explore the fifteenth edition of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism [Knowledge Network newsletter](#), featuring updates on the UNDRR Global Platform event in June,



articles on how Artificial Intelligence can strengthen disaster preparedness in Europe, gender dimensions in disaster preparedness, and much more!

