

# **Civil Society Group Statement to the 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas**

**Montreal, Canada, 7-9 March 2017**

We, civil society organizations from the Americas Region, hereby come to express our contributions and commitments to support implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

## **Why civil society is an important partner**

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction emphasizes the principle of all-of-society engagement in resilience building. In particular, the Sendai Framework recognizes the need for civil society organizations (CSOs) to collaborate with public institutions:

“to, among others, provide specific knowledge and pragmatic guidance in the context of the development and implementation of normative frameworks, standards and plans for disaster risk reduction; engage in the implementation of local, national, regional and global plans and strategies; contribute to and support public awareness, a culture of prevention and education on disaster risk; and advocate for resilient communities and an inclusive and all-of-society disaster risk management” (2015:V.36a).

CSOs attending the 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) want to contribute to the success of the Sendai Framework and interrelated global agendas (including Agenda 2030, the commitments and outcomes from the World Humanitarian Summit, the Paris Agreement, and the New Urban Agenda), through an integrated and holistic approach increasingly recognized by all sectors and actors. CSOs will contribute to the interconnections and innovations needed to increase the resilience of the most at-risk communities. Civil society has a vital role to play through its specialized expertise, understanding of local-level realities and contexts, innovative perspective and proven community connections.

The effectiveness of the Sendai Framework for DRR (and other interrelated global agendas) will depend on the meaningful participation of local people in the design, implementation and monitoring of relevant policies, standards and plans. This in turn requires a supportive institutional and political environment to facilitate the engagement of local people and actors, together with access to adequate means of implementation for local actions.

## **Civil society commitments**

We CSOs hereby commit to the following actions in support of the Americas Regional Plan for implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR:

1. Support the building of overall resilience of communities, specifically looking at underlying drivers of risk, small and neglected everyday disasters, livelihoods and health.
2. Support the building of knowledge and capacity of local leaders and communities to monitor hazards and exposure through coordination with national and local governments.
3. Support establishment of community-based early warning systems at the local level, integrating local and scientific knowledge.
4. Assess age, gender, ethnicity and disability-disaggregated data to monitor social vulnerabilities in all initiatives.
5. Foster forums with local leadership on DRR, building inter-agenda bridges and breaking sectoral silos.

6. Promote and support, at the local level, formal and informal education on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, and enhance the implementation of comprehensive school safety frameworks at the national and local levels.
7. Support the institutionalization of community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) to strengthen the resilience of households and communities at the local level.
8. Strengthen local community capacity in all critical areas of response and recovery.
9. Promote and engage in an 'interconnected sectors networking' response in the region.
10. Promote and contribute to the implementation of a local level assessment to determine the views of the most at-risk communities, as a complementary perspective for monitoring the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

**CSOs commit to undertaking the following specific actions for the period 2017-2018:**

1. Create and develop the Americas Local Communities Forum for Disaster Resilience.
2. Contribute to strengthening DRR platforms at all levels, by participating and providing evidence from the local level.
3. Support the strengthening of coordination across public-and-private sector initiatives.
4. Gather, document, and share best practices on DRR at the local level, using an integrated and cross-sectoral approach.
5. Work with UNISDR to establish a civil society advisory group for the Americas Region.

**Our call to governments**

To support delivery of these commitments, we call on all governments and partners to:

- **Break down sectoral silos**

Communities do not perceive or experience risks in isolation. On the ground, problems are diverse and interlinked. There is a need to break down silos, make inter-sectoral links and build bridges between the diversity of local actors required for effective DRR. Vulnerability needs to be tackled by identifying the new drivers for risk in the region in a more holistic approach. This includes preparedness for all disasters, from nuclear disasters to everyday recurrent disasters.

Governments in the Americas must ensure that their national action plans strengthen coherence with Agenda 2030, the Paris Agreement, and agendas arising from the World Humanitarian Summit and Habitat III, to address climate change and other underlying risk drivers, and build resilience of communities and their natural and agricultural environment. This includes alignment of targets and indicators, and complementarity of budgets and activities across all relevant public agencies.

- **Include local people to safeguard the interests of most at-risk groups**

Across all priority areas, the implementation of Sendai Framework plans must include partnership with people most at-risk, and should begin at the community level. The participation and leadership of disproportionately at-risk groups (including women, children and youth, people with disabilities, older people, smallholder farmers, indigenous people and migrants) is essential. Inclusion needs to be addressed as a cross-cutting issue, and policies and systems must prioritize specific needs to address the particular challenges facing the most disadvantaged groups.

- **Promote local leadership for greater DRR impact**

Risks and disaster have the most acute impacts at the local level. Strengthening local leadership and promoting gender balance are key. CSOs can contribute to developing local capacities, in line with the global approach of the Sendai Framework, and in promoting local leadership and monitoring for local actions.

- **Localize DRR funding**

Equitable implementation of the Sendai Framework at all levels will require comprehensive budgeting and allocations for funds, local-level access to information, innovative technologies and capacity-building. We call on States and partners to ensure that DRR activities are consistently and predictably financed and integrated into all development and humanitarian programs in advance and at the local level, addressing underlying causes of risk and vulnerabilities.

Operational procedures to release funds for DRR must also be significantly simplified and localized to ensure that they meet local needs in a timely fashion.

- **Use local evidence in decision-making**

Decision-making at the national and local levels must be informed by, and sensitive to, local risks, priorities, and knowledge. Countries must support the building of accessible evidence-based databases, including information identified as key for the region such as land use, ecosystem vulnerabilities and urban territorial planning. The need for standardized mechanisms to collect and use disaggregated data has been repeatedly identified, and must be met in the Americas Region.

- **Ensure enforcement, governance and accountability for DRR actions**

Even where strong policies are put in place, lack of accountability can jeopardize the effectiveness of plans and risk governance. DRR action plans must contain meaningful transparent, institutionalized accountability mechanisms that ensure citizen participation.

- **Support inclusive platforms at all levels for meaningful multi-actor dialogues to monitor Sendai Framework implementation**

Inclusive platforms are critical to implement a bottom-up approach to move from plans to actions. Such platforms allow for meaningful dialogue among public and private sectors, and contributions from all perspectives – among them CSOs specifically devoted to work at local level, including women’s organizations.

- **Invest in CSO networks to enhance south-south cooperation**

Regional organizations and networks can play a valuable role as facilitators of knowledge sharing, innovation exchange and building capacity for action. The involvement of CSOs in south-south cooperation and cross-border engagement can lead to greater collective outcomes. National and regional civil society and other networks should be strengthened, reproducing and building on existing best practices from the region.

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Statement drafted by the Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC) and the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR).

Inputs and endorsements received from:

1. ACCION A. G. (Red de ONGs Chilena)
2. ACP Civil Society Forum – Barbados
3. ACT-Alianza – Regional LAC
4. Action Secours Ambulance (ASA) – Haiti
5. Agrupamiento Mburucuya de Uruguay
6. Alianza por la Resiliencia – Guatemala
7. Amigos del Viento Meteorología Ambiente Desarrollo – Uruguay

8. AQUAVIDA – Bolivia
9. Artigas 86 – Uruguay
10. Arquitectos De Desastres – Sociedad Central de Arquitectos – Argentina
11. Asociación Chilena Pro Naciones Unidas – ACHNU Chile
12. Asociación Civil por la Igualdad y la Justicia (ACIJ) – Argentina
13. Asociación Coordinadora Comunitaria de Servicios para la Salud – Guatemala
14. ASONOG (Asociación de Organismos No Gubernamentales) – Honduras
15. Asociación de Proyectos Comunales de El Salvador
16. Asociación Ministerio Diaconal Paz y Esperanza – Peru
17. Asociación para la Educación y el Desarrollo – ASEDE Guatemala
18. Asociación para una Sociedad Más Justa – Honduras
19. Asociacion Tesai Reka Paraguay
20. Asociación Unidos por La Vida – Guatemala
21. Asociación Vecinal Barrio Saladero de Bahía Blanca – Argentina
22. Associacion Grupamento de Bomberos Civil Voluntários – GBCV (Brasil)
23. Association Haitienne pour la Promotion des Handicapes – Haiti
24. ADEVAS Agencia de Desarrollo Departamental de Ocotepeque “Valle de Sensenti” – Honduras
25. ADROH Asociación para el Desarrollo Rural de Honduras
26. AESMO Asociación Ecológica de San Marcos Ocotepeque – Honduras
27. APDI Asociación Popular de Desarrollo Integral – Honduras
28. ATRIDEST Asociación del Trifinio para el Desarrollo Sostenible – Honduras
29. AMIR Asociación de Mujeres Intibucanas – Honduras
30. ASIDE Asociación de Investigación para el Desarrollo Ecológico y Socioeconómico – Honduras
31. Bagulhadores do Mió – Brazil
32. CARE Canada
33. Caritas Chile
34. CARSAL Cooperativa Agropecuaria Regional Santabarbarensense Ltda – Honduras
35. CASM Comisión de Acción Social Menonita – Honduras
36. Centro al Servicio de la Acción Popular – CESAP Venezuela
37. Centro Alexander von Humboldt – Nicaragua
38. Centro de Asesoramiento para el Desarrollo Social Bolivia
39. Centro de Estudios y Prevención de Desastres (PREDES) – Peru
40. Centro de Estudios, Análisis y Documentación del Uruguay
41. Centro de Investigación y Acción para el Desarrollo Urbano – Peru
42. Centro de Jubilados Puerto Viejo Bahía Blanca – Argentina
43. Centro de Protección Para Desastres – El Salvador
44. Centro Estratégico para el Desarrollo Sostenible – Chile
45. Centro Intereclesial de Estudios Teológicos y Sociales – Nicaragua
46. CISP – Sviluppo dei Popoli Regional LAC Office
47. Club Agrario La Juventud – Uruguay
48. Comisión de Acción Social Menonita – Honduras
49. Comité de Emergencia Garifuna de Honduras
50. Comunidad de Historia Mapuche – Chile
51. Comunidades Cristianas de Apoyo – Guatemala
52. Concertación Regional para la Gestión de Riesgos – CRGR Centro América
53. Confederación Colombiana de ONG – Colombia
54. Consejo de Iglesias de Cuba
55. Conservación del Territorio Insular Mexicano
56. Construction Resource & Development Centre – Jamaica
57. Construyendo Sociedad – Paraguay
58. Convergencia Ciudadana para la Gestión de Riesgos – COCIGER – Guatemala
59. Cooperativa de Asistencia Técnica Transdisciplinar – Uruguay
60. CopaU – Uruguay (Consumidores organizados de la producción agroecológica del Uruguay)

61. Corporación de Estudios Sociales y Educación – Chile
62. Corporación Gestión del Riesgo Acción Integra – Colombia
63. Corporación Nueva Acropolis Chile
64. Corporación para la Gestión del Riesgo – Colombia
65. COPRAOL Cooperativa Regional Agrícola Ambiental de Occidente, Ltda. – Honduras
66. COPROCAA Comité de Protección del Parque Nacional Cerro Azul y Ambiente – Honduras
67. CUDRR+R – Center for Urban Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience
68. CULTURA AMBIENTAL – Uruguay
69. DIA Desarrollo Integral Alternativo – Honduras
70. El Centro de Asesoramiento para el Desarrollo Social, CADES – Bolivia
71. Equipo Metodista de Ayuda Humanitaria Chile
72. Faith & the Common Good on behalf of CLARION
73. Federation des Organisations Sociales du Grand Nord (FOSGN) – Haiti
74. Foro Ciudades para la Vida – Peru
75. Frente Social de Vecinos Unidos con Propiedad AC – Venezuela
76. Fundación Alto Rio – Chile
77. Fundación Asperger Chile
78. Fundación Azimuth – Colombia
79. Fundación de Mujeres Luna Creciente – Ecuador
80. Fundación del ALTO – Argentina
81. Fundación Ecuémica Guatemalteca “Esperanza y Fraternidad” – Guatemala
82. Fundación Guatemala
83. Fundación Humanidad y Desarrollo – Ecuador
84. Fundación Maquilishuatl – El Salvador
85. Fundación Nacional para la Superación de la Pobreza – Chile
86. Fundación Orlando Robleto Gallo – Nicaragua
87. Fundación para el Desarrollo Alternativo Responsable para Galápagos – Ecuador
88. Fundación para el Desarrollo Comunal y Municipal – El Salvador
89. Fundación Red de Solidaridad Ciudadana – Venezuela
90. Fundación Salvadoreña para la Promoción Social y el Desarrollo Económico – El Salvador
91. Fundación Social Equipo Metodista de Ayuda Humanitaria – Chile
92. Fundación Unidos con Propiedad AC República Bolivariana de Venezuela
93. Fundación Red de Solidaridad Ciudadana
94. FUNDAR GALAPAGOS
95. Fundación Parque Nacional Pico Bonito – Honduras
96. German Arbeiter– Samariter– Bund (ASB) Regional LAC Office
97. Global Infancia – Paraguay
98. Grupamento de Bombeiros Civis Voluntários – GBCV – Brazil
99. Grupo Impulsor de la Gestión de Riesgos de Desastres – Peru
100. Grupo Social CESAP de Venezuela
101. Habitat for Humanity International
102. Habitat para la Humanidad LAC Office – Costa Rica
103. Hábitat para la Humanidad Argentina
104. Hábitat para la Humanidad Guatemala
105. Hábitat para la Humanidad El Salvador
106. Hábitat para la Humanidad Chile
107. Handicap International – Canada
108. Initiative Citoyenne du Nord-Ouest pour la Democratie et le Developpement – Haiti
109. Instituto de Desarrollo Urbano – Peru
110. Instituto de Investigación, Capacitación y Desarrollo de la Mujer – El Salvador
111. Instituto del Río Negro (INDRA) Instituto para el Desarrollo Rural y Aguas – Uruguay
112. Instituto para la Superación de la Miseria Urbana de Guatemala
113. InterAction

114. International Association of Emergency Managers El Salvador
115. International Security and Safety Protection Professional Asociation – Peru
116. IUTUS - Instituto Uruguayo de Turismo Sustentable
117. Mesa Forestal y Ambiental de Huehuetenango – Guatemala
118. Mesa Nacional de Incidencia para la Gestion de Riesgos – Honduras
119. Mesa Nacional para la Gestión de Riesgos – Nicaragua
120. Mesa Permanente para la Gestión de Riesgos – El Salvador
121. Movimiento Comunal Nicaraguense – Nicaragua
122. Movimiento Nacional de Mujeres de Sectores Populares del Ecuador Luna Creciente
123. Municipios frente al Cambio Climático – Argentina
124. Nexo - Asociación Civil Comunicación para la Reducción del Riesgo de Desastres – Argentina
125. ONG ESTRATEGIA – Paraguay
126. ONG Inclusiva – Chile
127. Oxfam LAC
128. Oxfam Québec
129. OCDIH Organismo Cristiano de Desarrollo Integral de Honduras
130. ODECO Organización para el Desarrollo de Corquin – Honduras
131. Asociación Proyectos e Iniciativas Locales para el Autodesarrollo Regional de Honduras
132. Plan International Canada
133. Practical Action Regional LAC Office
134. PRO VIDA, Asociación Salvadoreña de Ayuda Humanitaria – El Salvador
135. Pronatura de Republica Dominicana
136. Psicólogos Sin Fronteras Venezuela
137. RAPID LA – Peru
138. READAPT – Brazil
139. Red de Ambientalistas en Acción – El Salvador
140. Redescubre A.C. – México
141. Réseau des Volontaires pour la Promotion de la Démocratie et du Developpement d'Haiti
142. RET International Regional LAC Office
143. SEDYS-Trujillo – Peru
144. Servicio Social de Iglesias Dominicanas (SSID) – Republica Dominicana
145. Sociedad Ecológica Conservacionista Aragua – Venezuela
146. Sustainable Development Institute – IDEST – Brazil
147. TECHO – Argentina
148. Unidad de Rescate Nacional Rep Dominicana
149. Union des Amis Socio Culturels d'Action en Developpement – Haiti
150. Union Nacional de Productores Asociados – Nicaragua
151. UTC Unión de Trabajadores del Campo – Honduras
152. La Paz – Unión de Trabajadores del Campo Regional La Paz – Honduras
153. World Accord
154. World Animal Protection – LAC
155. World Vision Canada