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## Communiqué of Guayaquil, Ecuador

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### Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

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- 6 1. We, participants at the Fourth Session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk  
7 Reduction in the Americas,<sup>1</sup> meeting in Guayaquil, Ecuador from 27 to 29 May 2014,  
8 thank the people and Government of the Republic of Ecuador, particularly the Risk  
9 Management Secretariat and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, for  
10 the hospitality and support provided for the successful carrying out of this Fourth  
11 Session of the Regional Platform:
- 12 2. Acknowledge the substantial contributions of the Hyogo Framework for Action  
13 (HFA) 2005-2015 to the formulation of strategies and policies for disaster risk  
14 management.<sup>2</sup> In order progress towards eradicating poverty, reducing inequality and  
15 achieving sustainable and inclusive development, it is necessary to assess progress  
16 and challenges in implementing disaster risk management policies at all territorial and  
17 sectoral levels and suggest the necessary adjustments of the post-2015 Framework for  
18 Action.
- 19 3. Highlight that the economic loss and damage resulting from disasters and their impact  
20 on development continue to increase, mainly from disasters associated with the  
21 occurrence of low-intensity recurrent hydro-meteorological events. Moreover, this  
22 situation tends to be aggravated by population growth and current patterns of  
23 development, in particular accelerated urbanization which, when accompanied by  
24 weak structures of governance, leads to higher levels of exposure and a greater level  
25 of vulnerability in general of nations and communities.
- 26 4. Emphasize the great opportunity to influence, from the participants' respective realms  
27 of action, the negotiations on the definition of the Post-2015 Development Agenda,  
28 the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as well as  
29 the new strategic agenda arising from the World Humanitarian Summit.
- 30 5. Highlight the leadership of national governments and the significant progress in the  
31 transformation of the legal and institutional frameworks and practices with the aim of  
32 consolidating a shift away from response-oriented approaches towards development-  
33 oriented approaches, both at the territorial and sectoral level, for effective risk  
34 reduction such as the PCGIR<sup>3</sup> in Central America, the CDM<sup>4</sup> Strategy 2014-2024 in

<sup>1</sup> Representatives of the region's States and territories, parliamentarians, local and subnational authorities, regional and sub-regional coordination and cooperation agencies, international organizations, international and bilateral financial institutions, civil society organizations and the media<sup>1</sup>

<sup>2</sup> According to the "Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2013" (UNISDR, GAR 2013), "disaster risk reduction" refers to the goal set for policies to reduce risk while "disaster risk management" refers to the actions for achieving this goal.

<sup>3</sup> Central American Policy on Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management (PCGIR)

<sup>4</sup> Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy CDM 2014-2024



- 35 the Caribbean, as well as the definition of risk management as a State policy in  
36 countries such as Ecuador; new comprehensive risk management laws such as in  
37 Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Mexico and Peru; and the many efforts at the  
38 local and community level.
- 39 6. Recognize the critical role of local governments in disaster risk reduction and  
40 strategic management of sustainable development, as frontline governments.
- 41 7. Acknowledge the contributions of the "Making Cities Resilient: My city is getting  
42 ready" Global Campaign and the achievements obtained in local risk management  
43 and urban resilience.
- 44 8. Note that 89% of the countries in the Americas are implementing national initiatives  
45 on safe hospitals and improving the resilience of new and existing health care services  
46 in order to ensure continuity of operations in the event of a disaster.
- 47 9. Affirm that protecting essential services, particularly schools and hospitals, is a social  
48 priority, a collective and political responsibility and is crucial for achieving resilient  
49 communities.
- 50 10. Reiterate the importance of community participation in disaster risk reduction and  
51 civic responsibility, as well as the responsibility of the States and Territories, to take  
52 necessary action in this regard in accordance with their respective regulatory  
53 framework.
- 54 11. Recognize the work and contributions of community-based civil society organizations  
55 and networks in comprehensively building resilient communities, including women's,  
56 indigenous and Afro-descendant organizations, as demonstrated through significant  
57 participation in the different venues of decision-making at the local, national, regional  
58 and global level.
- 59 12. Express our commitment to contribute to the process of review and refinement of the  
60 HFA that will result in the post-2015 International Framework for Disaster Risk  
61 Reduction, recognizing that management capacities and the availability of resources  
62 to advance towards the risk reduction goals vary considerably across the Americas.  
63 This framework should particular special attention on the unique situation of Small  
64 Island Developing States (SIDS) in terms of exposure and vulnerability.
- 65 13. Recognize the importance of regional cooperation and integration mechanisms such  
66 as CARICOM, SICA, UNASUR, AEC, CELAC and OAS as well as on  
67 intergovernmental agreements and Action Plans aimed at strengthening policies  
68 adopting strategic risk management agendas.
- 69 14. Support the commitments presented before the Regional Platform by representatives  
70 of local governments, as well as the voluntary commitments of civil society  
71 organizations, the private sector and children, youth and adolescents.
- 72 15. Recognize the need to improve coordination in international disaster response,  
73 including the process established by the international humanitarian assistance  
74 mechanism (MIAH), and further strengthen the preparedness, response and recovery  
75 capacity at all community, local, national and regional levels.



76 16. Value the contributions of the scientific and academic community in generating  
77 knowledge and technological development for risk management decision-making.  
78

79 **Recommendations for the post-2015 international framework on Disaster Risk**  
80 **Reduction (HFA2)**  
81

82 17. Actively work towards achieving coherence among the new Agendas surrounding  
83 Development, Risk Management, Climate Change, Humanitarian Action and the  
84 Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development. Such coherence is  
85 expressed in the definition of common indicators and objectives as well as in the  
86 efficient use of resources to promote greater impact within nations and communities.

87 18. Periodically review the progress towards comprehensive development, enabling the  
88 evaluation of coherence and convergence in the application through, among other  
89 things, the development of indicators of resilience and new agreed upon  
90 methodologies for monitoring and follow-up, with particular emphasis on the  
91 priorities of communities and countries.

92 19. Improve disaster risk management governance among the various sectors and levels  
93 of government, ensuring the responsible participation of the different actors at the  
94 local and national levels through, as relevant, decentralization with allocated budgets,  
95 clear subsidiary systems, regulations, policies, legislation and sectorial action plans  
96 and accountability mechanisms.

97 20. Incorporate a focus on the rights of all social sectors, in particular the rights of  
98 women, children, persons with disabilities, the elderly and the young as a cross-  
99 cutting foundation of sustainable development and the implementation of public  
100 policies; guaranteeing their inclusive participation in the mechanisms for protection  
101 and equitable access to health services, education, dignified labour and social security.  
102 Such a focus must value ancestral knowledge and traditions of indigenous peoples  
103 and people of African descent throughout the region to prepare, deal with and  
104 overcome disasters.

105 21. Promote a cross-cutting focus on gender in the development of local and national  
106 public policies on disaster risk reduction: guaranteeing that gender considerations are  
107 mainstreamed within institutions and recognizing the active participation and  
108 leadership of women in strategic risk management.

109 22. Place community participation at the center of risk management in order to enhance  
110 greater comprehension and understanding of risks, access to information, decision-  
111 making, strengthened capacities and organization, the protection of lives, livelihoods  
112 and food security.

113 23. Clearly define the roles and responsibilities of the different actors among the various  
114 levels of government and society, respecting autonomy and the established  
115 mechanisms surrounding coordination and cooperation.

116 24. Explicitly incorporate local governments within the post-2015 Framework for Action  
117 (HFA2) as relevant actors within risk management and sustainable development, with  
118 specific competencies and mindful of the diversity of situations as per institutions and  
119 resources of the local governments throughout the Americas.



- 120 25. Create mechanisms and tools that allow local governments to access various types of  
121 resources as well as scientific, technical and financial cooperation in a decentralized  
122 way.
- 123 26. Nurture alliances, networks, conglomerations of communities and city alliances as  
124 well as the participation of citizens, communities and civil society in order to achieve  
125 true good governance surrounding urban risk and resilience and the local, national,  
126 regional and international levels.
- 127 27. Promote urban and rural land-use planning as a key element for disaster risk  
128 reduction: incorporating a corrective and prospective vision of risk within the  
129 planning policies and regulatory frameworks surrounding the mandate and daily  
130 responsibilities of all levels of government.
- 131 28. Establish the development and implementation of safe school and hospital policies  
132 and programmes as a priority for action at the local, national and regional levels in  
133 order to protect and guarantee access to education and health services before, during  
134 and after disaster situations, as a contribution towards the achievement of the  
135 millennium development goals.
- 136 29. Protect and promote the social, physical and mental wellbeing of people as a  
137 fundamental asset of communities and nations in order to achieve the goals of  
138 sustainable development and disaster risk management.
- 139 30. Stimulate policies surrounding fiscal vulnerability reduction in order to guarantee  
140 sustainability: including new regulations that contemplate reducing the vulnerability  
141 of new projects, cost-benefit analysis manuals and mechanisms for disaster risk  
142 reduction budget tracking; as well as the development of complementary instruments  
143 for risk transfer and retention. Similarly, motivate coordinated work among those  
144 overseeing the planning and implementation of projects.
- 145 31. Highlight that the responsibility of the private sector in building sustainable  
146 development should be registered within the mainstreamed efforts of all actors  
147 involved in risk management. Aspects such as business continuity and protecting  
148 employees from labour risks, while important, should also be integrated within a  
149 broader vision of risk reduction generated by their activities within their social and  
150 territorial surroundings.
- 151 32. Define the roles, responsibilities, resources and inter-institutional coordination for  
152 recovery. States are encouraged to develop anticipatory planning processes  
153 surrounding recovery, including institutional budgets that ensure the avoidance of  
154 reconstructing risk and generating new risks.
- 155 33. Promote the responsible participation of media in awareness-raising processes,  
156 education and public information in order to support risk management policies and  
157 incentives for resilience.
- 158 34. Integrate knowledge and information for formulating evidence-based risk  
159 management policies. To do so, access to interdisciplinary scientific inputs must be  
160 ensured for all actors, with consideration given to local identity as well as conditions  
161 regarding culture, gender and special needs. The establishing of a scientific-academic  
162 mechanism is wanted, to advise country authorities and strengthening exchange  
163 networks.



- 164 35. Design and articulate educational proposals in schools and universities that emphasize  
165 civic values and responsibility.
- 166 36. Foster horizontal and triangular cooperation to favour the exchange of good practices  
167 and stimulate strengthening local, national and regional capacities that take into  
168 consideration trans-boundary elements and shared resources in terms of ecosystems,  
169 watershed management, cultural aspects, among others.
- 170 37. Ensure proper disaster preparedness, readiness and response that include improved  
171 coordination capacities at all levels, including legal aspects, resource mobilization  
172 and management of technological information systems, as well as proper planning of  
173 early recovery to ensure the protection of livelihoods and productive assets, including  
174 livestock, working animals, implements and seeds.
- 175 38. Promote integration and coherence among the disaster risk reduction agendas of the  
176 United Nations System. To this end, we call upon the United Nations to strengthen its  
177 Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) in order to fulfil its mandate, including  
178 risk modelling, disaster loss databases, review of regional strategies, as well as to lead  
179 the review of terminology and support monitoring the implementation of the post-  
180 2015 framework.

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