

LIMA DECLARATION

VIII REGIONAL MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MECHANISMS OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (MIAH)

The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean participating in the VIII Regional Meeting on International Mechanisms of Humanitarian Assistance (MIAH for its acronym in Spanish), celebrated in Lima, Peru, on November 7th, 8th, and 9th November 2017;

Reaffirming the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence that guide humanitarian assistance and the primary responsibility of each State to take care of the victims of natural disasters and other emergencies occurring on its territory, in line with resolutions 46/182 and 58/114 of the United Nations General Assembly;

Emphasizing that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Global Platform held in Mexico in 2017 strengthens disaster risk reduction as a cross cutting theme in Latin America and the Caribbean;

Reaffirming the link between climate change and the factors that drive disaster risk; and the commitment to strengthen resilience and the capacity to adapt to the risks associated with natural and anthropogenic phenomena in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication;

Acknowledging the First World Humanitarian Summit, held in Turkey in 2016, and taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the outcomes of the World Humanitarian Summit;

Recognizing the work of existing sub regional agencies in integrated risk management: the Caribbean Agency for Emergency and Disaster Management (CDEMA), the Coordination Center for Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPREDENAC), the Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Attention (CAPRADE), the Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities for Integral Risk Management of Disasters of MERCOSUR (RMAGIR for its acronym in Spanish) and UNASUR's High Level Working Group for Comprehensive Risk Management of Disasters (GTANGRD for its acronym in Spanish), and those countries that do not formally belong to these organizations, but actively contribute to the achievement of their objectives;

Highlighting the commitment and support of international organizations such as the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, regional organizations, the society, as well as Governments that have provided support to countries and sub-regions in the implementation of humanitarian actions within the framework of comprehensive risk management;

Expressing our solidarity with the fraternal nations of Latin America and the Caribbean who have been affected by the loss of human lives as a result of the hurricanes and earthquakes that have hit our region, which have been classified as the most disastrous in recent years;

Reaffirming the vision of MIAH meetings to be recognized as the regional space that promotes coordinated, participatory and effective humanitarian action led by the Latin American and Caribbean States with the support of humanitarian actors and affected communities respecting their dignity and sovereignty;

Considering the deliberations of the Eight Regional Meeting on International Mechanisms of Humanitarian Assistance in Latin America and the Caribbean;

HEREBY AGREE TO:

1. Reaffirm the commitments to the Guiding Principles for humanitarian assistance as set out in GA Resolution 46/182 and support for the mandate for which OCHA was created, namely to save lives and alleviate human suffering by mobilizing and coordinating effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors.
2. Promote, according to legal framework and public policies of each country, measures to mitigate the urgent needs of the most vulnerable avoiding duplicating of efforts and foster optimization of resources through the development of coordination tools among the existing mechanisms, allowing convergence in humanitarian efforts in the region.
3. Increase the exchange of legal framework, experiences and best practices related to national, regional and international procedures for the provision and acceptance of humanitarian assistance including those related to the “Operational Guidance for Mutual Assistance to Disasters for Members of the Andean Community” of CAPRADE, the “Cooperation Manual for Mutual Assistance to Disasters for Member Countries” of UNASUR, “Regional Mechanisms of Mutual Assistance to Disasters of the Central American Integrated System” of CEPREDENAC’s and the “Sub Regional Coordination Device to Manage Humanitarian Supplies in Case of a Disaster” of RMAGIR – MERCOSUR.
4. Call on sub regional mechanisms and the Forum for Coordination and Cooperation of Sub Regional of Disaster Risk Management Mechanisms to continue their efforts towards the development of harmonized tools and procedures, the strengthening of national and regional frameworks for the facilitation of international humanitarian assistance in disasters, the promotion of South-South Cooperation, and the exchange of experiences in humanitarian assistance, implementing programmes and projects, as part of a comprehensive management actions for an integrated disaster risk management and strengthening official structures at regional, national and local levels.
5. Reaffirm the contribution of the MIAH Action Plans and continue to strengthen the Follow Up Group in charge of monitoring the commitments assumed during the regional MIAH meetings, and to help them to serve as a platform for dissemination of successful experiences in humanitarian work in the region.
6. Recognize the establishment of a Regional Logistic Centre for Humanitarian Assistance for the Americas in Panama and analyze the possibility of the establishment of a sub-regional center in Jamaica to achieve greater efficiency in humanitarian assistance.
7. Continue to promote the development of a regional search and rescue framework and coordination of response teams that fit within the infrastructure of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group in the Americas.

8. Protect and guarantee the rights, integrity and dignity of migrants in the humanitarian context, according to the applicable national and international legal frameworks.
9. Ensure and promote the protection of the affected population through disaster risk management plans and quality and inclusive humanitarian response, preventing violence in all its forms.
10. Promote and protect human rights in all humanitarian actions, ensuring the participation and equitable attention to those groups in vulnerable situation strengthening the prevention of gender-based violence in all areas of humanitarian assistance.
11. Strengthen the institutional preparation for disasters with integral and sectoral approach to improve the response to the emergencies and crisis adapting them to the contexts and humanitarian tendencies, improving their capacity of coordination with the disaster management systems of each country.
12. Promote the innovation in all actions related to humanitarian assistance to optimize the affected population needs, understanding that innovation is to proceed in a different way as well as to include new technologies.
13. Promote the recovery, revaluation, application and strengthening of ancestral and traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems, that serve as input for the development of public policies linked to disaster risk management and humanitarian assistance.
14. Recognize the increasing threats of climate change and the need for humanitarian action to include adaptation as part of an integrated, multi-hazard risk management approach.
15. Encourage a greater level of partnership between the different actors in humanitarian action including public authorities, humanitarian organizations, the private sector, civil society and academia, at all levels, to guarantee efficiency in humanitarian assistance.
16. Urge Member States to promote the strengthening of volunteer systems, in accordance to their national legislation and enhancing the capacities for action at all levels, by ensuring the rights of the volunteers, both men and women.
17. Congratulate the Regional Seminar “Social Reactive Protection in Emergencies”, held in Lima on 30-31 October 2017, to stimulate the regional debate and facilitate the exchange of experiences on the role of national systems of social protection in emergency response.
18. Convey to the Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC and other pertinent regional and sub regional political fora the conclusions of the VIII Regional Meeting on International Mechanisms of Humanitarian Assistance (MIAH).
19. Present this Declaration to the UN General Assembly as a manifestation of the MIAH’s vision for action.
20. Thank the people and the Government of Peru for their hospitality and efforts in the organization of the VIII MIAH in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Lima, November 9th, 2017