



Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction Fourth Session - Invest Today for a Safer Tomorrow

Geneva, Switzerland, 19-23 May 2013

Name and Type of Event	CAPRADE (Andean Region) Consultation Meeting (by invitation only)
Date	20/05/2013
Reporters name and contact details	
Number of Participants	

This preliminary consultation meeting was convened by Ecuador as Pro Tempore Presidency of CAPRADE and presided by Minister Maria del Pilar Cornejo. Participants in this session included representatives of the four Andean countries: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru as well as a representative of Groots International and others.

A pocket publication was shared with those present, produced by CAPRADE surrounding the advances made in HFA implementation in the period 2011-2012. Such advances are expected to form the basis of a roadmap or guidelines towards moving forward.

A brief overview was mentioned surrounding the creation of CAPRADE in 2002 and the ensuing PREDECAN project (2005-2009). This was followed by an overview of CAPRADE's 5 main focus areas, each under leadership of one of the 4 member States:

- Strengthening of institutional capacities (leadership Peru),
- Furthering knowledge and research (leadership Bolivia),
- Promoting education, communications and participation for a culture of security and resilience at all levels (leadership Ecuador),
- Reducing the underlying factors of risk (leadership Colombia),
- Strengthening the systems and mechanisms for preparedness and response (leadership Ecuador).

With regards to priorities surrounding HFA2, areas of particular interest were noted as:

- Local governance for disaster risk reduction and the Making Cities Resilient Campaign along with the promotion and implementation of the Campaign 10 essentials;
- Furthering cooperation for mutual assistance with regards to transboundary risks and bilateral assistance (operational guides have been developed by both Ecuador and Colombia with Ecuador's to be translated into English);
- New legal, institutional and conceptual framework;
- New framework for planning and land-use management, with disaster risk reduction as a cross-cutting priority among sectors and levels;
- Political incidence to support cooperation throughout the region;
- Greater articulation among levels and sectors, as promoted through the various national systems focusing on disaster risk reduction and linkages with programmes and projects with the international community such as through ECHO financed projects DIPECHO;
- Strengthening the Subregional Mechanisms Forum;

- Developing, strengthening and disseminating guidelines and manuals to facilitate and promote standardization and minimum norms with regards to mutual humanitarian assistance;
- Increasing awareness with focus on key groups such as children and youth, along with greater partnerships with key actors and agencies such as those focusing on women's empowerment, community-based organizations and NGOs;
- Promoting strategies for financial protection and safeguarding assets and livelihoods, supported by good practices and sharing of experiences and through support of the international community;
- Emergency contingency funds and financial protection mechanisms (currently available for some countries but not all);
- Regional technical cooperation and integration as South America as a region as a whole;
- Women's empowerment and community-based organizations;
- Resilient cities and greater articulation among national and local governments to strengthen the implementation of the campaign 10 essentials supported at the country level;
- Information and knowledge management supported by updated and relevant databases that capture both larger and smaller scale events (such as recent efforts to update DesInventar now reflecting updated data among member countries);
- Safe schools and hospitals supported by assessments of basic infrastructure and functioning of basic services;
- Land-use planning and management supported by proper legislation and norms that are realistic and thus applicable.

With regards to regional cooperation, discussions were held surrounding cooperation with other countries of South America, either as observatory members of CAN/CAPRADE or through specific bilateral cooperation agreements (Venezuela in particular as well as Chile were mentioned), as well as through intergovernmental integration mechanisms such as UNASUR.

The operational guidelines for mutual humanitarian assistance is regarded as an important instrument for when needs surpass available capacities and resources and therefore will be made available through the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and translated into English to ensure greater dissemination in terms of standards, norms and procedures.

The outcomes of the recent UNASUR meeting in Cartagena, Columbia in April 2013 are felt to be in keeping with the region's vision post-2015 HFA2, for example with regards to the stated objective of achieving at least 25% of local governments / municipalities committed to working towards resilient cities and the campaign 10 essentials.

The proposal resulting from this meeting is to strengthen articulation among levels of government and broader cooperation to work more closely with women's groups, children, community-based organizations; as well as to work with local governments and share experiences and information among neighboring countries and with the region as a whole.

The conceptual perspective towards HFA2 highlights more integral and articulated cooperation and availability of knowledge and information that is more encompassing and open, with mechanisms in place to support disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation as fundamental aspects of the sustainable development agenda and the economic well-being of the region, embracing various sectors, private enterprises, local and national governments as well as regional integration with a focus on the local level implementation among CAPRADE member States.