

Rapporteur's Report

XXI MEETING OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 02 October, 2013

I. Opening ceremony

The XXI Meeting of the Special Committee for Disaster Risk Reduction was held in Port-of-Spain, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, on October 02, 2013. The head table was composed of Honduras as Chairman and represented by Mr. Carlos Andrés Castillo Lainez; Guadeloupe (France) as Vice-Chair, represented by Mr. Lionel Sarotte. Also at the head table were ACS Secretary General, Ambassador Alfonso Múnera Cavadía, and ACS Director of Transport and Disaster Risk Reduction, Mr. George Nicholson. The Meeting was attended by 18 Member States, 1 Associate Member and 20 International Organisations. The complete list of participants is attached to this Rapporteur's Report as **Annex I**.

Honduras, in its capacity as Chair of the ACS Special Committee for Disaster Risk Reduction, represented by Mr. Carlos Andrés Castillo Lainez, Director of International Relations (COPECO), delivered the opening remarks and thanked all the participants for their attendance and support. He underscored the importance of strengthening cooperation in the area of disaster risk reduction as natural hazards pose a constant threat to the peoples of the Greater Caribbean.

The Secretary General of the ACS, Ambassador Alfonso Múnera Cavadía, in his opening remarks acknowledged all participants present and reiterated the importance of disaster risk reduction efforts, even more so given the recent storms in Mexico. He stressed that attention should not only be paid toward the Caribbean given their structure as island states, but also to countries of Latin and Central America. He cited the tremendous losses both humanitarian and economic that are imposed by natural hazards, and as such pointed out that the work of the Directorate for Disaster Risk Reduction is of utmost importance and in most need of attention. He reiterated that disaster risk reduction is a collective responsibility, requiring the involvement of civil society and member States together. He also stressed the importance of working together with other regional organisations such as CELAC and CARICOM. He then went on to highlight the Declaration of Pétion Ville, in particular Article 23, which recognizes the vulnerability of Member States to disasters due to natural phenomena, and their negative impact on efforts geared toward achieving sustainable development. Given this mandate, he stressed the need for disaster planning to form part of the political plans and plans for regional cooperation of all member States.

Mexico in its capacity as Chair of the Ministerial Council of the ACS and represented by H.E. Mario Eugenio Arriola Woog, Ambassador of United Mexican States, extended its congratulations to the ACS and to the Directorate of Disaster Risk Reduction for the important work being carried out at this time. He reiterated the fundamental importance of disaster risk reduction efforts in the Greater Caribbean due to the significant economic cost and lives lost. He further thanked the ACS member States as well as other regional organisations for the solidarity shown to Mexico following the heavy flooding that his country recently experienced. He then reiterated the invitation to attend the International Workshop of Disaster Risk Management Associated with Natural Phenomena to be held in Mexico, November 25th-26th, 2013. He detailed that this would demonstrate the global outlook to natural disasters and would comprise of six (6) modules, listing these as follows: Module 1: Geospatial Data Systems; Model 2: Management of Structural Vulnerability; Module 3: Experience in Risk Situations and Fast Response; Module 4: Civil

Protection Strategies in the Tourism Industry; Module 5: Legal Facilities for sending and receiving Humanitarian Aid; Module 6: Financial Instruments for Disaster Risk Management. He urged participants to ensure high level participation, including if possible, the finance minister, a representative from the office of disaster preparedness and management, and the tourism minister. Lastly, in recognition of the vulnerability of Member States to natural disasters, he reminded those present to ratify the Agreement for Regional Cooperation on Natural Disasters, indicating that only three more signatures were necessary for entry into force.

Director of Transport and Disaster Risk Reduction of the ACS, Mr. George Nicholson, briefly delivered his opening remarks in which he welcomed the Head Table, member States, regional organisations and other specially invited guests. He also took the opportunity to express his sympathy and the solidarity of ACS to Mexico at this time.

II. Approval of the Agenda and Procedural Matters

The **Chairman** proceeded with the approval of the agenda, which was adopted unanimously.

III. Presentation on the mandate of the V Summit

Mr. George Nicholson, Director of Transport and Disaster Risk Reduction of the ACS, presented the progress made regarding the mandate emanating from the V Summit of Heads of State and/or Government of the ACS. He provided a brief update on each of the projects as defined in the Plan of Action of Pétion Ville and the Work Programme 2012-2013 and stated that these initiatives would be further presented during the course of the meeting.

He nevertheless took the time to indicate that Honduras, the current Chair of the SCDRR ratified the Agreement for Regional Co-operation in the Area of Natural Disasters on June 21, 2013. He stressed that to date there are sixteen (17) ratifications with fourteen (15) of those coming from Member States, and so ratification from two (2) more Member States is needed for the agreement to enter into force.

The full Directorate's Report is attached to this Rapporteur's Report as **Annex II**.

The Secretary General of the ACS, Ambassador Alfonso Múnera Cavadía, took the opportunity to encourage member States to publish the newspaper articles as is being done weekly in the Trinidad and Tobago Business Guardian as part of the ACS Communications Strategy to ensure awareness and visibility.

IV. Presentation on "SHOCS II"

Mr. Mathieu Fontanaud, Advisor for Disaster Risk Reduction of the ACS, presented the progress made on the project: "Strengthening Hydrometeorological Operations and Services in the Caribbean Small Island Developing States Phase 2 (SHOCS II)". The complete presentation is attached as **Annex III**.

Mr. Fontanaud began by briefly reviewing SHOCS I, stating that it involved capacity assessment on future development needs with a focus on Meteorological and Hydrological Early Warning Systems. The project was carried out in 16 SIDS between December 2011 and March 2012.

Given the successful completion of Phase I of the project, Mr. Fontanaud went on to detail SHOCS II, identifying the project board, purpose and expected results. He indicated that the project is funded by Finland with a budget of \$1,000,000 Euros. Thus far, he explained that an enquiry was sent to all NMHSs and DMA and responses were obtained by all. The various activities to be undertaken include Automated Weather Station (AWS) restoration and data distribution, introduction of the SmartMet technology, Climate Services, QMS training and EWS tools.

The Dominican Republic congratulated the progress of SHOCS II and underscored the importance of early warning systems as a tool for reducing the lives lost by natural hazards.

V. Presentation on “Green Response”

Dr. Stephen Ramroop, Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM) of Trinidad and Tobago, greeted participants and expressed that it was an honour for him to present “Green Response”, a project being carried out in conjunction with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society (TTRCS) and the Association of Caribbean States (ACS). The complete presentation is attached as **Annex IV**.

Dr. Ramroop continued by reaffirming the pledge made by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to contribute US\$70,000 towards “Green Response”. He explained how the Green Response fits into Trinidad and Tobago’s disaster risk reduction framework, and that in order to achieve the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction, a non-Governmental committee representing public, private and civil society had been formed since June 2011. This Committee is divided into four sub-committees that meet monthly, and a steering committee that meets quarterly. He stressed that this setup allows for comprehensive discussion and input on all disaster-related programmes including Green Response.

Dr. Ramroop also went on to explain that a key element of the Green Response was that it is embedded in the sectoral plans for all relevant government ministries including Health, Planning, People and Social Development, Housing, Energy, Environment and Water Resources. The project is broken into four phases: development of a feasibility study, green response prototypes (regional), testing pilot prototypes and promotion and support for diffusion in Caribbean countries. The ODPM is hoping the feasibility study which is set to begin in October, would be completed by April 2014. He mentioned that thus far over 16 meetings have been facilitated and four were held with the specific committee involved in the Green Response.

VI. Presentation on the “International (virtual) Diploma”

Ms. Maria Margarita Arias, Coordinator for International Cooperation, National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD), presented the advances made on the project “International Diploma (virtual) in Disaster Risk Reduction Management”. The presentation is attached to this Rapporteur’s Report as **Annex V**.

Ms. Arias began by providing contextualizing the project, stating that it was initiated in response to a need to generate networks and strengthen knowledge within the subregion about the common threat of natural hazards. Specifically, according to the MAH Priority Number 3, it was established in order to “utilize knowledge, innovation and education to create a culture of safety and resilience at every level”. The project was presented and approved by the Government of Colombia during the ACS SCDRR in 2011.

Ms. Arias then went on to list the main objective of the programme, structure of the course, potential participants, and thematic content. Themes include: General Theory of Risks, Profile of Risks in the Greater Caribbean, Impact of Disasters, Analysis of Vulnerability, Marine Threats in the Greater Caribbean, Risks and Disasters in the Caribbean and Mechanisms for Reduction, Sustainable Development and Mitigation, Disaster Management Agencies and Risk Reduction in the Greater Caribbean, Organisational Communication, Telecommunications and Risk Management, and Risk Management.

She ended by elaborating a timeline for the implementation of the project, indicating that a consulting firm will be hired in October. Subsequently, between November and January,

the thematic content will be articulated and by February the selection of participants will take place. The virtual diploma is expected to begin by the beginning of March.

The **Dominican Republic** applauded this initiative aimed at strengthening knowledge in the sub region in the area of disaster risk reduction.

Barbados congratulated the initiative and requested that the organisers assist in the development of accreditation so that it could be recognized and integrated into education systems throughout the region.

VII. Presentation on “the rough season”

Ms. Nayaatha Taitt, Research Assistant for Transport and Disaster Risk Reduction of ACS, presented the advancements made on the project “the rough season”, which is attached to this Rapporteur's Report as **Annex VI**.

Ms. Taitt first explained briefly the objectives and the history of the soap opera, stating that it was initiated in 2004 during the VIII SCDRR and has since been broadcasted in radio stations throughout the English-speaking Caribbean. She highlighted it as an excellent example of partnerships in disaster risk reduction as it was done in conjunction with IFRC, PAHO, Centre for the Creative and Festival Arts (Arts-in-Action), and UNISDR.

Ms. Taitt then went on to identify the mandate emanating from the V Summit according to the Declaration of Pétiion Ville and the Plan of Action of Pétiion Ville, the latter whose point 4.4 details that the radio soap opera be translated into French and Spanish so that it could be broadcasted throughout the Greater Caribbean region.

She then detailed that thus far the soap opera has been uploaded to all of the electronic channels of the ACS, and has been broadcasted in Trinidad free of cost during the 2013 hurricane season. Letters have been sent to schools throughout Trinidad and Tobago and to disaster management agencies throughout the English-speaking Caribbean requesting support in diffusing “the rough season” in their country, given their specific role in disaster prevention.

With regard to the way forward, Ms. Taitt explained that the Directorate intends to continue broadcasting on radio stations throughout the English-speaking Caribbean and initiate translation into Spanish, French, and possibly Dutch. She highlighted that talks have begun with Arts-in-Action concerning translation into Spanish and already a provisional proposal has been made. The estimated time and cost is 4 months and USD\$25,000 respectively.

Saint-Lucia highlighted that correspondence was sent to the Secretariat several times regarding converting “the rough season” into a cartoon as it has already been successfully done with other projects in Saint-Lucia. The Director reported that he had not seen any documentation and asked St. Lucia to send it to him so it could be circulated and taken on board by the Directorate.

VIII. Presentation by Guadeloupe

Guadeloupe, in its capacity as Vice-Chair of the ACS Special Committee for Disaster Risk Reduction, and represented by Mr. Lionel Sarotte, Officer responsible for Regional Cooperation and Cooperation Services of the Regional Council of Guadeloupe (France), and Gilles Bajazet, Deputy Director of Common Technical Services for the programme INTERREG, presented on the INTERREG projects carried out by Guadeloupe in the area of Disaster Risk Reduction. This presentation is attached to the Rapporteur's Report as **Annex VII**.

Mr. Bajazet began by providing an overview of the INTERREG programme, labelling it a European Programme of Territorial Cooperation, which operates with a budget of 63,7M

Euros. Its objective is to foster regional insertion of the French Antilles Departments. Already, 62 projects have been approved and 90% of the budget already allocated.

Following this, Mr. Bajazet went on to describe 6 of the projects and these are as listed: Programme of Capacity Building of the Greater Caribbean in the area of risks, whose objective is to harmonise the methods of all disaster management specialists and improve the systems of forecasting, alert and prevention of risks; 72 Hours of Autonomy, which seeks to develop autonomy and capacity among populations to protect, shelter and feed themselves while awaiting the arrival of relief in the 72 hours following a disaster; Tsunahoule, which offers analysis and modelling of extreme events (tsunamis, storm surges and tidal waves) and their impact on coastal zones; Tsuareg, which seeks to implement instrumental detection and an alert-transmission system in the chain of Caribbean islands; Capacity Building, which seeks to support the natural disaster response of the Red Cross within the region.

IX. Presentation and Discussion of the Draft Work Programme 2014-2015

Mr. George Nicholson, ACS Director of Transport and Disaster Risk Reduction, discussed the Work Programme for the period 2014-2015. This was unanimously approved. The document is attached as **Annex VIII**.

X. Presentation on IDRL and the Model Act

Ms. Isabelle Granger, Coordinator for the Americas Disaster Law Programme of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), presented on the "Guidelines for the domestic facilitation and regulation of international disaster relief and initial recovery assistance (IDRL) and the Model Act for the IDRL Guidelines implementation". This presentation is attached as **Annex IX**.

During her presentation, Ms Granger began by citing some common problems that impede access during an emergency situation, which in turn led to the creation of the IDRL guidelines. These are non-binding recommendations to governments on how to prepare domestic laws and procedures for all international assistance. She then placed this in the context of the work of the ACS where the Declaration of Pétion-Ville "recognizes the importance of establishing mechanisms to facilitate and expedite the dispatch, receipt and distribution of humanitarian assistance in cases of disasters".

She cited the example of Mexico, which has undergone an exhaustive review of its existing domestic legal framework pursuant to the management of international disaster assistance, and has enacted new provisions in its Civil Protection Law. Other countries undergoing a similar process of review include: Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, and Trinidad & Tobago.

She then went on to present the Model Act which is an example of national law based on the recommendations of the IDRL Guidelines as requested by governments and national societies.

Following this, Ms Granger presented the Model Emergency Decree that is currently being developed in consultation with states and other stakeholders at global level. She invited state members to the ACS to send their comment to the IFRC in order to improve the text of the Model Decree. She then invited ACS Member States to initiate review of their domestic legal framework and adopt comprehensive regulation to facilitate and regulate international disaster assistance, using the IDRL Guidelines and the Model Act as benchmarks. She offered Red Cross support in reviewing their legislation.

The Chairman thanked IFRC for the initiative.

XI. Presentation by Mexico

Mexico, in its capacity as Chair of the Ministerial Council of the ACS, and represented by Alejandra Sales Frettlöhr, Head of the Department of Social Development, presented on the upcoming Workshop on Disaster Risk Management to be held in Mexico. Ms. Frettlöhr further reiterated what was previously stated by H.E. Mario Eugenio Arriola Woog, Ambassador of United Mexican States, recalling the severity of the catastrophe that recently struck Mexico and urging Member States to participate in the International Workshop of Disaster Risk Management Associated with Natural Phenomena to be held in Mexico, November 25th-26th, 2013.

XII. Presentation by OCHA

Mr. Douglas Reimer, Head of Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (OCHA), presented on the MIAH Process: Building Regional Humanitarian Partnerships. This presentation is attached as **Annex X**.

Mr. Reimer summarised the results of the V MIAH, as a follow-up process towards the VI MIAH set to take place in Kingston, Jamaica, 16-18th October, 2013. He recalled the Declarations of the previous MIAHs, including that of the V MIAH in Panama which contained 25 themes, 51 recommendations, 138 actions and 21 partners. He noted that 4 groups were set up for the implementation of the MIAH process: Group 1: Legal Frameworks and Resource Mobilizations; Group 2: Risk Reduction and Participation; Group 3: Strengthening Humanitarian Coordination; Group 4: Information Management.

He then detailed the action that was necessary in preparation for the VI MIAH, which includes Reporting and Accountability, Updated Plan and New Actions, Discussion of groups and subregional organisations and the eventual articulation of the plan of action. He further provided an overview of the agenda which included key note addresses, a report on the Plan of Action of Panama (16th), panel discussions, special presentations, workshops for the Plan of Action and a High-Level Meeting. He stressed that member States and other invitees should ensure high-level representation on the 16th and 17th and for the High Level Meeting, and also that delegates come prepared with concrete recommendations for the Plan of Action.

Lastly, he invited those present to visit the website www.redhum.org for meeting documents and registration forms.

XIII. Presentation on "Joint risk management training project for the French West Indies, Guyana and Caribbean area"

Mr Didier Raciné, Director of the Specialised Masters, "Gestion des Risques sur les Territoires" de l'EISTI, presented the "Joint risk management training project for the French West Indies, Guyana and Caribbean area" towards a "Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Master degree". This presentation is attached as **Annex XI**.

Mr. Raciné began by presenting the principle objective of the programme, the development of a training programme on risk management for management-level public service employees from the French West Indies, Guyana and Caribbean states in order to foster a common culture among these managers, thereby guaranteeing joint action in the event of disasters as well as prevention/preparation before and after the event.

He then went on to detail the organisation and content of the training to be received, the expected contribution of Caribbean partners and the financial cost associated with the programme.

The Dominican Republic congratulated the effort and enquired on the possibility of including translation into Spanish of the diploma in order to allow the participation of Spanish-speaking members of the ACS, in particular given the Dominican Republic's interest to participate.

Mr. Raciné stated that he is interested by the proposition and there will need to be an examination of the budget to see how best this can be facilitated.

XIV. Presentation on the initiative “HOPEFOR”

Dominican Republic, in its capacity as Vice-Chair of the ACS Special Committee for Disaster Risk Reduction, and represented by H.E. Jose Serulle Ramia, Ambassador of Dominican Republic to Trinidad and Tobago, presented on the HOPEFOR initiative. This presentation is attached as **Annex XII**.

According to H.E. Jose Serulle Ramia, the project title is Disaster Management, Prevention and Mitigation in the Caribbean, a proposal framed within the HOPEFOR Initiative to improve the coordination between civil and military assets in disaster response. Its purpose is to improve the effectiveness of military and civil defence assets in relief operations with the intention to improve the disaster management and capabilities in the Caribbean. He mentioned that the partners of the HOPEFOR Initiative are namely Qatar, Turkey and the Dominican Republic, UN OCHA and relevant local authorities. He then went on to list a four outcomes, activities and actions that will contribute to the main objective.

Jamaica thanked the Dominican Republic for its presentation and also took the opportunity to encourage participants to attend the OCHA Meeting set to take place in Kingston Jamaica. She explained that invitations were issued to member States through their permanent missions in New York. She also thanked Argentina, Mexico, Brazil and Panama for their financial assistance to delegates.

CDEMA expressed its welcome for the HOPEFOR initiative and stated that it is in the process of engaging the Dominican Republic for further collaboration to ensure that there is no duplication of effort.

The Dominican Republican agreed that it is important to not duplicate efforts and that was need for dialogue and understanding from both sides. In this regard, the Dominican Republic remains respectful of the actions of CDEMA. To Jamaica, it also promised its participation at the OCHA meeting at the highest-level. It further stated that it intends to strengthen the actions of Haiti.

XV. CEPREDENAC

Mr. Carlos Andrés Castillo Lainez, Director of International Relations (COPECO) and representative of the Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPREDENAC), presented on the new initiatives and advances in DRR that are being implemented by CEPREDENAC in Central America. The full presentation is attached as **Annex XIII**.

Mr. Castillo began by affirming that disaster management has always been an integral part of the Summits of Heads of State and/or Government of SICA. This has taken the form of the “Política Centroamericana de Gestión Integral de Riesgo a Desastres” (PCGIR) He stated that there is a regional mechanism in place for mutual aid in the event of disaster and also a financial arm that supports the implementation of the PCGIR. He went on to state that there are some opportunities as well as challenges in the implementation of the PCGIR.

XVI. Presentation by Honduras

Honduras, in its capacity as Chair of the ACS Special Committee for Disaster Risk Reduction, and represented by Mr. Carlos Andrés Castillo Lainez, Director of International Relations (COPECO), presented on how Honduras and the region has benefitted from advancements in DRR cooperation, the modernization of COPECO, best practices and lessons learnt.

Mr. Fernando Suarez Lovo, Chargé d’Affaires a.i., Embassy of Honduras in Venezuela concurrent in Trinidad and Tobago, congratulated the work of the Secretariat and announced that his intention to report positively to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Honduras. He also expressed the need to obtain more funding in order to execute the intended activities.

Mr. Castillo then launched a video about COPECO.

XVII. Presentation by PAHO

Ms. Lealou Reballos, Specialist in Disaster Risk Reduction (PAHO), presented on the new initiatives and advances in DRR and health that are being implemented by PAHO in Latin America and the Caribbean. This presentation is attached as **Annex XIV**.

Ms Reballos began her presentation by placing it in the context of PAHO’s Strategic Framework (2013-2018), intended to make a more resilient and ready to respond to health sector in the Americas. She briefly explored the evolution of disaster management in Latin America and the Caribbean over the past 30 years.

She then moved the focus to the Safe Hospitals project given the damage caused in emergencies to hospitals and its success as a global initiative to improve the safety of existing hospitals. She then introduced a number of useful PAHO publications such as the Evaluation Forms for Safe Hospitals, Self Instruction Course on Use of the Hospital Safety Index, Guide for the evaluation of small and medium sized health facilities, Hospital Fire Prevention and Evacuation Guide.

She reiterated in essence that hospitals should be environmentally performing and hazard resilient. This is an ongoing collaboration with the Caribbean Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) 2013-2023, Andean Strategic Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2013-2017, Central American Plan for Comprehensive Risk Management of Public Health Disasters and Emergencies 2013-2018.

With regard to lessons learnt and moving forward, Ms Reballos identified a number of important issues, among them the need for more effective coordination, the mobilization of financial resources, access to evidence-based information and the value-added of PAHO’s work. In the end, she reiterated the goal of PAHO to have adequate, nationally-led and sustained capacity to reduce disaster risk and provision of timely and effective response to disasters.

XVIII. DIPECHO

Ms. Gina Sosa, Programme Office at the European Commission Directorate-general Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection- ECHO (Office for the Caribbean), presented key messages from the DIPECHO planning workshop. This presentation is attached as **Annex XV**.

Ms Sosa began by providing background information on the DIPECHO Planning Workshop, stating that it grouped together DIPECHO partners, National Emergency Management Offices, ACS and CDEMA representatives and other key stakeholders to share experiences in five main areas: Safe Schools and Hospitals, Early Warning Systems, Communication, Country Documents, and Tool and Initiatives. She reiterated that the meeting also provided a space to identify areas of synergy between the DIPECHO Action Plan and other global and regional processes.

In looking at Safe Schools and Hospitals, she indicated that decision making by national authorities should be founded on strong technical arguments and assessments and based on cost-benefit and risk analyses.

With respect to Early Warning Systems, she noted that consensus was reached concerning the improvement of the detection of rapid onset disasters in localized settings

and the improvement of dialogue between key actors and national disaster offices (NDOs) to increase synergies in the dissemination of information at appropriate times.

Concerning communication, Ms Sosa reiterated that traditional and non-traditional means of communication are still relevant and must account for both the needs of rural and urban settings within the region. Furthermore, protocols between the national disaster system and the media should be articulated and formalized.

In looking at Country Documents, she noted that there was a general feeling that NDOs should lead the formulation of the Country Documents within a multi-stakeholder environment and that country documents should be endorsed by Disaster Management Councils and National Cabinets.

Under the theme of Tools and Initiatives, she explained that opportunities exist for greater exchange of information, experience and replication of the tools, as they become available through different means of dissemination. Also, great interest exists for the adaptation of tools within the broader context in the region and equally, the translation into different languages represented within the DIPECHO Action Plan.

Finally, with regard to Collaboration, she highlighted the cost-effectiveness of building disaster resilience, sharing tools, contributing to priorities, finding evidence that could be used in support of more effective investment in disaster resilience and finding elements that can strengthen and accelerate the process.

XIX. UNISDR

Mr. Ricardo Mena, Head of the Americas (UNISDR), presented on the post-2015 Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (HFA2). This presentation is attached as **Annex XVI**.

Mr. Mena began by offering a quick review of the Hyogo Framework Action priorities for action. He then went on to make the link between the HFA2 and existing international agreements for disaster risk reduction, stating that it continues the progress in international cooperation and builds on knowledge and practices accumulated.

With respect to a post-2015 DRR Framework, he stated that UNISDR is facilitating a multi-stakeholder consultation process which engages a full range of actors from Member States to civil society. He outlined that consultation events include the Global and Regional Platforms, national and local events, and targeted events of stakeholders, partners and networks.

He then went on to detail the role of the regional platforms, stating that they were necessary to consolidate the views, perspectives and contributions of all stakeholders in order to provide a substantive and political contribution to the development of the HFA2. He noted that within the Americas region, stakeholders could engage in the consultative process through the various regional, sub-regional and national and sub-national consultations will take place between now and May 2014.

With regard to the preparatory processes for the WCDRR, he described that the 68th session of the UN General Assembly will define the process for agreeing on the HFA2 including its scope and modalities. The preparatory process will consider the outcomes of all regional platforms, ministerial meetings and other consultations.

He further emphasized that the HFA2 will relate to the SDGs by ensuring coherence and complementarity between the outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference and the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

He concluded by detailing the expected outcomes of the WCDRR, which subject to resolutions of the UN General Assembly, should result in a political declaration, the HFA2 itself, and stakeholders' commitments towards the implementation of the HFA2.

XX. Other matters

Mr. George Nicholson, Director of Transport and Disaster Risk Reduction of the ACS, confirmed that the Rapporteur's Report would be circulated to all Member States by October 11th, 2013.

XXI. Close of the meeting

Honduras, in its capacity as Chair of the ACS Special Committee for Disaster Risk Reduction, represented by Mr. Carlos Andrés Castillo Lainez, Director of International Relations (COPECO), thanked everyone for their presence and participation and officially declared the XXI Meeting of the Special Committee for Disaster Risk Reduction closed.