



CELAC 2023
Saint Vincent
and the Grenadines

Special Declaration on Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Heads of States and Governments, gathered at the 8th Summit of CELAC, in Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Aware of the importance of preparing and responding to the impacts of hazards in our region and recognizing the need to strengthen resilience in the face of these events.

1. Recognize the challenges posed by hazard impacts to our communities, economies, and environment. We commit to intensify our efforts to reduce hazard vulnerability and increase resilience to hazards, integrating risk management across all sectors, planning stages and development.
2. Highlight the importance of promoting regional and international cooperation in the field of Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management, with a view to exchange best practices, know-how, and successful experiences, as well as to bridge capacity gaps. We commit to strengthen our collaboration and share relevant information to strengthen our joint capacities.
3. Urge all countries in the region to strengthen and to apply appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks in the field of Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management, while taking into account national circumstances, and consistent with domestic laws as well as international obligations and commitments with a view to establish policies and effective regulatory framework to promote prevention, preparation, timely response, and sustainable recovery.
4. Recognize the importance of strengthening early warning systems and promote education and raising awareness on Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management and reduction. We commit to strengthen the preparation of communities, using, among others innovative and effective technologies to



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inform and educate the population to enable them to make informed decisions and take preventive action in the face of disasters.

5. Highlight the relevance of promoting inclusion and equity in Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management, ensuring effective and meaningful involvement of all stakeholders, including particularly people in vulnerable situations. We commit to integrating gender and human rights approaches with an intersectional perspective in our policies and programme, recognizing that Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management must be inclusive, address the existing inequalities, recognize the differential impacts of disasters on special protection groups as well as protecting and promote the human rights of those affected by the consequences of these events.

6. Recognize that disasters are systemic and that there is an interconnection between disaster risk reduction and management, the climate change adaptation agendas and sustainable development, understanding that disaster risk reduction is a priority issue of climate change adaptation and that disaster risk reduction is essential to achieve sustainable development. We commit our efforts to develop integrated agendas supported by international cooperation.

7. Highlight the importance of cooperation and financial support to strengthen Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management in our region. We urge the international community, international financial institutions, and the public and private sector, civil society organizations, academic community and scientific and research institutions, to play an active role in supporting the design, implementation and evaluation of programme and projects that strengthen the resilience of our countries, based on the mandates of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the New Urban Agenda, and the Guiding Principles on International Humanitarian



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Assistance adopted by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 46/182.

8. Highlight the importance of the entry into force, on September 19, of the Agreement that establishes the CELAC Fund for Climate Adaptation and Comprehensive Response to Disasters (FACRID/CELAC), as a tangible example of our region's commitment to prevention, disaster response preparedness and climate adaptation.

9. Reaffirm our commitment to Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management in Latin America and the Caribbean as a fundamental element to save lives, protect the environment, sustaining climate change adaptation and moving towards sustainable development.

Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, March 1, 2024