

Closing remarks

Let me thank you all for your participation. It is clear, from the brief overview of the work underway within your agencies, that there is an enormous range of programs underway. This underscores the urgency of the issues related to natural disasters.

I will not try to summarize all the interventions and a report will be available at the end of this week. However, let me mention 3 points:

1. As President Moreno noted, we need to help shift the perspective that risk reduction is a cost, to an investment to secure development. In that regard, both the IDB and PAHO have noted the importance of engaging the financial sector and ministries of finance and development. Let me instruct my staff the follow-up, and explore some next steps to make this financial argument of risk reduction. I would propose a report on the economics and finance to be prepared before the end of the year.
2. I think we can move to a very pragmatic, concrete information portal. The content can be determined as it evolves, but one option could be a new kind of map system mentioned by the IPGH Secretary General, Mr. Borrero.
3. Third, as the Director of PAHO, Dr. Mirta Roses, noted, the real challenge is to bridge programs supported through agencies, and capacity building at the community level. I hope the Network and portal can help secure that bridge.
4. In closing, let me thank you again for joining me here today and I look forward to more intense interaction in the future.