



The General Secretariat of the OAS participated in a round table at The American Red Cross on September 12th to discuss with Dr. Jemilah Mahmood, Chief of the UN World Humanitarian Summit, and partners preparations for the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit (WHS). The round table was convened by The American Red Cross and was chaired by its Senior Vice President for International Operations, Mr. Harold Brooks. Attending the round table were representatives of the Humanitarian Policy for InterAction, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Global Strategy at the International Medical Corps, and the World Bank Group, in addition to The American Red Cross.

The WHS was initiated by the UN Secretary General in 2013 to leverage new partnerships, technologies, and ways of working to improve global response to natural and man-made disasters. Currently a series of consultations are taking place, which will culminate in May of 2016, in Istanbul, at the first-ever summit of this scale and scope. The GS/OAS, through its Department of Sustainable Development (DSD), partners with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and supports the regional consultation in the Americas. The Regional Consultation for the Americas was launched on June 30 of 2014, in Lima, by Dr. Mahmood, and in the context of a subregional encounter organized and presented by DSD with the financial support of the US Department of State.

At the round table, Dr. Mahmood stressed the need to further foster innovation and collaboration. The challenges for coordination and collaboration, in a new scenario with increasing number of humanitarian actors, traditional and non-traditional, were recognized around the table. In that regards, Pablo Gonzalez, Principal Specialist and Chief of the Risk Management and Adaptation to Climate Change Program (RISK-MACC) of the DSD, highlighted the work of the OAS Permanent Council and Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) Joint Working Group, and the suite of instruments that the Inter-American System



has to improve coordination and collaboration in the Hemisphere –namely the Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance, the Inter-American Committee for Natural Disaster Reduction, and the Inter-American Plan for Disaster Prevention and Response and the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance.

The DSD and its RISK-MACC, with the financial cooperation of the US Department of State through its Permanent Mission to the OAS, is organizing the Third Hemispheric Encounter of the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (INDM), which will take place at the OAS Headquarters, on November 25th of 2014. In that context, DSD in partnership with OCHA will convene a regional consultation to draw inputs to the broader regional consultation that OCHA and its Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean is facilitating. The round table provided for an opportunity to network with partners from the Humanitarian Assistance community, who will be invited to partner in the November 26th consultation, convening NGOs and other humanitarian actors.

