

PRESS RELEASE

III MEETING OF THE PERMANENT WORKING GROUP OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ON THE REGIONAL MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE MECHANISM (MIAH)

GUATEMALA, May 5-7, 2015 - The Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS) through its Department of Sustainable Development and its Risk-MACC program participated in the VII MIAH, the Regional Consultation for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) for the Humanitarian World Summit (WHS) and the III Meeting of the Working Group of Intergovernmental Organizations of the MIAH.

The Encounter brought together more than 150 participants from more than 24 delegations funding for humanitarian actions. The consultation into the WHS is focused on four themes: (1) humanitarian effectiveness, (2) the managing risk and reducing vulnerability (3) the transformation through innovation (4) serving the needs of people in conflict, displacement and violence.

Some of the participating countries were: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Granada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, San Vicente and the Grenadines, San Cristobal and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela. The Encounter was attended by representatives of regional organizations, Civil Society, Governments, the private sector and United Nations agencies.

According to the Humanitarian Information Network for Latin America and the Caribbean, since its first meeting in Mexico in 2008, the MIAH has become the main regional space for dialogue on humanitarian issues and to improve coordination in order to save lives and reduce suffering of people affected by some natural event.

The objective of the WHS is to strengthen actions made by humanitarian actors in case of natural disasters to improve the assistance. The event counted with the participation of the Undersecretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator of United Nations, Valerie Amos; the Chief of the World Humanitarian Summit Secretariat, Dr. Jemilah Mahmood; and the Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Program, Amir Abdulla.

The regional consultation for Latin America and the Caribbean held in Lima, Peru, in July, 2014, in collaboration with the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (OCHA ROLAC) and the General Secretariat of the OAS, through its Department of Sustainable Development and Risk-MACC, was the sixth of eight regional consultations. It is worth mentioning that in 2014, a regional consultation held in the headquarters of the OAS in Washington, DC, and in the framework of the Third Hemispheric Meeting of the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (INDM) included the participation of over 90 participants, including representatives of 26 national disaster risk management systems, 13 heads of national competent agencies, and representatives of subregional specialized inter-governmental

organizations, non-governmental and international organizations, specialized agencies of the Inter-American and UN Systems, academia and local communities.

The last two regional consultations will be in the Pacific and Central Asia and South regions. Once the regional consultations have been completed, the results will be processed and synthesized for a global consultation, it will be held at the end of 2015. The results of this global consultation will be presented in the Humanitarian World Summit in Istanbul, in May 2016.



*III Meeting of the Permanent Working Group of Intergovernmental Organizations of MIAH
Guatemala, 2015*