



Organization of American States

Launching of the Second Edition of the UNISDR Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction

When: Monday, June 27, 2011
2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Where: Washington, DC
Venue: OAS Headquarters, **Simon Bolivar Room**, Main Building
17th and Constitution, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006

Host and moderator: Jose Miguel Insulza, OAS Secretary General

Keynote Speaker: Margareta Wahlström, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction

Panelists: Dr. Jean Luc Poncelet, Manager, Area on Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)

Mr. David C. Hatch, Associate Deputy Director General, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Director of the Northern Region, Representative in the United States, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)

Dr. Simon Young, Chief Executive Officer, Caribbean Risk Managers Ltd (CaribRM), Supervisor of the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF) and responsible for leading the operational and risk management functions within CCRIF

Audience: OAS Permanent Missions and Observers delegates, program officers and specialists with international cooperation agencies, international NGOs, development banks and Disaster Risk Reduction practitioners in general, based in the DC area.

TIME	ITEM OF AGENDA
2:30PM	Arrival of the delegations and special invitees
3:00PM	Opening remarks by OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza (15')
3:20PM	Presentation of the GAR by UN Assistant Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction Margareta Wahlström, (30')
4:00PM	Expert Panel –Opening statements (30') [Panelists react to the report with statements of 5' to 8' each]
4:30PM	Dialogue with the Audience (45')
5:15PM	Closing remarks by the OAS Secretary General (15')

Institutional Biography

The **GS/OAS** is a public international organization comprising of 35 Member States, and with headquarters in Washington D.C. Member States have issued mandates to the GS/OAS Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) and its corresponding networks such as the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation, to among other things, 'deal with matters related to natural disasters, especially their mitigation, through reduction of vulnerability and risk management, monitoring and warning' and develop and implement 'cost-effect and robust early warning systems'. Further, from a governance perspective, the DSD received mandates from Member States, through the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS) to conduct strategic priority activities in areas including: climate change (mitigation) and energy, environmental law, policy and good governance, and natural disaster risk reduction.

The General Secretariat of the OAS (GS/OAS), through the Department of Sustainable Development (OAS/DSD) and its Risk Management and Adaptation to Climate Change section, RISK-MACC, partners with the secretariat of the UNISDR and its Regional Office for the Americas, UNISDR Americas, in providing technical support to its participating member states in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). To that end, in 2007, at the First Session of the UNISDR Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, the GS/OAS and the secretariat of the UNISDR signed a cooperation agreement. Since then, they have co-organized and convened two sessions of the UNISDR Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction of the Americas. Last year, they also organized and convened the Second Hemispheric Encounter of the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (INDM). This last event has proved very successful in sharing and exchanging practical experiences, lessons learned and good practices in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the Americas. Other areas of collaboration include the participation of OAS/DSD RISK-MACC in UNISDR-lead inter-agency missions for the evaluation of progress in the implementation of the HFA and the advancement of DRR policies and programs in selected countries.

The **Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)** is the UN interagency secretariat with the mandate to coordinate, promote and strengthen DRR on a global, regional, national and local level. UNISDR secretariat is working towards a world without needless losses from disaster – following a guiding mission to catalyze, facilitate, and advocate for action that will protect lives and livelihoods from the impact of natural hazards. The UNISDR headquarters is based in Geneva, Switzerland. It works through regional offices in Africa, Asia, the Americas and Europe. UNISDR builds and supports partnerships and networks with development and humanitarian groups worldwide, to build disaster resilience and promote DRR. Partners include UN agencies, governments, international organizations, regional actors, NGOs, civil society and the private sector. UNISDR, among other things, advocates for increased government action on DRR; promotes the integration of disaster reduction policies and legislation into sustainable development planning, for example by supporting multi-stakeholder national, regional and thematic platforms on DRR; informs people by producing information and education materials, and promoting scientific and technical research, including guidance on DRR strategies, protection and preparedness measures; and promotes the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) – a set of guidelines, adopted by 168 countries worldwide, on how to integrate DRR policies into national development agendas.

Keynote Speaker Biography

Madam Margareta Wahlström was appointed as UN Assistant Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction in November 2008. She has over 30 years of extensive national and international experience in humanitarian relief operations in disaster and conflict areas, and in institution-building to strengthen national capacity for disaster preparedness, response and for risk reduction.

Previous appointments include:

- Member and Coordinator of the Independent Panel on Safety and Security of UN Personnel and Premises, Chaired by Mr Lakhdar Brahimi, 2008;
- Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator and Assistant-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 2004-2008;
- United Nations Special Coordinator for the Assistance to the Tsunami Affected Communities, 2004-2005;
- Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Relief, Recovery and Rehabilitation, United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), 2003-2004;
- Under-Secretary-General for Disaster Response and Operations and Deputy Director Operations, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, 1995-2000.

Dr. Jean Luc Poncelet, a national of Belgium, received his medical degree from Louvain University in Belgium in 1983. In 1984, he was awarded a Diploma in Tropical Medicine by the Institute of Tropical Medicine of Antwerpen and, in 1985, he received a master in public health from Université Libre de Bruxelles.

Dr. Poncelet started working for the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in 1986 as an Associate Expert in Disaster Relief in Costa Rica. He was appointed to the sub regional position of Emergency Preparedness Advisor for the Caribbean in Antigua in 1989. In 1991, he was transferred to the Caribbean Program Coordination (CPC) in Barbados and subsequently to Ecuador in 1995, where he continued to work in the same field. In 1999, he was reassigned to PAHO Headquarters in Washington, D.C. as the Regional Advisor on Emergency Preparedness. In May 2002 he was appointed Area Manager of the Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief position he occupies presently. He has been involved in most major disasters in the region since 1986.

Mr. Hatch currently serves as the Associate Deputy Director General, Director for Strategic Partnerships and as IICA's Representative to the United States. He also oversees IICA's operations in Canada, Mexico and Spain. His career includes over 25 years in a unique range of business, government and intergovernmental positions. Prior to joining IICA he was president of a health insurance services company in California. He has served as a White House Appointee in Washington, D.C. as Associate Administrator of the Risk Management Agency that administered the \$40 billion agriculture insurance program for the United States Department of Agriculture. Previously he served as president of multiple businesses where he pioneered new business and customer service models. Mr. Hatch also has broad international experience and skills in such disciplines as developing successful partnerships and alliances, leadership, marketing, managing competitive bids, insurance product design, negotiation, reinsurance, risk financing, organizational change, and strategic planning. Mr. Hatch has also served on numerous private and public sector boards of directors throughout his career.

Mr. Hatch holds a M.A, degree in Organizational Behavior (Magna cum Laude) and a B.A. in Political Sciences – Emphasis in International Politics (Cum Laude) from Brigham Young University.

Dr. Simon Young is the CEO of Caribbean Risk Managers Ltd (CaribRM). CaribRM currently serves as Facility Supervisor of CCRIF - the lead operational and risk management role within the Facility.

Dr. Young has an academic research background in geohazards and has worked extensively in Europe and the Americas. He has served clients in both the public and private sectors throughout the Caribbean, including the Organization of American States, the Pan-American Health Organization, the Inter-American Institute for Global Change, the World Bank, numerous regional Governments, and local and regional quasi-government institutions including CDERA and UWI among others.