



FORO DE GESTIÓN DE RIESGOS  
DE REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA

## **Dominican Republic Disaster Risk Management Forum Position statement for the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, Cancun**

The Dominican Republic Disaster Risk Management Forum (DRM Forum) is a working network composed by institutions and civil society organizations which advance innovation, collaboration and ways of working on Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management (CDRM) in the Dominican Republic, produce information and knowledge, formulate proposals for public DRM advocacy and promote the strengthening of a critical society and rule of law.

The Dominican Republic DRM Forum **acknowledges**:

- The significant advances which have taken place in the Dominican Republic since the signature of the Hyogo Action Framework and the Approval of the 147-02 DRR law.
- The importance of the appropriation of Disaster Risk Reduction, DRR, by the Dominican institutions and the decision makers at the national and local level.
- The key role played by communities in Disaster Risk Reduction as the primary emergency response actor.

The Dominican Republic DRM Forum expresses its **concern** for:

- The increasing number of disasters impacting the Dominican Republic (including those from intensive and extensive risks)
- The insufficient analysis of the processes which generate risk conditions which do not take into account the relevance of underlying causes and the limited analysis of the economic and social impacts of disasters.
- The need to strengthen public capacity of local governments and public management teams.
- The limited involvement of universities in DRR research as well as the need for public investment on scientific research in the fields of DRR, climate change, urbanism and inequalities.
- The insufficient inclusion of vulnerable groups and Community Based Organizations (CBO) in Disaster Risk Management processes.
- The lack of coordination and articulation of Disaster Risk Management activities and strategic territorial plans.
- The constraint and/or reduction of funds for Disaster Risk Reduction from international cooperation and from the Dominican state.
- The existence of structural inequalities (particularly socioeconomic, gender and ethnic based) in the country which increase the impact of disasters.
- The existence of social threats such as domestic violence and unconventional violence which disproportionately affect women and children.
- The existence of groups which are disproportionately affected by different threats.
- The challenges which the country faces in line with disaster recovery phases as well as with the implementation of public Disaster Risk Reduction policies aimed at groups frequently affected by extreme climate events.

As a result, the DRM Forum **proposes**:

### **At the national level**

Sendai Framework first priority: Understanding disaster risk

- Research for the production of national knowledge and innovation in public policies which consider Public Health Emergencies and epidemiological crisis as key elements of Disaster Risk Management.

*Sendai Framework second priority: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk*

- Ensuring the enactment of prevention policies in all disaster phases.
- The revision of the new Disaster Risk Management legislation before its approval in order to ensure it's alignment with the Sendai Framework.
- The approval of the new Disaster Risk Management legislation.
- Increasing the link between Disaster Risk Management policies and poverty reduction, access to basic services and equality.
- Placing community attention (with budget) as a priority in order to strengthen community resilience, and emphasizing its role as a reference for policy implementation.
- Implicating judiciary instances in risk monitoring and Disaster Risk Management enabling the application of corresponding sanctions and involving citizenship in order to ensure accountability and transparency.
- Continuing advocacy for the inclusion of Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management in universal social protection systems.

*Sendai Framework third priority: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience*

- Restoring the National Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response Fund (200 million pesos) with national funds.
- The allocation of one percent (1%) of the Calamity Fund for Disaster Risk Reduction policies.
- Involving the private sector in reducing risks created by productive activity as well as in the implementation of Disaster Risk Reduction plans for their specific areas and environments.

*Sendai Framework fourth priority: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction*

- Ensuring the mainstreaming of Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management in key aspects such as violence prevention, water, gender, food security, among others.
- Strengthening the capacities of the national public health system and local health systems in Disaster Risk Management, at the institutional level as well as at the family and community levels.
- Institutionalizing participation mechanisms for vulnerable communities, companies and institutions in planning process and territorial risk management.
- Emphasizing a human rights approach which allows for the inclusion and participation of vulnerable groups.
- Incorporating the media more effectively in Disaster Risk Management policies, facilitating agreements which allow for the cooperation between media and specialized institutions that reach the population in a friendly manner.

**At the regional level**

*Sendai Framework first priority: Understanding disaster risk*

- Generating more information and knowledge on Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management and climate change through institutionalized information management.

*Sendai Framework second priority: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk*

- Improving in-country organization towards a strategic midterm and long term response to prevent, reduce and face disasters.
- Supporting the formal creation of a CDRM consulting forum (this point is aimed at Central America, discussed in the Central American CDRM and Climate Change Adaptation Encounter held in San Salvador December 14, 2011). As a country, we were not yet members of SICA at the time, the National Emergency Commission then signed with CEPREDENAC.
- Maintaining a regional Information and Communication Platform.
- Developing and articulating processes which promote the decentralization of Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management.
- Promoting the socialization of strategic CDRM plans in order to ensure their implementation at the national and local level.
- Developing mechanisms which support and strengthen governance.

Sendai Framework third priority: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience

- Designing fund mobilization strategies for the different sectors linked to the implementation of CDRM and climate change adaptation initiatives.

**At the international level**

Sendai Framework first priority: Understanding disaster risk

- Ensuring that risk evaluations take into account the underlying causes and processes which determine insecure conditions such as vulnerability and environmental degradation, invasion of territory, climate instability and livelihoods vulnerability as well as the role of markets, particularly frontier markets, and public and private policy which affect risk conditions.

Sendai Framework second priority: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk

- Effective participation of Civil Society in the design, implementation and evaluation of Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management policies, programs and public strategies.
- Integrating Disaster Risk Management in rethinking Urbanism and Inequalities, and in the Comprehensive planning of large urban centers, putting into practice support programs for access to housing and for secure and healthy cities.

Sendai Framework third priority: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience

- Ensuring Disaster Risk Reduction funds for Small Island Developing States.
- Making sure that financing organisms implement strategies which promote Disaster Risk Reduction, in accordance with the Sendai Framework.
- Strengthening south-south international cooperation for Disaster Risk Management in LAC regional integration processes.

Sendai Framework fourth priority: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction

- Strengthening and/or create national CDRM platforms in order to facilitate the complementarity between the public sector and civil society.
- Integrating the private sector into Disaster Risk Management strategies for small companies recognizing their vulnerable situation and their key role in job creation.
- Continuing to prioritize communities and societies as key actors in Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management.

- Integrating a gender approach in international, regional and national Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management strategies.
- Integrating a prospective approach which takes into account marginal urban growth dynamics and tendencies as well as reorienting strategies towards safe available space.
- Integrating market recovery and protection strategies into Disaster Risk Management processes, in order to avoid their substitution by external aid as has occurred in Haiti in the past events.
- Promoting Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management interventions which take into account climate change adaptation and the protection and restoration of ecosystems.

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