



ARISE FORUM FOR THE AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN

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CONCEPT NOTE

1. Background

In adopting the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030 (Sendai Framework), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda), the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Member States identified the prevention of new risk, the reduction of existing risk and the strengthening of resilience as central to global efforts towards sustainable development. The private sector is a critical participant in the consecution of these endeavours and in the advancement towards risk-resilient societies.

The Americas and Caribbean region are highly exposed to natural hazards. According to the 2021 UNDRR Regional Assessment Report on Disaster Risk in Latin America and the Caribbean, disasters cost annually about \$520,000 million. Over the last 20 years, the region has absorbed 53% of global economic losses because of climate-related disasters. Private investment plays a significant role in determining disaster risk. In most economies 70% to 85% of overall investment is made by the private sector. The private sector must therefore be part of the solution or even become the driving force for social, environmental and economic change. Investment in new and critical infrastructure must be risk-informed and financing Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) for resilience is a key priority. Failing to do so will result in further compounding risk and an opportunity to build resilience will be lost. Hence, the private sector is a strategic actor as advocate, investor and implementer of risk reduction action.

Engaging, with the private sector in areas of understanding of risk, disaster risk reduction, risk informed investment, resilient infrastructure, and business continuity will improve resilient economic and social recovery. Despite the private sector being exposed to multiple hazards, it also has the capacity to serve as a catalyst for bringing disaster risk information to other social sectors, to support risk-informed governance and, more broadly, help their governments to fulfil the 2030 Agenda. Reducing losses and preventing the creation of new risk at the required scale will only be achieved if the public and private sector work together. Public-private partnerships and collaboration are essential for the scale of innovations and investments needed.

The COVID-19 pandemic recovery is an opportune moment for identifying additional stakeholders to advance resilience practices. The Sendai Framework recognizes that businesses, small and large alike, are called on to integrate disaster reduction into continuity plans and business models and practices throughout supply chains. Likewise, the COVID-19 crisis has demonstrated the effective role the private sector can play in achieving resilience and supporting the public sector in Disaster Risk Reduction efforts. Consequently, UNDRR is supporting the ARISE network through 23 national networks and 2 sub-regional business networks (Central America & Caribbean) in the region

In 2018, ARISE Mexico organized a national forum called “Resilience for all: the importance of understanding risk” with more than 800 participants from 14 countries including national ARISE Networks and more than 60 international specialists.

During 2020, the ARISE networks further accelerated the ARISE’s strategic objective (promoting risk informed investments and resilient societies) by the adopting the new ARISE priorities areas for 2020-2025. These are in line with and support the global policy discussions on the engagement of the private sector in the implementation of the Sendai Framework, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris

Climate Agreement, and related business and multi-stakeholder initiatives. The priorities are expected to drive action, support synergies between networks and member activities and the achievement of tangible impact of the initiative. Greater alignment across the networks will also enable and mobilize more active information sharing and collaboration amongst ARISE networks and with other private sector initiatives led by other UN agencies and international organizations.

The ARISE four priorities areas 2020-2025:

1. Enhance resilience of small and medium sized enterprises.
2. Integrate disaster and climate risks into investment decisions by the financial sector.
3. Incentivize disaster risk reduction and enhanced data for risk-informed decision making through engagement with the insurance industry as global risk manager.
4. Support resilient infrastructure development.

The “ARISE Forum for the Americas and the Caribbean”, to be held on 28 October 2021, will enable the sharing of good practices among the ARISE networks, showcase work on business resilience, link the private sector with the DRR community in the region and serve as a preliminary event of the VII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. The event is organised collaboratively by UNDRR and the ARISE networks in the region.

2. Objective of the Forum

Based on the ARISEs experiences promoting collaboration among the networks, the results of the 2018 ARISE Mexico Forum and the first meeting of the regional ARISE Forum Coordination Group, the main objectives identified for the forum are:

- Promote the sharing of good practices among the ARISE networks in their efforts to accomplish the four ARISE global priorities.
- Enhance discussions on the role of the private sector in advancing collaboration for public-private partnerships in DRR in the region and identify key opportunities and challenges in private sector engagement in DRR.
- Highlight key elements, concepts, findings and tools developed in collaboration or by ARISE networks.
- Provide the private sector with information about initiatives and opportunities to engage with work on disaster risk reduction and resilience.
- Foster further cooperation among ARISE networks in the region and discuss how to promote the integration of the private sector in disaster risk management.

Through the exchange of experiences, the forum itself will also be instrumental to collect key messages, recommendations and conclusions from the private sector for the VII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2021.

3. Expected Outcomes

Exchange on good business practices in DRR and resilience enabled between ARISE members other key stakeholder across the Americas and the Caribbean.

- Advancements of the ARISE networks efforts to implement the four ARISE strategic priorities showcased.
- Potential areas of collaboration, challenges, and opportunities on private sector engagement and public-private partnerships in DRR identified.
- Recommendations collected on how private sector engagement through ARISE can contribute to building resilience and influence public policies in DRR the region.
- Key messages collected for the VII Regional Platform for DRR.

4. Participants

Large participation of the private sector across the Americas is expected through the engagement of the 23 ARISE networks in the region. Also, other key DRR stakeholders will participate in the forum such as business associations, chambers of commerce, national disaster risk management systems in the region, intergovernmental organizations and other strategic partners, including donors, international, regional and subregional organizations, United Nations agencies, multilateral organizations and bilateral cooperation agencies involved in DRR and private sector engagement.

5. Preliminary Agenda

Thursday, October 28, 2021 - 9:00 AM - 1:15 PM EST / Panama



ARISE in the Americas and the Caribbean: Progress and positioning of the network in the region

9:00 – 9:45 AM

Overview:

Much work has been carried out by ARISE members in the Americas and the Caribbean. Looking through the lens of the four ARISE priority areas 2020-2022, the opening session will look at recent achievements and provide an overview on insights participants can gain from the Forum.

Recommended for:

All participants

Thriving SMEs: The relationship between resilience, competitiveness and sustainability

10:00 – 11:00 AM

Overview:

Over the last decades the Americas and the Caribbean has absorbed a large part of the global losses due to the impacts of disasters. Studies, including recently published UNDRR report 'Reducing risk and enhancing the Resilience of SME's to Disasters' have shown that approximately 40% of small businesses affected by disasters never fully recover, despite two in every three people works in an SME (OECD 2019). When disaster strikes, SMEs are hit harder, suffer longer and are slower to recover than larger businesses. This context provides an opportunity to learn from the experiences of ARISE network members. A selection of experiences and good practices supporting SMEs on disaster risk reduction and resilience will be shared. A panel discussion on resilience in supply chains and how stakeholder intervention can strengthen SME capacities will complement these presentations. There will be a public sector perspective on disaster risk management, participation of a large contracting company and a representative of an SME.

Recommended for:

- Members of ARISE networks in the region.
- Large companies interested in strengthening their supply chain and stakeholder development.
- Small and medium-sized enterprises interested in promoting disaster resilience in their organisations.

Risk Transfer: The insurance system as a tool for prevention and resilience building

10:00 – 11:00 AM

Overview:

Why is insurance a proven tool for risk transfer and how does it fit within the framework of Disaster Risk Reduction? Conceptualising this, the session will explore how the insurance system helps to strengthen the resilience of a region, an area or a country. Furthermore, it will be linked to the recommendations of the ICMIF-UNDRR report "From protection to prevention: The role of cooperative and mutual insurance in disaster risk reduction". The aim is to identify a clear and transparent model of collaborative linkages with governments, roles and functions of states and to establish the need for a discussion agenda on this topic.

Recommended for:

- ARISE Network leaders and representatives from participating countries.
- Representatives of governments with jurisdiction or responsibility for production sectors.
- Representatives of the agricultural and livestock sector.
- Representatives of the private sector in general, insurance sector, NGOs with interest in DRR.

Cost and Benefit Modelling for Resilient Infrastructure

11:15 AM – 12:15 PM

Overview:

Currently, infrastructure represents one of the biggest investments and development opportunities influencing the everyday working of communities, cities, and countries. Investing in infrastructure should ensure that it is designed, built, managed and operated sustainably to enhance the overall resilience of communities where it is placed. Thus, the private sector plays a key role in the development of tools that enable the development of critical resilient infrastructure. In this session, AECOM plans to adapt its free infrastructure cost modelling tool to reflect the costs and benefits of building resilience into city plans. The modified tool will be available globally. ARISE-US is assisting them in this process. You will receive an introduction to AECOM's work and take part of the start of a fact-finding process about requirements. Those interested will get the opportunity to engage, get involved and contribute to this important - free - DRR tool.

Recommended for:

- Engineers.
- City, state and local governments (urban planners, DRR managers, emergency managers).
- Private sector infrastructure operators.
- Financial planners and practitioners working on infrastructure costs

Designing Business Continuity Plans: Lessons Learned from COVID-19 and Multi-Hazards

11:15 AM – 12:15 PM

Overview:

Business Continuity Plans are vital to enhancing the resilience of the Private Sector. There are many risks that threaten the survival of businesses. Moreover, in recent years, their occurrences have intensified. COVID-19 and multi-hazards have brought to the fore that businesses need to prevent and reduce their risk in order to enhance their resilience.

Across the Americas and the Caribbean, there are best practices that have been conducted by Small and Medium Enterprises as well as multi-national companies. Some of these best practices are worth highlighting to inspire improved action among other companies.

Recommended for:

- ARISE Members
- Chambers of Commerce
- Representatives, SMEs, Multi-national enterprises,
- Disaster Management Professionals in the Public and Private Sectors

Challenges and next steps towards business resilience and sustainability

Overview:

The Sendai Framework calls for collaboration among all key stakeholders to strengthen disaster risk governance. Within this collaboration, the private sector is capable of contributing to resilience by aligning its strategies to the sustainable development agenda and by providing key information and data on disaster risks, which are critical for investment decisions from both public and the private sector itself. Engaging the private sector not only as advocator, but as investor and leader in DRR and prevention actions is currently being enabled through increased awareness among the economic and financial sectors that disasters and its combination of cascading effects do not only affect communities, but represent great losses in investments, and more importantly, in the sustainable development of whole economies. Throughout the pandemic We have also learned that there is a fundamental interdependency between the competitiveness of companies and the welfare of their communities.

This session aims to discuss the challenges and the opportunities to foster private sector contributions to achieve more resilient societies in the Americas and the Caribbean.

Recommended for:

All participants

6. Forum Location

The Forum will be hosted online through the “Hopin” event platform, allowing participants from all over the region to join. Not only will attendees be able to choose which session to attend but will also be able to network with others. Registered persons will receive additional information on how to access the event.

9. Language and accessibility

Simultaneous translation and live captioning will be available for English, Spanish and French, as well as sign language.

8. Tools

- The event will be accessible through your web browser. Using a device with a large screen is highly recommended to make the most out of the experience.
- Networking with other participants can be done using text, but we recommend having a working webcam and microphone.
- Some sessions will conduct polls or Q&As using **Slido**.