



## CONCEPT NOTE

**Title:** Special Session 1, Regional Risk Assessment Report 2021 (Regional Risk Landscape): towards an integrated, multistakeholder, gender-responsive risk governance

**Date and time:** Monday, November 1, 2021 (Day 1)

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM Jamaica time, Eastern Standard Time Zone (Jamaica, Panama, Mexico, Peru)

**Venue:** Virtual

**Lead organization:** United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction UNDRR

**Co-lead organization:** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

**Contributing Agency:** Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR)

## GOALS

1. Inaugurate the first Regional Assessment Report for the Americas and the Caribbean region.
2. Share the findings of the Regional Assessment Report (RAR 2021).
3. Highlight the relevance of the systemic nature of risk in a context of simultaneous disasters as it happened in Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Guyana.
4. Advance in providing a clear understanding of the systemic nature of risk as seen from the perspective of the scientific community, as well as of the disaster risk management systems and organizations that need to deal with it.
5. Highlight examples of the new drivers of risk in the Americas and the Caribbean region.
6. Highlight regional achievements to develop and implement an integrated whole-of-society action on disaster risk reduction with a multi-hazard perspective, in line with developing ideas on systemic risk.

## MEASURABLE OUTCOMES

1. Discuss the main outcomes of the RAR 2021.

2. Highlight the importance of improving governance mechanisms for an effective disaster risk reduction.
3. Identify at least three RAR 2021 messages that will be sent for consideration to be included in the GAR.

## **GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

The session will provide an overview of the emerging trends and new drivers of risk in the Americas and the Caribbean. It will provide an account of the progress made towards meeting the targets of the Sendai Framework since its adoption in 2015, and present an analysis of the root causes, drivers and manifestations of risk that are leading to increasingly devastating disasters in both human and material terms. Developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, the RAR takes a unique opportunity to present an objective and uncompromising review of the actions taken to establish a new paradigm for policymaking that aims to reduce and impede the construction of disaster risk. The RAR-LAC 2021 provides data, new knowledge on risk construction processes and indications as to how the much-needed transformation of both policy and action might begin.

The Regional Assessment Report (RAR) 2021 provides a first ever overview that downscales to a regional level the analytical approach and central concerns that have been outlined in the successive Global Assessment Reports (GAR) since the first report was published in 2009. Taking several analytical approaches, concerns and challenges present in the Sendai agreement and the latest GAR 2019, the RAR 2021 provides a “view” from the Americas and the Caribbean region of:

- Advances in DRM and in the achievement of goals associated with Sendai and Hyogo.
- Key risk contexts, concentrating on new drivers of risk and their socio-environmental context.
- The governance challenges faced as the scope of disaster risk management expands to include not only a wider series of hazard events, but also more complex and systemic scenarios of risk (of which COVID 19 is the latest and most revealing to date) and the imposing need to find novel and innovative governance schemes and approaches involving the State, private sector and civil society to not only reduce existing risk (corrective disaster risk management) but also to avoid future risk (prospective disaster risk management) and increase the resilience of nations and communities.

Central contextual themes include the challenge of urban risk and governance where climate change exacerbates contexts of high urban informality and unfulfilled urban and land-use planning, and the risk associated with forced population movements both at intra and international levels.

## **QUESTIONS THAT THE SESSION WILL SEEK TO ANSWER**

1. How has the systemic nature of risk manifested in the region?
  2. What are persistent and new drivers of the risk in our region?
  3. What are the main governance challenges faced by disaster risk management in more complex and systemic risk scenarios?
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