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# Chair Summary of the VIII Session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean (RP23)

*"Science and Technology for the Comprehensive  
Management of Disaster Risk"*

Punta del Este, Uruguay, from February 28 to March 2, 2023

*"In the history of mankind, every act of destruction finds its answer,  
sooner or later, in an act of creation."*

**Eduardo Galeano**, Uruguayan writer

*"That is what we are here for: to create a future for ourselves  
and the next generations."*

**Mami Mizutori**, Special Representative of the United  
Nations Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, and  
Head of UNDRR

## Introduction

1. The VIII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean (RP23) was held from 28 February to 2 March 2023 in Punta del Este, Uruguay. Preparatory events were held on 27 February.
2. Organised in a hybrid format, the RP23 was the first of its kind to be held in person since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. 993 people participated in person, 803 people participated virtually, and more than 10,000 people followed the event via webstreaming. The RP23 was attended by participants from 34 Member States of the region, and 23 countries from other regions, in addition to representatives of intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, civil society, cooperation agencies, United Nations agencies, donors, development banks, scientific, technological and academic sectors, financial and planning institutions, the media, national statistical institutes, as well as other relevant actors, such as women's organizations, organizations of persons with disabilities, community networks, youth organizations, volunteer groups, older persons,



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- indigenous and Afro-descendant populations and organizations, migrants and other groups disproportionately affected by disaster risk.
3. Recognising that the Americas and the Caribbean is one of the most unequal regions in the world in terms of scientific and technological development, the Platform was held under the theme “Science and Technology for the Comprehensive Management of Disaster Risk”. The Platform highlighted the key role of the science and technology agenda for managing disaster risk in the region in a manner that integrates a diversity of perspectives, knowledge and know-how to reach all people and groups of people in a targeted and differentiated manner, leaving no one behind.
  4. The RP23 provided spaces for countries of the Americas and the Caribbean to share their experiences in understanding systemic disaster risk and the current climate crisis, as well as the processes of social and economic recovery in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. It also provided an opportunity to learn about innovative ideas and proposals in risk governance in order to address current and future challenges.
  5. The Platform was preceded by preparatory activities, among which the IV Regional Consultative Forum of the Central American Policy on Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management – PCGIR (5-7 December 2022, El Salvador) and the virtual symposium on Digital Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction (14 February 2023); and by a series of preliminary events, among which the first Regional Summit of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and National Systems for Risk Management and Emergency Response (27 February 2023, Punta del Este, Uruguay), the closed meeting of the Working Group on the Measurement of Indicators related to Disaster Risk Reduction (SCA/ECLAC WG-DRR), the ECHO Workshop: “Disaster preparedness evidence – anticipating complex crises in a systemic risk scenario” (27 February 2023), the International Meeting and Seminar on Media for Disaster Risk Reduction (27 February 2023), and the meeting of the Regional Advisory Group on Science and Technology RSTAG (27 February 2023). It was followed by three follow-up events: the seminar of the Latin American and Caribbean Expert Group on Forest Fires (LAC EGFF) on forest fire prevention and early warning systems, the meeting of the Inclusive Risk Management Network for Disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean (GIRDD-LAC), and the meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Education Group (3 March 2023).
  6. The RP23 included four Plenary Sessions, eight Parallel Sessions, one Special Session, one High-level Technical Session, one Ministerial Meeting, more than twenty official statements, fifteen Side Events, eight Learning Labs, nineteen Expo booths, seventy-five Ignite Stage presentations and more than one hundred and seventy-five bilateral meetings, in addition to the opening and closing ceremonies, and the award ceremony for the outstanding youth teams of the Resilience Tech Challenge 2022.



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7. The outputs of the VIII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean include the **Ministerial Declaration of Punta del Este**, an adjusted version of the Regional Action Plan (RAP) for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework in the Americas and the Caribbean that will allow for better monitoring, and the commitment of the countries to bring a regional consensus position to the High-level Meeting on the Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework, to be held in the framework of the 77th session of United Nations General Assembly at the United Nations headquarters in New York in May this year.
8. Representatives of countries, sectors, and stakeholders pledged to scale up their commitment to reduce disaster risk in line with the agenda of economic and social recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and to accelerate actions for risk-informed sustainable development.
9. These commitments aim to leave no one behind and to build on science and technology to address and improve understanding of systemic risk in the context of the current climate crisis and contribute to achieving the goals of the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## A regional platform marked by balanced, equal, and inclusive participation and a call for active stakeholder engagement

10. The RP23 respected gender parity in its sessions, with the result that more than 60% of the speakers were women.
11. It also featured balanced participation of the four sub-regions, with affirmative action catering to the particular vulnerability of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and a special focus on the participation of the science and technology sector, youth, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities.
12. The VIII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean saw the activation of the first Gender Observatory in the framework of regional and/or global platforms, promoted by the [LAC Women's Network for DRR](#). The more than 50 volunteers who participated in this initiative recorded and analysed the sessions in order to evaluate not only the fulfilment of the parity commitments in the composition of the panels, but also the integration of the intersectional gender approach to DRR in the papers and experiences presented at RP23. The main results will be collected in the proceedings of RP23, and the detailed analysis will be published by the [LAC Women's Network for DRR](#).



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13. Persons with disabilities were guaranteed universal accessibility and full participation as a result of the collaborative actions of the Inclusive Risk Management Network for Disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean (GIRDD LAC) from the preliminary stages of RP23. These actions were strengthened by the training provided by SINAIE to volunteers and logistical staff of the RP23, in collaboration with the GIRDD LAC Network, and by the care and reasonable accommodations provided to meet the specific needs of persons with disabilities. This allowed the full participation of persons with disabilities in all instances of the RP23 and the acknowledgement of the diversity of those who, in their different roles, attended this Regional Platform's edition.
14. The RP23 welcomed the creation of partnerships, alliances, and networks, highlighting that populations must be protagonists and be involved as a society in policies, plans, projects, and actions linked to DRR, with the full and active participation of relevant stakeholders such as women, youth, persons with disabilities, indigenous populations, community voices, and civil society, among others.
15. It is important to acknowledge that indigenous women play an essential role in preserving both their culture and the unique strategies their peoples have developed to adapt to and survive disasters, as custodians and holders of knowledge and traditions, as well as passers of this knowledge to the next generations and holders of community leadership roles in disaster situations. This calls for their knowledge to be made visible and disseminated, and for them to be protected, supported, and considered as actors in the design of solutions.

## Science and technology are critical for integrated disaster risk management and climate change adaptation

16. Although science generates evidence, this information is not always reflected in the policy decisions and budgets of the countries in the region. Therefore, the RP23 attached importance to commitments to strengthen the partnerships and interactions between academia and the decision-making spheres, as well as at other relevant levels.
17. Social sciences are fundamental to make progress in the perception of risk and the strengthening of resilience under a more holistic vision of disaster risk management and reduction as a strategy for sustainable development.
18. The role of local governments and communities is key to ensuring that the policies, strategies, and actions that are planned and designed are grounded locally.



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19. Silos of knowledge must be broken down and communication strengthened to allow scientific knowledge to reach communities, local governments, women, and isolated populations, while ensuring that ancestral and local knowledge inform the scientific community.
20. One way to achieve this circulation of knowledge is methodological innovation. The systematisation of bio-indicators or participatory mapping are examples of initiatives that have contributed to the perception of risk and the development of effective response mechanisms in the event of disasters. They are therefore one of the most appropriate ways of capturing traditional knowledge and integrating it into the work of scientific-technical institutions. For this to happen, it is key to know and recognise the value of the knowledge of our region in its geographical and cultural diversity to address local and situated problems.
21. It is important to reduce technology gaps through knowledge sharing between different actors. Technology provides an unprecedented opportunity for the valorisation of differentiated knowledge alongside scientific knowledge.
22. Science and technology are key to contributing knowledge to the realisation of climate change scenarios with variables such as sea level rise which, in some sub-regions such as Caribbean SIDS, are essential to secure their survival.
23. Multi-hazard early warning systems must recognise the different population groups that have not yet been reached, understand the causes of their exclusion, and generate targeted strategies and mechanisms to ensure that *no one is left behind*.
24. It is necessary to advance in the consolidation of the digital transformation of different sectors, in particular of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and in capacity building tailored to this process, with sources of financing for this purpose, taking into account that MSMEs are the main generator of formal and informal employment in the region and that they have demonstrated, from the digital transformation forced by the pandemic, that technology is key to ensure the continuity of operations and strengthen community resilience.
25. Science and technology have the potential to contribute to the structuring of information to account for exposed infrastructure and its local risk conditions, allowing for a decision-making process that contributes to generating resilient infrastructure and ensuring the sustainability of public investments.
26. The RP23 emphasised the potential of science and technology in disaster risk reduction from different perspectives and presented a vast number of experiences including: low-cost solutions to increase community resilience; the role of youth and digital and



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technological inclusion for DRR; applied geomorphology in DRR; emergency geomatics services; and near real-time mapping assisted by Artificial Intelligence (AI) for disaster management.

27. Presentations and proposals were made to improve early warning systems through the use of storm detection systems, the improvement of the climate monitoring system or the use of accessible applications as tools for early warning, among many others.

## Taking stock of the situation in the region

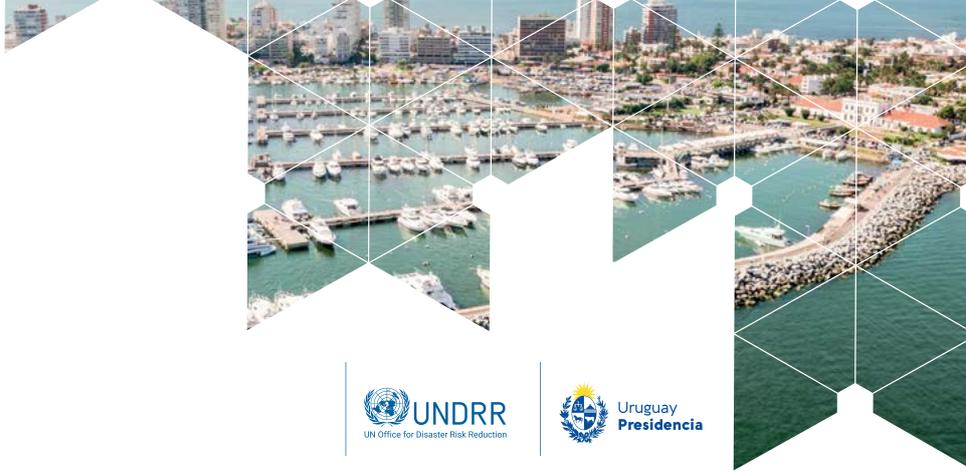
28. Although significant progress has been made in understanding risk, the **link between scientific evidence and decision-making** must continue to be strengthened. The central role of science (including social sciences) and technology in risk governance should be recognised as a foundation for decision making, through a solid evidence base of data production and statistics, catalysing the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic. Data and statistics should be strengthened with disaggregation at least by age, sex and other key variables for targeted and effective decision making. It is also important to rely on standards that ensure the quality of the information, to increase comparability both diachronically in each country and at different territorial scales, including regional scales.
29. **Risk governance** should be at the centre of the development agenda, as a strategic approach that includes mitigation and adaptation to climate change, land use planning and an ecosystem approach together with disaster risk management.
30. It requires multisectoral coordination and inclusion of the broadest possible diversity of actors, especially those individuals and groups of people in vulnerable situations.
31. It is necessary to count on the support of the highest level and the integration of all sectors for the generation of inter-institutional areas for DRR, bearing in mind that there is no single entity that by itself has the necessary capacities or knowledge to face present and future challenges. In this sense, it is required to strengthen knowledge networks and alliances among multiple parties to streamline efforts.
32. Although in the last 30 years countries have made great progress in the development of DRR solutions, these are still insufficient in the face of the growing impact of increasingly complex disasters.
33. **Land-use and urban planning** are related to land renting and valuation. Despite the progress made in several countries of the region to develop these instruments with more comprehensive criteria that include the perspective of disaster risk, there are still great regulatory challenges in other countries of the region.



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34. A more effective integration of disaster risk management and the development and application of risk scenarios in land-use planning and management instruments is necessary for prospective disaster risk management.
35. Quality data disaggregated by sex, age and disability, among others, is needed to make strategic changes in land distribution and ensure effective risk management with more holistic development paradigms that focus on reducing inequalities.
36. A greater commitment is required to incorporate disaster risk reduction into **planning and budgeting** processes, and thus achieve evidence-based financing for resilient sustainable development, both public and private. There are experiences, lessons learned, and good practices that different actors have successfully implemented in the region, including green taxonomies, quantification of natural capital, labelling of climate and DRR spending, green bonds and catastrophe bonds, as well as other innovative financing mechanisms for DRR and climate action.
37. The RP23 called for further exploration and design of novel, inclusive, and sustainable mechanisms that go beyond response and reconstruction, and allow for expanded funding and investment in prevention and prospective management.
38. Disaster risk continues to grow in Latin America and the Caribbean, and while the region has developed capacities, knowledge, tools, and processes to meet the challenges of **post-disaster recovery**, collective learning and exchange mechanisms are needed to accelerate innovative ways of addressing these challenges in a context where uncertainty and systemic risk conditions will play a greater role in national development agendas.
39. To ensure effective recovery, social scientists, behavioural scientists and people-centred preparedness, recovery, and resilience processes must be expanded and included in the science and technology vision, as well as building public trust with the help of the media through community-based planning guided by sustainability, integrating their cultural standards, social networks, and organizational dynamics.
40. Special recognition is given to the structural and compound vulnerabilities faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which exacerbate climate and disaster risks. SIDS need access to innovative financing mechanisms to increase their resilience and address their specific challenges.
41. The systemic nature of risk requires a continuous expansion of networks, alliances, and implementation mechanisms for comprehensive, multilevel, and multisectoral risk management, recognising the multiple contributions and inputs from perspectives differentiated by gender, by local and territorial knowledge, and by ancestral knowledge, as well as taking into account the convergence between DRR, climate change adaptation measures, and a more equitable approach to sustainable development.



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42. The systemic nature of risk, as evidenced by the COVID-19 pandemic, places the emphasis on strengthening basic services and critical infrastructure such as health and education, as well as on the need to plan for the continuity of operations and recovery, with a special focus on the populations that tend to be most affected by disasters, such as indigenous communities, children, the elderly, displaced persons and persons with disabilities. The effectiveness of these processes depends on the ability to establish a virtuous and participatory dialogue between information generators (science, technology, academia, communities, and traditional knowledge) with the political system and decision-making spheres.
43. Art and culture are recognised as important tools for achieving the necessary transformations in disaster risk management, for a more integral development of our communities.
44. The development of **resilient infrastructure** must be based on the community. Local information and effective participation with a focus on gender, diversity, and inclusion are required to close territorial gaps and generate resilient infrastructure at the service of local populations. The approach to resilient infrastructure has been strengthened in the region by integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, and progress has been made in the adoption of principles, development of methods, and study of appropriate technologies. However, progress remains to be made in better integrating green infrastructure with traditional structural infrastructure, and in intervening in existing infrastructure with a resilience approach while designing new infrastructure with the same approach, taking into account information on exposed infrastructure and infrastructure that is critical for communities, in order to generate criteria for prioritising actions.
45. **Nature-Based Solutions (NbS)** are proven, cost-effective, and sustainable interventions that reduce and mitigate climate risks and provide long-term benefits for ecosystems and communities. Nature-based and non-nature-based solutions should be considered in a complementary and non-exclusive manner, highlighting the importance of celebrating nature in urban design to reduce disaster risk while contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation.
46. It is important to integrate knowledge about NbS in education and awareness raising, both for the creation of partnerships and to promote inter-institutional governance models, which are essential to implement this type of DRR solutions.
47. The RP23 addressed and deepened the way in which countries have integrated in their strategies, planning, research, practices and actions, various DRR topics such as the gender approach based on women's autonomy and leadership, human mobility in the context of climate change and disasters, natural heritage, safe schools and financing of humanitarian action, among others.



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## Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework (MTR SF) and progress in the implementation of the Regional Action Plan (RAP)

48. The **Special Session dedicated to the Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework (MTR SF)** highlighted that the review process had been participatory and multisectoral, inclusive and intersectional at local, national, regional and global levels. The countries recognised the urgent need to address DRR as an integral part of sustainable development, prioritising the relationship between DRR and climate change from a systemic risk approach. The region should take advantage of the opportunity presented by the High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, to be held in May 2023, to contribute from its experience and knowledge in DRR with to the decisions that will influence the prioritisation of countries through the political declaration that will be made there.
49. Taking up the findings and recommendations arising from the MTR SF process, especially those found in the Voluntary National Reviews and in the [regional report prepared for LAC](#), at the Technical Session on the [Regional Action Plan](#), the countries adjusted the Regional Initiatives for the next two years and agreed to form a committee that will propose a mechanism to evaluate progress in their implementation.
50. The countries considered key messages that the region will present at the High-level Meeting on the Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework at the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly, to be held on May 18 and 19, 2023 in New York.

## Strengthening regional, national, and local partnerships for DRR

51. The RP23 also provided the setting for the **first Regional Summit of National Hydrological and Meteorological Services and Risk and Disaster Risk and Emergency Management Systems**. Participants agreed that inter-institutional collaboration related to disaster risk knowledge is hindered by the absence of legislative and policy frameworks that mandate collaboration and data sharing. Among the most significant results of this event was the request to institutionalise this dialogue on a regular basis and in subregional groups, as well as the need to involve other national and regional actors that play a fundamental role in the implementation of early warning systems, such as geological observatories, epidemiological centres, the academic sector, the private sector, and other civil society actors. This has been a fundamental step in strengthening



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- stakeholder coordination in line with the Early Warning for All initiative and the call of United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to achieve full coverage of early warning mechanisms globally.
52. The closed meeting of the **Working Group on the Measurement of Indicators related to Disaster Risk Reduction (SCA/ECLAC WG-DRR)** was attended by national statistical institutes from 12 countries of the region. It stressed the need to consolidate partnerships with the different sectors that generate and use data to secure its own sustainability, increase the impact of its products and promote multi-sectoral data management. Participants proposed to strengthen intersectoral coordination with the support of the Division of Environmental Statistics of ECLAC and UNDRR for this purpose. In addition, several countries committed to test the “self-diagnostic matrix of institutional and methodological recommendations” that seeks to support the understanding of data to measure the Sendai indicators and the SDGs.
  53. In the first **International Meeting and Seminar on Media for Disaster Risk Reduction**, participants resolved to write pieces that address DRR in a cross-cutting manner, to be creative in formats, to create directories of diverse sources and expertise, and to work across borders. Committed to giving their audiences the tools they need to make life-saving decisions, they set out to tell stories that would generate behavioural changes in the face of the factors that generate disaster risk, and share experiences and realities about local contexts with a regional perspective.
  54. The **Regional Science and Technology Advisory Group for the Americas and the Caribbean (UNDRR-RSTAG)** committed to practice and promote actions among the scientific and technological development communities of the region, prioritising more collaborative, coproductive and inclusive research and technological development. Participants also proposed to promote research and education in high-risk regions and communities based on inter-institutional, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary collaborations, encouraging a better understanding of the process of social construction of risk and pledging to make research results and data as open and public as possible. The meeting featured the presentation of the document [“Integrated Disaster Risk Management in the Americas and the Caribbean: Insights for a new science and technology-based regional agenda”](#). The Declaration of the Regional Science and Technology Advisory Group, presented at the High-level Meeting of Ministers and Authorities, urged governments and other stakeholders in development and disaster risk management to make research and education a political, financial, and operational priority and to increase resources for forward-looking and corrective disaster risk management that takes into account social and territorial aspects.



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55. A little more than a year after its creation and in the first public presentation of its newly elected authorities, the **LAC Network of Women for Disaster Risk Reduction** advocated for encouraging networking for mutual support among women in the region, especially in science and technology developed by and for women, to strengthen their individual and collective leadership and role in disaster risk governance. The Network promoted the recognition of women and girls in their strength and diversity, as agents of change, avoiding approaches that only associate them with vulnerability. The first Gender Observatory of the RP23 was also announced and the call for Good Practices in Science and Technology for Resilience, by and for women, which will be systematised by the working group of good practices of the Network, was launched.
56. Members of the Inclusive **Risk Management Network for Disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean (GIRDD-LAC)** participated as panellists in different sessions and stages of the RP23. A well-attended stand set up at the Expo substantially increased awareness of the vital role of persons with disabilities in disaster risk management and reduction processes and of the valuable contributions that organizations of persons with disabilities make to risk awareness. A major event was the regional launch of the annex on inclusion of people with disabilities to the Making Cities Resilient Scorecard for local governments (MCR2030), a tool developed in our region and already available globally. Following the RP23, the GIRDD LAC Network held a hybrid meeting (March 3, 2023) in which members assessed their participation in the RP23, consolidated lessons learned and good practices, and established the representation and technical secretariat of the GIRDD LAC Network for the next period of action.
57. The diversity of youth participating in the RP23 produced a **Youth Roadmap for Disaster Risk Reduction 2023-2025** in which they claimed their role as a source of innovative technical proposals, solutions and ideas in different fields, as well as key actors in charge of raising awareness in their communities and influencing public policies. The youth actively participated in plenary and side events, made presentations at specific side events and at the [Resilience Tech Challenge 2022](#) – a youth-led early warning system innovation competition –, and endorsed the priority action of the RP23 associated with innovation, science, and technology. They called for the continued development of youth challenges and events prior to regional platforms, and urged to strengthen youth participation in decision-making spaces. These messages were underscored in the [Statement of Youth](#), presented at the High-level Meeting of Ministers and Authorities. The youth also reinforced their commitment to regional safe schools actions.



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58. The launch of **ARISE Uruguay** highlighted the importance of involving the private sector in disaster risk reduction in Uruguay, in close collaboration with the National Emergency System (SINAE). ARISE Uruguay pledged to mobilise and assist the private sector in making disaster risk-informed investments and implementing business practices that improve disaster recovery and societal resilience.
59. Local governments and partners of the **Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030)** initiative performed strongly in the RP23. Of note was the nomination by UNDRR of three new MCR2030 Resilience Nodes committed to mentoring their metropolitan areas in building resilience. The Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), ICLEI South America, ARISE and the Climate Bonds Initiative introduced innovative financing mechanisms for urban resilience solutions. New tools for “Local Climate Risk Analysis” and the “Addendum to the Local Climate Resilience Scorecard” were launched in partnership with CAF and Global Factor. Their commitments highlighted the importance of grassroots action and community participation.

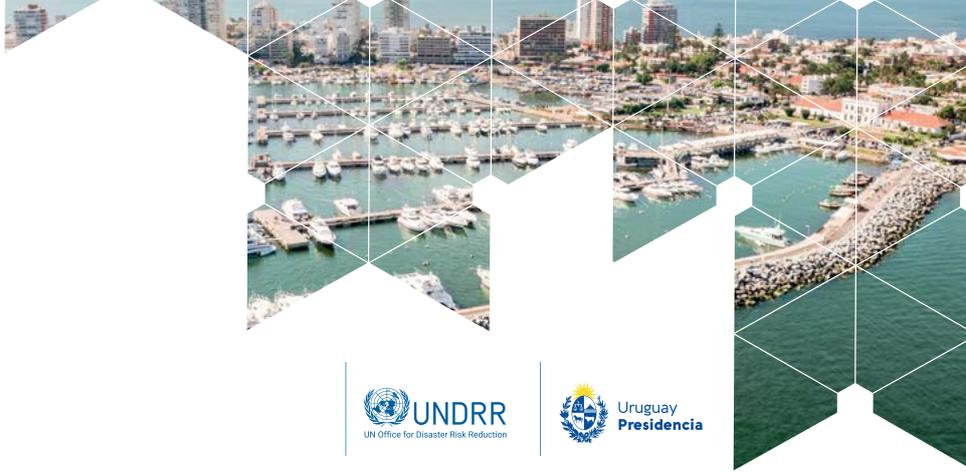
## Declaration of Punta del Este

60. Representatives from 30 countries participating in the **Fifth High-level Meeting of Ministers and Authorities on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in the Americas and the Caribbean** adopted the [Declaration of Punta del Este](#). This Declaration reiterates the countries’ commitment to significantly reduce disaster risk through the implementation of a set of regional actions and the adoption of commitments and adjustments to the Regional Action Plan.
61. The Declaration establishes the commitment to participate in the High-level Meeting on the Midterm Review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the framework of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly, to be held on May 18 and 19, 2023 in New York, and to further consolidate a regional position to be presented there, considering this event as an opportunity to share experiences and lessons learned and to adopt a political declaration with recommendations to expedite the implementation of the Sendai Framework.
62. The Declaration also reiterates the validity of the Regional Action Plan (RAP) for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in the Americas and the Caribbean, which reflects and addresses the region’s challenges with respect to disaster risk, and contributes to establishing more resilient societies



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and economies, in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement, the New Urban Agenda, and other relevant global and regional instruments. The Declaration adopts the adjustments made to the RAP in this VIII Regional Platform and agrees to create a voluntary commission among member countries that will propose a mechanism for evaluating progress made in implementing the RAP.

63. Considering the international context of increasing fragility and uncertainty, and the impacts on our region, the Declaration of Punta del Este urges governments to strengthen multi-sectoral governance mechanisms that integrate multiple actors and multiple levels of management to address the systemic nature of risk. It further stresses the importance of implementing lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and other multi-hazard scenarios and strengthening the scientific and evidence base for decision making. Integrated risk management must be established in coherence with climate action and as a fundamental part of sustainable development. The Declaration therefore urges Member States and partners to identify synergistic and innovative financing mechanisms. Finally, the Declaration underscores the importance of strengthening international cooperation, including south-south cooperation and transboundary collaboration mechanisms, to address the multiple challenges faced by the countries of the region, with a view to leaving no one behind.

The VIII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction has demonstrated, once again, the diversity and breadth of existing knowledge and capacities in the region to achieve more effective and inclusive risk reduction. By identifying the existing challenges, important commitments have been made that collectively drive us to implement the Sendai Framework with renewed ambition, at the regional, national, and local levels. This will depend on the level of implementation of expressed intentions and agreements, and on greater transparency and innovation in disaster risk reduction financing, involving public, private and multilateral actors. Recognition of the importance of achieving a more solid scientific basis will contribute to strengthening risk governance and the coherent implementation of efforts to achieve the goals set out in the relevant global frameworks. Only together can the countries and people of the region become truly resilient.