

CSO Statement at the 2021 Regional Platform for the Americas

Since the 2018 Regional Platform in Cartagena, the world has significantly changed: the pandemic caused by **Covid-19** and **events that were not previously categorized as disasters**, such as what happened, last 14 August 2021, “a 7.2 magnitude earthquake hit the southwestern region of Haiti severely impacting South, Nippes and Grand’Anse departments, changed the landscape of the world and particularly of vulnerable communities in Latin America”.

If we want the Sendai Framework to be fully achieved by 2030, we need to take action and address some of these challenges. Below the Civil Society Organizations put forward some recommendations, and we are committed to continue working together with our governments and the private sector to increase the resilience of our communities.

- We call on governments to strengthen their political commitment towards resilience and all-of-society collaborations for risk-informed development. We are ready to support this by supporting local level engagement in policy processes.
- We call on all actors to increase our efforts to raise awareness of the Sendai Framework, its objectives, and the role we can all play in achieving it, especially with regards to mapping risk and understanding its causes. The Framework should be seen as an exercise of co-responsibility led by national governments.
- We reiterate the importance of seeking alignment among the main international frameworks and agreements, and we call for an increased use of local knowledge and expertise to explore how coherence across sectors can be achieved. Local actors have experience of addressing multiple threats simultaneously, and this experience should be leveraged.
- We call on national governments to be open to stronger governance structures that support prevention and local leadership as guiding principles for resilience. We call for the inclusion of ethnic and peasant communities in this work, as they are the first to be affected by these situations in rural and remote areas that receive limited attention and coverage from national governments.
- We would like to see an increased commitment to learning from experiences and sharing best practices among countries, especially in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic: “learnings from the experiences of successful countries need to inform future resilience strategies”.
- We call on all of society to incorporate youth, women, and people with disabilities in building processes where gender equality and social inclusion govern the development of resilience plans, projects, and programmes. We look forward to the full roll-out of the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Women for Disaster Risk Reduction, and we hope governments will see this as a platform to turn to for advice and support.
- We call for the strengthening of social protection systems in the countries of the region from the perspective of protecting the rights of people at risk of disasters.

