



Memorandum of Understanding on integrated disaster risk management

between the European Union and Latin American and the Caribbean



What is the objective of the MoU?

The MoU aims at **promoting collaboration to strengthen disaster risk management** in Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union. The MoU promotes international cooperation activities to strengthen the following areas:

- disaster risk prevention,
- vulnerability reduction,
- preparedness for a timely and appropriate response,
- early post-disaster recovery,
- resilience building,
- and climate change adaptation.

It is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and contributes to fulfilling the targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in the Americas and the Caribbean.

Who has signed the MoU?

The MoU was signed on 15 May 2024 by:

- **The European Union**
- **3 intergovernmental organisations:** the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the Coordination Center for the Prevention of Disasters in Central America and Dominican Republic (CEPREDNAC), the General Secretariat of the Andean Community (SGCAN).
- **3 countries:** Cuba, Chile, and Mexico.
- **2 witnesses of honour:** the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).



What are the main areas of cooperation?

The 3 main areas of cooperation include:

1. Strengthening response capacities;
2. Strengthening prevention, preparedness, response and early recovery capacities;
3. Exchanging knowledge, experiences and good practices.

What is its legal status, financial commitment and duration?

The MoU does not contain any legally binding obligations under national or international law and neither does it not contain any financial commitments, as each MoU signatory is expected to bear its own expenses related to its cooperation. In addition, the MoU does not contain a specific end date, but instead will remain in force until its objectives are achieved.

How will the work of the MoU be coordinated and carried out?

The work will be coordinated by a governing Secretariat, comprising two permanent members (EU, UNDRR) and two rotating members, comprising one individual country and one intergovernmental organisation that are selected on an alphabetical basis (currently Chile and CDEMA).

Closely with the other participants, the Secretariat has coordinated and finalised an annual action plan to implement the activities of the MoU.

In addition, the MoU signatories meet on a regular basis to discuss, among others, implementation of the action plan, communication and upcoming events or activities.