



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 17 May 2023  
(OR. en)

9567/23

LIMITE

PROCIV 32  
COHAFA 54  
CLIMA 245  
ENV 505  
DEVGEN 90  
RELEX 624  
COLAC 50

#### NOTE

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	European Commission's intention to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding on Disaster Preparedness on behalf of the EU with sub-regional intergovernmental entities in Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) – <i>Request for the Council endorsement under the Arrangements for non-binding instruments</i>

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#### **DOCUMENT PARTIALLY ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC (20.06.2023)**

Delegations will find attached a note from the Commission on the intention to sign a non-binding instrument ('NBI') in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding on Disaster Preparedness on behalf of the EU with sub-regional intergovernmental entities in Latin America and Caribbean (LAC).



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR EUROPEAN CIVIL PROTECTION AND HUMANITARIAN AID  
OPERATIONS (ECHO)  
Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Latin America and Pacific  
The Director

Brussels  
ECHO.DDG.D.4

**NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CHAIR OF THE WORKING PARTY ON CIVIL  
PROTECTION (PROCIV)**

**Subject: European Commission's intention to enter into a Memorandum of  
Understanding on Disaster Preparedness on behalf of the EU with sub-  
regional intergovernmental entities in Latin America and Caribbean  
(LAC)**

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**REMARKS:**

In the context of the renewal of the longstanding bi-regional partnership between the EU and the LAC region, 2023 will be marked by a series of events, most importantly, by a Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and EU leaders' summit (the Summit), to take place in Brussels on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

In the field of civil protection and humanitarian aid, the Commission intends to contribute to the Summit and to the process of renewed cooperation with the region with a number of deliverables, among which a possible Memorandum of Understanding on disaster preparedness (DP) could figure.

The LAC region is the world's second-most disaster-prone region, accounting for 53% of global economic losses from climate-related disasters over the last two decades and with

75% of the population exposed to natural hazards. <sup>(1)</sup> Disaster preparedness efforts are therefore a key humanitarian priority in LAC. Over the last 30 years, disaster preparedness funds counted for nearly 20% of the total EU humanitarian spending in the LAC region. EU-funded humanitarian disaster preparedness programme has reached over 30 million people across the region, reinforcing capacities, and fostering scale-up, replicability and institutionalisation of DP efforts.

As such, there is fertile ground for an EU-LAC co-creation of a new bilateral framework of enhanced cooperation in the areas of DP and disaster risk management. The overall aim is to support regional integration and South-South cooperation in this area.

To this end, and in line with the arrangements for non-binding instruments between the Secretary General of the Commission, the Secretary General of the Council and the Secretary General of the EEAS, the Commission would like to inform the Council about the intention to enter into discussions with relevant sub-regional disaster risk management intergovernmental entities ( ) and possibly non-associated countries ( ) to elaborate a common agenda to respond better to disasters and natural hazards exacerbated by climate change. The concrete outcome would be a non-binding instrument in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding on Disaster Preparedness to be signed by the Commission on behalf of the EU with the relevant sub-regional intergovernmental entities and, possibly, some countries not associated to these sub-regional intergovernmental entities. This is envisioned to be signed by the end of 2023 or in early 2024.

Three areas of engagement are envisaged:

1. Reinforcing regionally based response capacities in case of disasters,
2. Strengthening hazard and risk detection, and monitoring,
3. And knowledge management and exchanges of disaster risk reduction experiences.

The Commission considers organising in the margins of the Summit a high-level event on disaster preparedness, during which this non-binding instrument and the related process and discussions may notably be referred to.

Andrea KOULAIMAH,

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European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations

<sup>(1)</sup> UNDRR 2021, p.8, [download \(undrr.org\)](#); UN OCHA 2022, [Latin America and the Caribbean | Humanitarian Action](#).