



**Organización de los Estados Americanos**  
**Organização dos Estados Americanos**  
**Organisation des États américains**  
**Organization of American States**

## Invitation for General Membership of the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (INDM)

Governmental and non-governmental organizations, international organizations, international cooperation agencies, private enterprises, and organizations of the civil society that advocate, support and/or actively participate in Natural Hazard Risk Management, according to the principles of “good” governance, people-centered risk management, and poverty alleviation and overcoming inequities, are invited to be a member of the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (INDM). While the Network encourages and welcomes the participation of a wide range of individuals, from government officials, to experts and practitioners from all sectors of the society; membership is for the institutions only.

The INDM, which serves as a tool to assist OAS member States in advancing the formulation and development of public policy related to natural hazard risk management, was recently established by the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (GS/OAS). The DSD of the GS/OAS is the main forum for inter-governmental dialogue with regard to sustainable development in the Americas.

In line with the principles and objectives of the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) and the Inter-American Strategic Plan for Policy on Vulnerability Reduction, Risk Management and Disaster Response (IASP) of the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR), the Network focuses its efforts in the exchange and sharing of best practices, and policy models that promote the mainstreaming of natural hazard risk management into sustainable development policy-formulation and planning.

We are pleased to invite your organization to be a member of the Network, by sending us a letter, along with a brief statement of your organization’s interest, or a statement of renewal of interest, in participating in the Network, and the name and contact information of its representative to the INDM. Please, include as much contact information as possible, (e-mails and URLs), as a record will be created in an on-line database, soon to be available in our Network Web Portal. The INDM Web portal is currently under construction, and it is scheduled to be launched by July of this year. Integrated within the Web portal, a Dynamic Institutional Mapping Tool (DIMIT) will make available a wealth of information on participating institutions; decision-makers, experts, and practitioners; treaties, conventions, and cooperation agreements; projects and programs; and all sort of events and activities related to Natural Disaster Mitigation in the Americas. As part of DIMIT, a Hemispheric Calendar of Events will be available on-line. Your organization’s events will be posted to help you reach out the broad community of the Americas, and to help us all to improve inter-institutional coordination.

We look forward to your active participation,

Sincerely,

**Pablo González**

Chief, Natural Hazard Risk Reduction  
Department of Sustainable Development

Co-chair, Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation