

**GENERAL SECRETARIAT
OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**

EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 16- 04

SUBJECT: INSTITUTIONAL POLICY ON DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

THE SECRETARY GENERAL:

In the exercise of the powers conferred upon him by Articles 109 and 113 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) and Articles 4, 8, 12, and 14 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of the OAS; and

CONSIDERING:

That the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, adopted at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March of 2015 in Sendai Japan, recognizes: that “there has to be a broader and more people-centered, preventive approach to disaster risk”, that is “multi-sectoral based, inclusive and accessible”; and that “disaster risk management contributes to sustainable development”;

That the Sendai Framework calls for strengthening good governance and coordination across relevant institutions and sectors, and for enhancing international cooperation between developed and developing countries and between states and international organizations;

That the OAS is the premiere Inter-American forum on matters of democracy, human rights, security and development and that its General Secretariat is in a unique position to address the conditions of vulnerability in OAS member states, including strengthening democratic institutions, fostering the observance of human rights for all, and advancing hemispheric security and integral development, under the principles and objectives of the United Nations 2030 Development Agenda and the Declarations of Santa Cruz (CIDI/RIMDS/DEC.1/06 rev. 1) and Santo Domingo (CIDI/RIMDS-II/DEC.1/10), respectively, on Sustainable Development;

That the General Secretariat has been at the vanguard of disaster risk management since the 1980’s when the discipline was already treated as an integral part of development programs and projects, addressing the underlying factors of disasters, and that ultimately were recognized by the United Nations in the Hyogo Framework for Action, in 2005, as a priority area for action;

That good governance for disaster risk management can only be achieved through strong democratic institutions and the observance of human rights for all, and that the General Secretariat contributes to these fundamental objectives in accordance with the pillars of democracy, human rights, security and integral development as expressed in the OAS Charter;

That the “Inter-American Plan for Disaster Prevention and Response and the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance”, endorsed by the OAS General Assembly in 2012, calls for the participation of the General Secretariat as a partner in the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction; and

That pursuant to Executive Order No. 05-11, on October 31, 2005, the Secretary General established the Project Evaluation Committee (PEC), which is intended to ensure that all OAS projects respond to the current mandates given to the General Secretariat by the political bodies,

RESOLVES:

1. To adopt, effective from the date of this Executive Order, the General Secretariat's Institutional Policy on Disaster Risk Management, which will inform the General Secretariat's efforts in mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management across all its secretariats, departments, offices, and other dependencies as outlined in the policy paper, “Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change”, ISBN 978-0-8270-6140-8, as appended as Annex A hereto.

2. To instruct the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), responsible for Disaster Risk Management pursuant to Executive Order No. 16-02 rev.1, to initiate the work necessary for the Institutional Policy on Disaster Risk Management's implementation.

3. To instruct all secretariats, departments, offices, and other dependencies of the General Secretariat to follow the guidelines for mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management included in Part 5 of the policy paper, “Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change” cited in paragraph 1 above.

4. To instruct all secretariats, departments, offices, and other dependencies of the General Secretariat to provide SEDI with relevant information and to assist SEDI with the drafting of reports as pertaining to their work in reducing vulnerability to natural hazards, preventing and mitigating disasters, and reducing risk to disasters.

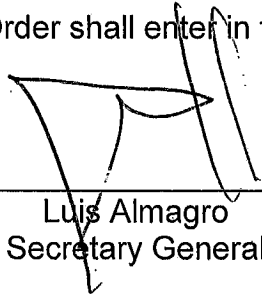
5. To instruct all secretariats, offices, organs and dependencies of the General Secretariat to include under the chapter on "Special Considerations" of the Project Management System form, a narrative describing how a proposed project will address Disaster Risk Management ; and

6. To entrust the Project Evaluation Committee (PEC) with evaluating the appropriateness, effectiveness and impact of projects, taking into consideration the degree to which they address this institutional policy for mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management;

ABROGATION AND ENTRY INTO EFFECT:

1. This Executive Order shall replace any contrary provision, regulation, and practice of the General Secretariat.

2. This Executive Order shall enter in to force on the date it is signed.



Luis Almagro
Secretary General

April 25, 2016
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