



Bogota October 30, 2013

JANE E. ROVINS

Executive Director

INTEGRATED RESEARCH ON DISASTER RISK | IPO

c/o RADI/CAS

Room B705, No 9 Dengzhuangnan Lu,
Haidian District, Beijing, China 100094

Subject: Expression of Interest- IRDR National Committee of Colombia

Dear Dr. Rovins:

The National Unit for Disaster Risk Management of the Presidency of the Republic of Colombia (Unidad Nacional de Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres, UNGRD) would like to present the expression of interest for the recognition of the “National Committee of Disaster Risk Knowledge” of the National System for Disaster Risk Management of Colombia the National Committee of the IRDR.

The main function of the UNGRD, is to lead and coordinate the National System of Disaster Risk Management as well as the three main of Disaster Risk Management interinstitutional processes: The Disaster Risk Knowledge, the Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Disaster Management, with the purpose to contribute to sustainable development. This interagency system and public policy actions were consolidated by the Law 1523 of 2012 that updated, harmonized and modernized the former National System of Disaster Prevention and Attention created at the end of 1980s.

The Disaster Risk Knowledge Subdirection of the UNGRD leads and coordinates the National Committee for Disaster Risk Knowledge, in which the objectives and goals of IRDR are being achieved. Interagency efforts related to multidisciplinary and integrated disaster risk research from scientific/engineering and social/economic point of views are being promoting and advocating not only at national but at regional and local level in the countries.

This National Committee, that we would like to launch as our National Committee of IRDR, has been created by the articles 20 and 21 of the Law 1523 of 2012. The following agencies are the institutional advisory members of the committee according to Art. 20:

1. UNGRD National Director, or his delegate, who shall lead it.
2. The Director of the Geographical Institute “Agustin Codazzi”, IGAC or his delegate.
3. The Director of the Colombian Geological Survey SGC or his delegate.



4. The Director of the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies, IDEAM or his delegate.
5. The General Maritime Director, DIMAR or his delegate.
6. The Director of the National Planning Department, DNP or his delegate.
7. The Director of the National Department of Statistics, DANE or his delegate.
8. The Executive Director of the Autonomous Corporations Association for Regional and Sustainable Development, ASOCARS.
9. A Governor delegated by the National Federation of Departments.
10. One Mayor delegated by the Colombian Federation of Municipalities.

In addition, other private and public agencies -such as the National Science Foundation (Colciencias)- and public and private universities, which have in graduate programs or doctorates on disaster risk management approved by the Ministry of Education, and non-governmental scientific organizations, may be convened as permanent invited members by the committee secretary (UNGRD).

On the other hand, according to the Article 21, among others, the relevant functions of the National Committee for Disaster Risk Knowledge regarding the IRDR objectives are:

1. To guide the formulation of policies to strengthen the process of integrated disaster risk knowledge in the country.
2. To guide the identification of disaster risk scenarios and factors, such as hazards, vulnerabilities and exposure of people and goods.
3. To guide the integrated approach for risk analysis and assessment.
4. To guide the actions of surveying and monitoring hazards and risk and its causal factors.
5. To advise and promote risk awareness processes.
6. To articulate the relationship between risk knowledge with risk reduction and disaster management.
7. To address the harmonization and coordination of integrated measures for environmental management, climate change adaptation and disaster risk management.
8. To guide risk communication activities into the National System and society.
9. To guide the articulation of the National System of Disaster Risk Management with the National System of Science and Technology and the National System of Environment.
10. To guide the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the National Plan for Disaster Risk Management, with emphasis on aspects related to integrated disaster risk knowledge.
11. To promote integrated disaster risk research and training in graduate and undergraduate education institutions.

With this organization and activities, this committee with the support of the UNGRD, as focal point, shall contribute and promote with an interagency approach, coordinated efforts to achieve the IRDR goals and objectives. They will be evidenced by an integrated and adequate disaster risk management research.



Regarding the UNGRD, as a focal point, it is important to mention that it is a directorate restructured by the Decree 4147 of 2011. It is at present a dependency the Administrative Department of the Presidency of the Republic, whose patrimony and resources are defined from the national general budget, but can receive resources from national and international, public and private institutions and donors. UNGRD has been an active member of national and international disaster risk research and reduction networks. It has been the national counterpart of UNISDR regarding the regional and sub-regional mechanisms that provide platforms for planning and to execute common actions in disaster risk management, such as CAPRADE (Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Attention), the Association of Caribbean States - ACS (Risk Reduction Special Committee), the UNASUR (South American Nations Union), among others. In addition, regarding integrated disaster risk research the former National Directorate (today the UNGRD), with the leadership of the Director General (Dr. Omar D. Cardona) contributed to the creation of the Latin American Network for Social Studies in Disaster Prevention, La RED, in 1992.

Finally, at National Level, with the permanent interagency coordination and networking through the other National Committees (risk reduction and disaster management) there is a permanent articulation and promotion of the scientific research from natural, applied and social sciences.

For this application process or any further information required, please feel free to contact Margarita Arias, Head of International Cooperation, in the telephone +57 3202374922 and at margarita.arias@gestiondelriesgo.gov.co.

We appreciate your support to this proposal and we look forward to establish a permanent working network with IRDR SC and IPO.

Yours sincerely,

CARLOS IVÁN MÁRQUEZ PÉREZ
National Director
UNGRD

Elaborated by: Margarita Arias
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