

III ARISE Forum 2023 for the Americas and the Caribbean

"Building a Sustainable and Resilient Future"

Bogota, Colombia, 5-6 July 2023

ARISE Networks Declaration

We, members and focal points of ARISE Networks in the Americas and the Caribbean, gathered here at the III Regional ARISE Forum in Bogota on 5-6 July 2023 reaffirm our unwavering commitment to supporting the goals and targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. We recognize that disaster risk reduction is essential for sustainable development, addressing climate change, fostering economic growth, and the building of resilient societies; and that the role played by the private sector is crucial in achieving these objectives.

In line with our commitments, we affirm the following principles and concrete actions:

1. **Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction:** today, we commit to promote disaster risk reduction, such as early warning systems, risk assessments, and the development of resilient infrastructure. By doing so, we aim to improve our collective resilience and minimize the impact of disasters on our societies and economies.
2. **Promoting multisectoral public-private partnerships:** we acknowledge the importance of collaboration and partnerships between the private sector, governments, and local communities. Therefore, we commit to promote alliances with these actors to build disaster-resilient societies. Through our joint efforts, we aim to foster collaboration, share knowledge and expertise, and implement innovative solutions that address the unique challenges faced by our region.
3. **Promoting awareness and education in disaster risk reduction:** we recognize the fundamental role of awareness and education in disaster risk reduction. We commit to actively promoting awareness of disaster risk reduction among our employees, clients, stakeholders, and the general public. By increasing awareness and sharing knowledge, we aim to develop capacities in individuals, businesses, and communities to take appropriate efficient and effective actions with a focus on prevention and preparation with the possibility of generating alliances in response and recovery.

4. **Supporting research and development:** We acknowledge the value of research and development in advancing disaster risk reduction practices. We commit to support and collaborate with academic institutions, research organizations, and other relevant actors to foster research, innovation, and the development of cutting-edge solutions for disaster risk reduction. By harnessing the power of research, we aim to enhance our collective understanding and better respond to the evolving challenges posed by natural and human-induced hazards.
5. **Knowledge management and disaster risk reduction:** the knowledge acquired by developments in science and technology as well as the successful experiences and lessons learned are fundamental for the private sector to take better decisions that are coordinated and efficient. We commit to be channels that facilitate the sharing and disseminating this knowledge among networks and companies, including other actors such as the public sector and communities.

The members of the ARISE Networks in the Americas and the Caribbean welcome the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework, which provides a valuable opportunity to assess progress and identify gaps in its implementation. We commit to working collaboratively with governments, communities, and other stakeholders to address these gaps and accelerate progress toward achieving the Sendai Framework's objectives.

With this purpose, we adopt and incorporate the Regional Action Plan for implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 in the Americas and the Caribbean, RAP, adjusted during the *VIII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean*. The RAP reflects and addresses the region's challenges regarding disaster risk, building upon the inputs from the Midterm Review that identify different key gaps requiring our attention as the private sector:

1. **Insufficient financing for Disaster Risk Reduction:** we highlight the need for better approaches for investments in disaster risk reduction. We commit promote and incentivize the development of innovative financial mechanisms that support effective disaster risk reduction strategies.
2. **Enhancing training in Disaster Risk Reduction:** we acknowledge the importance of strengthening training in disaster risk reduction at the national and local levels. Therefore, we commit to providing governments and communities with technical assistance, knowledge exchange, and capacity-development initiatives. By strengthening their skills, we can collectively improve risk reduction, prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts.

3. **Coordination and collaboration:** We recognize the need for better coordination and collaboration among different levels of government and diverse stakeholders. We commit to actively engaging in multi-stakeholder platforms, dialogues, and partnerships to foster effective coordination mechanisms and facilitate knowledge exchange, ensuring a comprehensive and integrated approach to disaster risk reduction.
4. **Enhancing Public Awareness:** we recognize the importance of increasing public awareness about disaster risk and the necessary actions to reduce it. We commit to utilizing our communication channels and networks to disseminate accurate and timely information, empowering individuals, businesses, and communities to make informed decisions and contributing to increased resilience.
5. **Increase private sector participation:** we recognize the importance of establishing efficient mechanisms to promote the actions of ARISE Networks, which will allow bringing new members from the private sector.

Furthermore, we draw attention to the fact that investment in disaster risk reduction and the effective incorporation of risk into private sector investment decisions have been growing and gaining importance, but there is still ample room for improvement to help securing and coordinating among all sectors. Disaster risk reduction needs to be part of business models so that investments are risk informed and protected against disasters.

By aligning our efforts, we firmly believe we can achieve significant progress in disaster risk reduction and build a more sustainable and resilient future for the Americas and the Caribbean.

The representatives, members, leaders, or focal points of the ARISE Networks in the Americas and the Caribbean participating in the 3rd ARISE Regional Forum in Bogotá on the 6th day of July 2023 sign the ARISE Networks Declaration.