

LETTER OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (UNISDR) AND PARLAMERICAS

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction was adopted as the main outcome of the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (May 2015, Sendai, Japan) to guide disaster risk reduction implementation globally by 2030 in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. As part of its core priorities and targets, the Sendai Framework calls on parliamentarians to advocate for a support the implementation of disaster risk reduction by developing new or amending relevant legislation and setting budget allocations: (Sendai Paras 27 (e),(i),(h); 48(h).

WHEREAS the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction UNISDR, established in 2000 (A/RES54/219), serves as the focal point in the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster reduction, for building synergies among disaster reduction activities and for ensuring that disaster risk reduction (DRR) becomes integral to sound and equitable development, environmental protection and humanitarian action. UNISDR also serves as the focal point for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR, which was adopted by 185 States, on 18 March 2015, as well as by the UN General Assembly (A/RES/69.283) on 23 June 2015. The mission of UNISDR is to be an effective coordinator and guide for all the ISDR partners, globally and regionally, as well as to mobilize political and financial commitments to disaster risk reduction, to develop and sustain a robust multi stakeholder system, and to provide relevant knowledge and guidance.

WHEREAS ParlAmericas established in 2001, is the institution that promotes parliamentary diplomacy in the inter-American system. It is composed of the national legislatures of the member States of the Organization of American States from North, Central and South America and the Caribbean. In accordance with Resolution 41-01, and in response to the Paris Agreement, ParlAmericas adopted climate change as a priority theme for programming at its 13th Plenary Assembly on December 6, 2016 through the integration of a Permanent Working Group within the ParlAmericas governance structure.

Considering climate change is a driver of enhanced levels of disaster risk across the Americas and the Caribbean;

Recognizing the imperative to take action to accelerate the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and address Disaster Risk Reduction;

Recognizing that the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction calls on parliamentarians to advocate for and support the implementation of disaster risk reduction by developing new or amending relevant legislation and setting budget allocations (Sendai Paras 27 (e),(i) (h); 48 (h);

Recalling the creation of the joint Parliamentary Network on Climate Change (PNCC), an initiative of ParlAmericas and Parlatino, which serves as a hemispheric body of legislative work, aimed at exchanging good practices and promoting concrete actions to implement the Nationally Determined

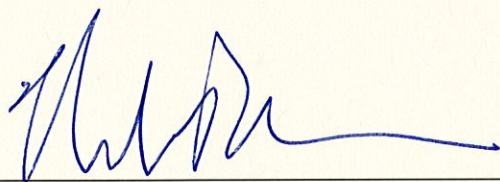
Contributions of the countries of the Americas and the Caribbean for mitigation and adaptation to climate change;

Bearing in mind the high vulnerability of the Americas and the Caribbean region to disasters due to its geographical position and existing accumulation of risks, this non-legally binding letter of cooperation aims to promote close cooperation between **PARLAMERICAS** and **THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (UNISDR)** on activities of common interest as follows:

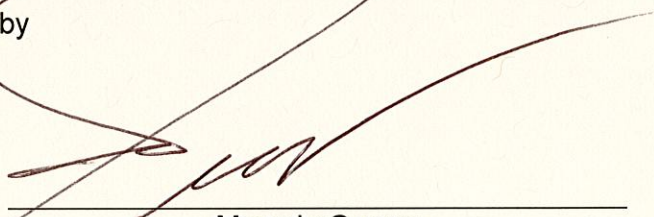
- a. **Raise awareness of disaster risk and climate change adaptation among parliamentarians** in the Americas and the Caribbean region through advocacy, exchange of good practices to promote and influence risk-informed decision-making and legislation;
- b. **Facilitate the engagement of parliamentarians** in the effective implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean region, in particular the achievement of Target E: "Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020";
- c. **Support an all-of-society and integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the Americas and the Caribbean region** by actively engaging core stakeholder groups such as the private sector, civil society and science and technology institutions in the Sendai Framework implementation and monitoring;
- d. **Promote and enable** access and exchanges of global and regional information, data and lessons learned in legislation development from the different parliaments in the Americas and the Caribbean, and provide visibility to successful experiences from the region in key global events on disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and sustainable development.

It is understood that this letter of cooperation does not imply any legal or financial obligations by either of the Parties and can be terminated by either of the Parties as per their decision.

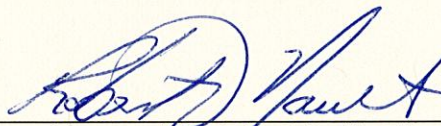
Signed by



Robert Glasser
Special Representative of the Secretary
General for Disaster Risk Reduction
United Nations Office for Disaster Risk
Reduction (UNISDR)



Marcela Guerra
Senator of Mexico
President of ParlAmericas



Honourable Robert D. Nault
Member of Parliament of Canada
Vice-President of ParlAmericas