Disaster Risk Governance: Target E
25 November 2021, 15:15h to 16:30h CET

MODERATOR
Patrícia Gaspar is the Secretary of the State for Home Affairs in Portugal. Graduated in International Relations in 1995, Patricia is a well-known face from the European Civil Protection family. With several distinguished functions at the National Authority for Emergency and Civil Protection, where she worked for the last 20 years carrying out different and complex activities both at technical and operational level, a high level and well-deserved recognition came in 2019, when she was nominated Secretary of the State for Home Affairs.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Ronald Jackson heads the Disaster Risk Reduction & Recovery Team for Building Resilience in UNDP in Geneva. He is a member of the UNDP’s Crisis Bureau and Global Policy Network. His past roles include Executive Director of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and Director General of the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) in Jamaica from 2006 to 2013. He also served as a member of CDEMA's Technical Advisory Committee, President of the IDB Caribbean Policy Dialogue Forum, co-chair for the Inter American Network for Disaster Management, and represented CDEMA Member States on the Hyogo Framework for Action Mid-Term Review Committee and Post-2015 Hyogo Framework for Action Committee. He holds a M.Sc. in Natural Resource Management and Environmental Resource Management, a B.Sc. Physical Planning and Environmental Resource Development, and a Master’s Certificate in Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting.

PANELISTS
Haki Çako is the General Director of the National Agency of Civil Protection in Albania. He graduated in the Faculty of Agronomy in 1985, also graduated in the Security Academy and then specialized in the Faculty of Law and Criminal Law. Before becoming the General Director of the Agency, he has given his contribution to the State Police for 28 years, performing various duties such as Chief of Criminalistic, Chief of Commissariat in Vlora & Gjirokaster, expert in anti-trafficking and crime investigation, and General Director of Police of the State, as well as Adviser for civil protection at the Cabinet of the Minister in the Ministry of Defense. He has attended various specializations in the field of police and civil defense at home and abroad.

Kathryn Oldham OBE has been Greater Manchester’s Chief Resilience Officer since 2017, providing strategic leadership for the city region’s approach to resilience. She also heads up Greater Manchester’s participation in several international partnerships including the Resilient Cities Network, the Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) partnership and the Counter Terrorism Preparedness Network (CTPN). She also chairs the Steering Committee for the ESRC TRANSCEND project which is working in Malaysia, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. As co-ordinator for a European Commission funded initiative to create and implement a city-to-city peer review methodology to help cities deliver the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Kathryn has led Greater Manchester’s input into several other European resilience projects. Kathryn holds a medical degree and has previously held a wide range of positions in local government.

Dzhergalbek Ukashev is the Director of the Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR). In 1978 he graduated from the Moscow Higher Command School Road Engineering Troops. He served in the USSR Civil Defense army in positions from platoon commander to battalion commander. Since 1991, he served in the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic and headed the Office of the Civil Defense of different cities and regions. Since 2008 he has managed and participated in various projects in the field of emergencies and disaster risk reduction in the Kyrgyz Republic, Counterpart International, UNICEF, IOM, the World Bank, GIZ, HelpAge International and others. He was awarded the Order “For Service to Motherland in the USSR Armed Forces of the 3rd degree”, the medal “For Battle Service” and the Honorary Diploma of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic.
Dr Carina Fearnley is an Associate Professor in Science and Technology Studies at University College London (UCL), and Director of the UCL Warning Research Centre. Carina is an interdisciplinary researcher, drawing on relevant expertise in the social sciences on scientific uncertainty, risk, and complexity to focus on how natural hazard early warning systems can be made more effective, specifically alert level systems. She also has interest in the transdisciplinary potential of art and science collaborations around environmental hazards. Carina established the UCL Warning Research Centre, the world’s only dedicated centre to researching and practicing warnings for all hazards and threats in 2020, the World Organisation of Volcano Observatories Volcano Alert Level Working Group, and edited the first publication dedicated to Volcanic Crisis Communication (Observing the Volcano World: Volcanic Crisis Communication).

Dr Vasko Popovski is an International Disaster Risk Management Expert with more than 15 years of experience in the fields of disaster risk and crisis management, alongside innovation for resilience. He has worked in Europe and Central Asia, the Arab States, and the USA. Mr. Popovski has been a Fulbright Visiting Research Scholar at the prestigious Disaster Research Center at the University of Delaware. He is the author of the “Assessment Study of the Role of NDMAs in COVID-19 Crisis Response and Impact of COVID-19 on NDMAs Operation” commissioned by UNDP and UNDRR, providing an overview and findings of the comprehensive analysis of the role and effectiveness of the National Disaster Management Authorities (NDMAs) across Europe and Central Asia in the response and recovery efforts to the COVID-19 pandemic.