

# From Vulnerability to Resilience: Exchange of Disaster Risk Management Experiences in the Greater Caribbean Region

Concept Note

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## FROM VULNERABILITY TO RESILIENCE: EXCHANGE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE IN THE GREATER CARIBBEAN REGION

Managua, Nicaragua

March 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> 2018

### CONCEPT NOTE

#### 1. Introduction

The Caribbean has seen an increase in disasters linked to extreme weather events and climate change. It has become evident and imperative that regional leaders address the negative effects of natural hazards and other threats in the Greater Caribbean. The high level of vulnerability of the region has resulted in a steady rise in disaster related losses, with a significant economic, social, health, cultural and environmental impact in the short, medium and long term, especially at the local and community levels has had a dramatic influence on the long-run development of countries that are subjected to regular or frequent exposure to disasters. Climate change presents an added challenge; projected temperature and precipitation patterns are likely to impact the severity and frequency of natural hazards such as hurricanes and flooding<sup>1</sup>.

Following the Germanwatch<sup>2</sup> Global Climate Risk Index 2018, within the period of 1997 to 2016, several of the countries in the Greater Caribbean were among the 20 most affected nations in the past 20 years. It should be noted that this excludes the impact of Tropical Storm Nate which was felt in many of the countries in the Greater Caribbean, Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, the landslides which occurred in Colombia on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 and the earthquakes which affected Mexico on the 7<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2017.

<sup>1</sup> United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (2008) "Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction"

<sup>2</sup> Source: <https://germanwatch.org/en/14638>, Last accessed : 19th February 2018

Latin America and the Caribbean are expected to lose four times more of their assets annually as compared to Europe and Central Asia and two times more when compared to North American countries<sup>3</sup>. It is projected that an additional US\$1.4 billion will be added to the expected average annual losses (AAL<sup>4</sup>) associated with wind damage alone which excludes changes in the AAL associated with storm surge due to sea level rise<sup>5</sup>. The case of small island developing states (SIDS), particularly those in the Caribbean, is most critical as their capital stock, investment and social expenditure face the highest potential losses associated with multiple hazards.

## 2. Justification

In June 2016, the Heads of States of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) adopted the Havana Declaration and Action Plan highlighting the support of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) 2015-2030.

One of the action points of the Havana Plan of Action and the Work Programme of the ACS refers to the organization of a vulnerability meeting as a joint initiative to propose regional policies and actions for disaster risk reduction based on the identification of key activities to be carried out by disaster management agencies within its membership. In this meeting, these agencies will address activities identified as priorities, in order to propose and advance regional policies, projects and actions for disaster risk reduction at the regional level. As a response to the above and following an extensive discussion process at various levels, the meeting “From Vulnerability to Resilience- An Exchange of Experiences in DRR in the Greater Caribbean Region”, organized by the Association of Caribbean States in coordination with CDEMA, CEPREDENAC, SINAPRED and UNISDR has been prepared. The meeting will provide a platform for the countries of the Greater Caribbean to collaborate in the management of regional DRR issues for the improvement and development of processes for disaster risk

<sup>3</sup> UNISDR (2015). Making Development Sustainable: The Future of Disaster Risk Management. Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction. Geneva, Switzerland: United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).

<sup>4</sup> AAL=Estimated average loss annualised over a time long period considering the full range of loss scenarios relating to different return periods.

<sup>5</sup> United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (2008) “Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction”

identification, prevention, mitigation, preparation, as well as response and reconstruction following the occurrence of disasters in the Greater Caribbean.

### 3. Background

The Association of Caribbean States pursues the strengthening of regional cooperation and the regional integration process, with the objective of creating an extended economic space in the region, preserving the environmental integrity of the Caribbean Sea, considered a common patrimony to the citizens of the region; and to promote the sustainable development of Greater Caribbean. The ACS' focal areas are at present in trade, transport, sustainable tourism and natural disasters. The ACS has five Special Committees, one of which is the Special Committee for Disaster Risk Reduction which serves to strengthen the cooperation between the organizations responsible for planning and relief efforts following disasters in the region. This allows for the prevention and mitigation of risks with the aim of providing knowledge on prevention, education and planning with respect to the effects of disasters.

The member states of the ACS belong to four sub regions within the Greater Caribbean, specifically those that are a part of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Group of Three (G-3), the Non-Grouped members and those that are part of the Integration System of Central America (SICA).

In terms of disaster risk management, CARICOM identified in the early 1990s the need to establish a network of support and coordination among the emergency units of its member countries. Consequently, the Caribbean Agency for Emergency Management (CDEMA) was established in 1991<sup>6</sup>. As part of its efforts, the Regional Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy and Programming Framework 2014-2024 was launched, the objective of which is to continue regional efforts to continue the process of embedding and institutionalizing CDM as the Caribbean's platform for achieving risk reduction.

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<sup>6</sup> Established in 1991 as 'Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA)', it was renamed in 2010 as 'Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency' (CDEMA).

On the other hand, the Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPREDENAC) is a regional intergovernmental organization, belonging to the Central American Integration System (SICA) as a Specialized Secretariat. The general objective of CEPREDENAC is to contribute to the reduction of vulnerability and the impact of disasters, as an integral part of the process of transformation and sustainable development of the region, through the promotion and coordination of international cooperation and the exchange of information, experiences and technical and scientific advice in matters of prevention, mitigation, alerts and disaster response. The five Articulating Axes which guide CEPREDENAC are established in the Central American Policy on Comprehensive Risk Management of Disasters (PCGIR), updated during 2017 in order to align with the 2015-2030 Sendai Framework.

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) serves as the focal point for disaster reduction within the United Nations system, ensuring synergies between the activities of the United Nations, the regional organizations for disaster reduction, socio-economic, humanitarian and development activities, as well as to support the integration of the various related policies. UNISDR supports the implementation, follow-up and revision of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. In line with their mandate, UNISDR supports the strengthening of coordination and regional linkages between national actors and intergovernmental institutions for the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

Over the years, the various organizations in the Wider Caribbean region have attained important achievements and progress in terms of comprehensive disaster risk management. Progress has been made in understanding disaster risk, strengthening governance in disaster risk management, increasing investment in disaster risk reduction and strengthening the structure of agencies and processes for disaster response and reconstruction. However, the accumulated experiences and the knowledge created have not been homogeneous throughout the Greater Caribbean region. There is therefore the potential for an exchange of experiences and mutual learning, within the framework of issues relevant to all countries and actors.

During the XXV Meeting of the Special Committee for Disaster Risk Reduction of the ACS, it was suggested by Nicaragua and the President of the Special Committee, and approved by the Committee itself, to hold a regional meeting in Nicaragua in February 2018, with the aim of

exchanging experience among the sub-regions, in line with the Havana Plan of Action 2016-2018 and the and the Work Programme of the ACS. In this regard, dialogues were held by the ACS, CARICOM, CEPREDENAC, Cuba and SICA during various platforms and meetings before and after the meeting of the Special Committee, such as the 2017 Global Platform for DRR<sup>7</sup>, the Third Cuba-CARICOM Workshop on Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation<sup>8</sup>, the V International Forum<sup>9</sup> and the 10<sup>th</sup> Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management of CDEMA<sup>10</sup>. The planning and organising of the meeting has been a process which allowed for the involvement and contribution of all stakeholders.

In order to organize an exchange of experiences in disaster risk reduction which is relevant and useful to the wider Caribbean region and to represented countries and organizations in particular, a prior consultation was organized with the objective of identifying topics of common interest. Countries of the four sub-regions participated in this consultation, which took place between February 5 and 12, 2017. The feedback received from the participants was systematized under each of the four Priorities for Action of the Sendai Framework 2015- 2030, the result being a key input for the thematic and methodological design of the "Meeting of Vulnerability to Resilience - Exchange of Experiences in DRR in the Greater Caribbean Region"<sup>11</sup>. Through this manner, an approach was taken that ensured a balance of interests among the four sub-regions in order to address drivers and barriers to the implementation of DRR strategies in each of them, which can then lead to actions at the level of the Greater Caribbean Region.

#### 4. Objectives of the Meeting

The meeting "From Vulnerability to Resilience - Exchange of Experiences in DRR in the Greater Caribbean Region" has the following four objectives:

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<sup>7</sup> May 2017, Cancun, Mexico.

<sup>8</sup> 16-20 October, 2017.

<sup>9</sup> October 2017, Panam.

<sup>10</sup> 10th Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management, 4-9 December, 2017, The Bahamas.

<sup>11</sup> For a complete list of identified topics, see Annex II. Consultation Process Results

- Exchange of experiences in the field of comprehensive disaster risk management (CDRM) among the participating sub-regions.
- Strengthening communication processes and inter-institutional coordination among organizations representing the four sub-regions on matters of comprehensive disaster risk management, in order to improve the progress of the participating countries of the Greater Caribbean sub-regions.
- Identification of actions that support the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in its four priority areas in the Greater Caribbean.
- Identification of potential synergies or projects which are beneficiary to the four sub-regions in the Greater Caribbean in terms of comprehensive disaster risk management, based on the mandates of each representative organization.

## 5. Expected Outcomes

- Experiences shared by the sub-regional organizations within the framework of the Sendai Framework 2015-2030, including risk mapping, use of information systems, inclusion of CDRM in school and professional curricula, strengthening of national CDRM systems, multi-sectoral approach to the CDRM, linkages strengthened between the public and private sectors in terms of CDRM, in addition to sourcing regular and extraordinary financing mechanisms.
- A comprehensive understanding of the structure and external and internal coordination of disaster risk reduction systems and programs implemented in the sub-regions of the Greater Caribbean by the ACS, CDEMA, CEPREDENAC and UNISDR.
- Identification of barriers that hinder the implementation of activities to advance the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.
- Formulation of a list of regional projects on disaster risk reduction that can inform the new regional DRR Action Plan and future project proposals.

## 6. Format of the meeting:

This will be a two day meeting which will comprise the following segments:

- Presentations of representatives of the four sub-regions of the ACS.
- Panels with representatives of the ACS, CDEMA, CEPREDENAC and UNISDR including question and answer segments.
- Working group discussions.

## 7. Meeting participants:

Key representatives of disaster risk management agencies and regional organizations, as well as nationals from the four sub-regions of the Greater Caribbean, will participate in this meeting: representatives of the CARICOM countries, Cuba, Colombia, Mexico, the Dominican Republic and SICA. Representatives of the ACS, CDEMA, CEPREDENAC, and UNISDR will participate as hosts and organizers of this event. In addition, representatives of other organizations and donors will participate.

## 8. Logistical information

The meeting will be held in Managua, Nicaragua between March 7 and 8, 2018, at the Crown Plaza Hotel. A separate document with logistical information will be attached to the invitation for the event and sent to meeting participants.



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## Annex I: Agenda

### ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES (ACS)

#### FROM VULNERABILITY TO RESILIENCE: EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES IN DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT IN THE GREATER CARIBBEAN REGION

Managua, Nicaragua.

7 and March 8, 2018, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure.

### Agenda

#### DAY 1

8:00	Transport from Crown Plaza Hotel to MTI
8:15-8:45	REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS
8:45-9:15	<p><b>I. Opening ceremony</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arturo López-Portillo, Director of DRR of the Association of Caribbean States.</li> <li>- Mr. Roy Barboza, Executive Secretary of the CEPREDENAC</li> <li>- Mr. Ronald Jackson, Executive Director of The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).</li> <li>- Mr. Raúl Salazar, Head of the Regional Office, The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).</li> <li>- Dr. Guillermo González, Minister-Director of the National System of Nicaragua for the Prevention, Mitigation and Attention of Disasters (SINAPRED)</li> </ul>
9:15-9:45	COFFEE BREAK AND INTERVIEWS WITH MEDIA / OFFICIAL PHOTO



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<p><b>9:45-10:00</b></p>	<p><b>II. Presentation on the objectives of the meeting</b></p> <p>Marcel Goyeneche</p>	
<p><b>10:00-11:00</b></p>	<p><b>III. Panel on Regional Coordination</b></p> <p><i>Presentation of the mandates and the internal and external coordination mechanisms of the ACS, CDEMA, CEPREDENAC and UNISDR, followed by questions from the audience on regional coordination processes.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arturo López-Portillo, Director of DRR of the Association of Caribbean States.</li> <li>- Mr. Roy Barboza, Executive Secretary of the CEPREDENAC</li> <li>- Mr. Ronald Jackson, Executive Director of The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).</li> <li>- Mr. Raúl Salazar, Head of the Regional Office, The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).</li> </ul>	
<p><b>11:00-11:25 IV. Sendai Framework - Priority for Action 1: Understanding Disaster Risk (Groups a &amp; b)</b></p>		
<p><b>11:25-12:40</b></p>	<p><b>IV-a. Risk Mapping &amp; shared information systems.</b></p> <p><i>Use of risk analysis maps; geospatial information systems; and sharing of information systems in development planning.</i></p> <p><u>1. Nicaragua (SINAPRED):</u> Development of the National Multi-hazard Risks Map in support of the</p>	<p><b>IV-b. Training and raising awareness on the CDRM</b></p> <p><i>Inclusion of themes of DRM in school and professional curricula, and developing knowledge of CDRM among decision makers.</i></p> <p><u>1. Dominican Republic (CNE):</u> Disaster risk management for decision-makers</p>

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	<p>Disaster Risk Reduction Plans and emergency situations assistance.</p> <p><i>Mr. Guillermo González.</i></p> <p><u>2. Mexico (CENAPRED):</u> Territorial risk identification platform. <i>Dr. Carlos Valdés</i></p> <p><u>3. Identification of weaknesses, barriers, and internal cooperation opportunities.</u></p>	<p>and actors at the local level. <i>Mr. José Alcántara</i></p> <p><u>2. UNISDR:</u> Global Capacity Building Strategy for the Sendai Framework. <i>Mr. Raúl Salazar</i></p> <p><u>3. CEPREDENAC:</u> Strengthening of Disaster Risk Management through Higher Education in Central America. <i>Ms. Mayra Valle</i></p> <p><u>4. Identification of weaknesses, barriers, and internal cooperation opportunities.</u></p>
12:40-1:45	LUNCH	
<p><b>V. Sendai Framework – Priority for Action 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk (Groups a &amp; b)</b></p>		
1:45 - 3:45	<p><b>V-a. Strengthening of national systems of CDRM</b></p> <p><i>Training processes and strengthening of national CDRM systems, including legislation, organization and funding.</i></p> <p><u>1. Nicaragua (SINAPRED):</u> Risk Management Model centred on the person, the family and the Community in partnership with the institutions that make up the National Disaster</p>	<p><b>V-b. Promoting the multi-sectoral approach to CDRM</b></p> <p><i>Processes of inclusion of CDRM in other sectors, such as tourism and agriculture.</i></p> <p><u>1. El Salvador (Civil Protection):</u> Infrastructure assessment during response to the eruption of the Chaparrastique volcano. <i>Mr. Jorge Melendez</i></p> <p><u>2. CDEMA:</u> Model National CDM Policy. <i>Mr. Ronald Jackson</i></p>



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	<p>Prevention, Attention and Mitigation System. <i>Dr. Guillermo González</i></p> <p>2. <u>Trinidad &amp; Tobago/CDEMA: TBD</u></p> <p>3. <u>Identification of weaknesses, barriers, and internal cooperation opportunities.</u></p>	<p>3. <u>CEPREDENAC: Harmonization of the Central American Policy for Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management (PCGIR) with the Sendai Framework for DRR. <i>Mr. Roy Barboza</i></u></p> <p>4. <u>Identification of weaknesses, barriers, and internal cooperation opportunities.</u></p>
3:45-4:00	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	
4:00-4:45	<b>VI. Plenary to present identified weaknesses, barriers and opportunities for cooperation among Greater Caribbean countries.</b>	
4:45	<b>Transport from MTI to Crown Plaza Hotel</b>	
6:30	<b>Transport from Crown Plaza Hotel to Intermezzo Del Bosque</b>	
7:00-10:00	<b>Welcome Dinner</b> <i>(Casual attire)</i>	
10:00	<b>Transport from Intermezzo Del Bosque to Crown Plaza Hotel</b>	

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DAY 2

8:00	Transport from Crown Plaza Hotel to MTI	
8:30-8:45	<p>VII. Overview of the first day and perspectives on the second day</p> <p>Marcel Goyeneche</p>	
<p>VIII. Sendai Framework - Priority for Action 3: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience (Groups a &amp; b)</p>		
8:45-10:00	<p><b>VIII-a. The private sector and the comprehensive management of risk reduction</b></p> <p><i>Strengthening of the participation of the private sector in CDRM processes, promoting the investment of assets, human &amp; financial resources.</i></p> <p><u>1. Nicaragua (SINAPRED):</u> Public-private articulation for disaster risk reduction actions.</p> <p><u>2. Jamaica:</u> DRR experiences. <i>Mr. Richard Thompson</i></p> <p><u>3. UNISDR:</u> Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies (ARISE) in the Greater Caribbean. <i>Mr. Raul Salazar</i></p> <p><u>4. Identification of weaknesses, barriers, and internal cooperation opportunities.</u></p>	<p><b>VIII-a. Cooperation and public investment in comprehensive management of risk reduction</b></p> <p><i>Support through Cooperation and regular integration of CDM into sectorial fiscal budgets.</i></p> <p>1. Costa Rica (CNE): Disaster Risk Management and Animal Wellbeing as part of livelihood protection. <i>Mr. Iván Brenes</i></p> <p><u>2. CEPREDENAC:</u> Disaster Risk Management in Investment for Development and Competitiveness in Central America. <i>Mr. Roy Barboza</i></p> <p><u>3. BCIE:</u> Disaster Risk Management Financing.</p> <p><u>4. Identification of weaknesses, barriers, and internal cooperation opportunities.</u></p>

10:00-10:20	COFFEE BREAK	
<b>IX. Sendai Framework - Priority for Action 4: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction (Groups a &amp; b)</b>		
10:20-11:30	<p><b>IX-a. Application of comprehensive processes of CDRM</b></p> <p><i>Comprehensive approach to disaster preparedness</i></p> <p><u>1. Nicaragua (SINAPRED):</u> Preparation of the population to protect against multi-threat situations. <i>Mr. Xochilt Cortés</i></p> <p><u>2. Guatemala (CONRED):</u> Response to emergencies resulting from low temperatures, floods, volcanic eruptions and forest fires. <i>Mr. Sergio García Cabañas</i></p> <p><u>3. CDEMA:</u> Regional Response Mechanism. <i>Mr. Ronald Jackson</i></p> <p><u>4. Identification of weaknesses, barriers, and internal cooperation opportunities.</u></p>	<p><b>IX-b. Multi-country contingency plan.</b></p> <p><i>Development of a multi-country contingency plan for the threats of hurricanes and floods.</i></p> <p><u>1. Antigua &amp; barbuda:</u> Contingency plans for of hurricanes and floods. <i>Mr. Sherrod James</i></p> <p><u>2. ACS:</u> Harmonization of interregional response. Response plan for the Greater Caribbean. Role of the ACS. <i>Mr. Arturo López Portillo.</i></p> <p><u>3. CUBA:</u> Experiences supporting other countries during disasters. <i>Coronel Macareño</i></p> <p><u>4. Identification of weaknesses, barriers, and internal cooperation opportunities.</u></p>
11:30-12:30	<b>X. Plenary to present identified weaknesses, barriers and opportunities for cooperation among Greater Caribbean countries.</b>	



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12:30-1:30	Lunch
1:30-3:00	XI. Plenary to identify areas for cooperation external to the Greater Caribbean.
3:00-3:30	COFFEE BREAK
3:30-4:00	XII. Closure
4:00	Transport from MTI to Crown Plaza Hotel