

**STATEMENT OF THE CARIBBEAN DISASTER
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (CDEMA)
FOR THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE GLOBAL PLATFORM
FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (GP2019)
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 13 – 17 MAY 2019**



Mr Chairman, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to address this 6th Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction on behalf of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).

The CDEMA system continues to pursue the implementation of the Global Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction through the vehicle of Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) which is the approach to Disaster Risk Reduction which has been endorsed and embraced by the Governments of all CDEMA Participating States since 2001. It is an integrated risk management framework that makes the critical link between management of disasters and sustainable development and considers the implications of climate change as a cross cutting issue to be considered within the delivery of the Key Priority Areas. The current CDM Strategy which covers the period 2014 to 2024 was preceded by two previous iterations, 2001-2006 and 2007-2012 respectively. CDEMA, in collaboration with the UNISDR, undertook the mapping of the CDM Strategy to the Sendai Framework and lead a process to rationalize the reporting burden on CDEMA Participating States to multiple regional and international agreements.

The Goal of the Strategy is "Safer, more resilient and sustainable CDEMA Participating States through Comprehensive Disaster Management." The Priority areas of the Strategy are 1) Strengthened Institutional Arrangements for CDM; 2) Increased and sustained Knowledge Management and Learning for CDM; 3) Improved integration of CDM at sectoral levels; and 4) Strengthened and sustained community resilience. These outcomes/results guide the regional and national level disaster risk management programming. The regional goal is supported by sixteen (16) Regional Outcomes within the four (4) Priority Areas mentioned. The PMF developed in 2014 contains 24 indicators with baselines (where available) and targets for 2016, 2020 and 2024 corresponding to the annual cycle of September 1 - August 31.

A major commitment of this iteration of the CDM Strategy is an enhanced results-oriented programming and monitoring system and the Caribbean region has committed to reporting on the region's progress on a bi-ennial basis. The Caribbean Assessment Report 2017 measured the progress in attaining the targeted results of the CDM Strategy 2014-2024 for the two-year

period 2014-2016. In doing so the Indicators within the CDM Strategy Performance Measurement Framework were utilized. The 2016-2018 report will be prepared during 2019.

The Caribbean Region under the leadership of CDEMA has identified as a corollary to the CDM Strategy “A Caribbean Pathway for Resilience”. This pathway has emerged over the last two years in direct response to the devastating impact of the 2017 hurricane season, just three (3) months after we last met at the Fifth Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2017. This undertaking was mandated by the by the Heads of Government of CARICOM who subsequently adopted the “Pathway” in July 2018. The Caribbean Pathway to Resilience is built around five (5) pillars: I. Social Protection for the Marginal and Most Vulnerable; II. Safeguarding Infrastructure; III. Enhancing Economic Opportunity; IV. Environmental Protection and V. Operational Readiness. The renewed interest of the Heads of Government on the issue of resilience was precipitated by the unprecedented events of the 2017 Hurricane season which saw nine (9) CDEMA Participating States impacted by two rapidly developing tropical cyclones which attained the highest strength on the Saffir-Simpson hurricane scale - Catastrophic Category 5. Four (4) States were very significantly impacted or devastated. Given the prevailing economic constraints within many CDEMA Participating States, including high indebtedness, low productivity and competitiveness, the recovery path for the countries most severely impacted by the 2017 events, whilst offering opportunities for resilience building, has been challenging. Monitoring and Evaluation of progress with respect to the Pillars, including the contribution of the foundational and reinforcing elements is necessary, to ensure that the Caribbean region is steadfastly progressing towards achieving resilient development.

With respect to achieving Target E: to substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020, CDEMA continues to promote and support the implementation of the “CDM blueprint” which was endorsed by the Council of CDEMA in 2010. The Blueprint identifies and provides guidance on the development of key tools that are recommended at the national level to create the enabling environment for CDM implementation and integration at the sector level. The CDM Blueprint prioritizes the development of national CDM Policies and Strategies. Other elements of the CDM Blueprint are: CDM Legislation and associated Regulations; Multi-Year CDM Work Programmes; National Disaster Management Offices’ organizational structure and National Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks.

Regarding progress on supporting the implementation of risk-informed sustainable development, CDEMA has developed the Caribbean Risk Information System (CRIS) which is a multi-faceted virtual platform that hosts risk management data and information accessible to stakeholders to facilitate analysis, research, greater awareness of risk management and climate change adaptation in the region. The CRIS contributes to the region’s sustainable development

efforts by enhancing and strengthening disaster risk and climate change information sharing to drive evidence-based decision-making processes at all levels. It provides access to information on all hazards including climate-induced hazards and how to reduce risk from disasters to build resilient states and promote regional sustainable development. The CRIS therefore facilitates the delivery of the CDEMA Clearing House function as articulated in the Agreement Establishing the CDEMA. CDEMA continues to mobilized resources to advance the implementation of the CRIS over the next three (3) years as a mechanism to support risk informed decision-making within CARICOM.

In closing, I would like to reaffirm the commitment of CDEMA to supporting the achievement of the vision of a Caribbean which is resilient to disasters and the effects of climate change.

Thank you.

To contact us:

Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency

Resilience Way

Lower Estate, St Michael, Barbados

Tel: (246) 434-4880, Fax: (246) 271-3660

Email: cdema@cdema.org; ronald.jackson@cdema.org

Web: www.cdema.org