

**STATEMENT OF THE
CARIBBEAN DISASTER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
AGENCY (CDEMA) FOR THE
FOURTH SESSION OF THE GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**



The Caribbean Region's experiences with severe disaster events over the past decade underscores the need for the continued commitment of us in the disaster risk management arena to focus on strengthening the resilience of our societies to withstand and recover from the effects of potential disasters.

Tremendous achievements have been realised in the region since the establishment of the Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) model of disaster risk management, which is brokered by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).

CDM implementation has facilitated the mobilisation of multi-year provision of funding for driving regional and national actions in the priority areas of the CDM Strategy and Programming Framework. CDEMA is currently in the process of engaging stakeholders in the review and revision of the Strategy which will guide our interventions beyond 2012. The revised Strategy will also make an important contribution to the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2).

The region has achieved a number of CDM objectives at the national level, particularly high level political support for CDM and the strengthening of institutional capacity for its implementation. Over the years, we have developed and continuously improved on systems, strategies, plans, and tools geared towards addressing the particular challenges faced by our states as a result of our vulnerability to various hazards.

CDEMA also continues to pursue interventions aimed at enhancing the national, regional and community level response capacity. Important among these have been the provision of support for review and revision of national disaster plans and development of community level vulnerability risk profiles and disaster programmes.

As small islands at risk, we are ever cognizant of the implications of climate change for the sustainable development of our societies. In light of this, we have begun a process of and will continue to make concerted efforts to make the linkages in the ongoing regional and international dialogue between climate change adaptation. CDEMA has already embarked on a process to support the integration of climate change adaptation into national level disaster

management planning and programming, and we urge its integration into broader national sustainable development plans and policies.

The establishment and maintenance of strong partnerships with development partners, the civil society sector, regional agencies and educational institutions have been instrumental in the successes to date. We will continue to pursue the development of relationships with new partners in the international arena as a means of drawing on and sharing expertise and experiences.

Going forward, CDEMA will seek to build on and advance the achievements to date. There are also a number of key areas that CDEMA will be considering, including greater emphasis on the role of hazard risk assessment in development planning; encouraging Governments of the participating states to make greater investments in reducing the underlying drivers of risk; accelerating the application of Information and Communication Technologies to disaster management; promoting gender equality in disaster management interventions; strengthening of partnerships with the private sector; and building of disaster risk reduction capacities to address the growing challenges of climate risk while supporting sustainable development.

We will also seek to capitalize on the ongoing regional and international development dialogue on Climate Change, Risk, and Resilience and associated financing for adaptation as this is a priority for SIDS such as our participating states.

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