



CDEMA Statement for the 1st Preparatory Committee Meeting World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, 2015

Co-Chairs

CDEMA supports the perspective that the Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) 2005-2015 remains relevant. Continuity is critical and the emphasis in the post 2015 HFA must be on effective and efficient implementation.

The Caribbean Regional Strategy on Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) 2014-2024, will be the implementation vehicle for the Post 2015 HFA within our Participating States. Specific priorities identified under the 2014-2024 strategy are as follows: Strengthened institutional arrangements (for Comprehensive Disaster Management); Increased and sustained knowledge management and learning (for Comprehensive Disaster Management); Improved integration of Comprehensive Disaster Management at Sectoral levels; and Strengthened and sustained community resilience.

Six areas are recommended for more explicit treatment within the Post 2015 HFA framework:

1. Treatment of Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction: A more comprehensive approach to the treatment of hazard risk is required. Joint plans of action at the national level are strongly recommended. With respect to risk, Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction actors should be viewed as one community of practice.
2. Strengthen the focus on more frequently occurring smaller events which may occur at a localized, or in the peculiar case of SIDS, at the national level. The cumulative impacts of these events should also be specifically treated.

3. Greater attention to and strengthened capacities for addressing high-impact climate related events will be required due to the effects of climate change, accumulated and increasing exposure to risk. This is a specific consideration for SIDS given their high vulnerability.
4. Empowerment of communities and other local level actors to address disaster risk.
5. A strengthened evidence base to inform decision making. As such, the role of science and technology is pivotal. Synergies must be built with the ongoing dialogue on the Global Framework for Climate Services and the role which this can play as it relates to climate risk.
6. Explicit treatment of the role of physical planning, ecosystems and environmental management in creating buffers against hazard impacts.

Going forward, the consistent treatment of risk within the Post 2015 HFA and Sustainable Development Agendas is appropriate. Emphasis should be on resilient development.

The agenda of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) remains relevant. In view of the vulnerability of SIDS, ODA eligibility criteria, which is based on GDP, is in itself an insufficient mechanism by which decisions are made on whether a SIDS receives development inflows which treat with the building of resilience through reducing disaster risk inclusive of risk posed by climate. The World Conference is therefore urged to give due consideration to this during discussions on resourcing the post 2015 framework.

In view of the changing nature of risk, including changes in climate risk posed by climate change, funding for disaster risk reduction should be included in both humanitarian and development funding streams and the link between the two should be explicit. Resource support should be provided to strengthen both national and regional frameworks. The preparatory processes for the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 and the World Humanitarian Summit 2016 offer spaces for common representation of this position.

I thank you.