

Caribbean Private Sector Network meeting

24 August 2017, Ministry of Trade, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

Background

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030¹ was adopted by United Nations Member States on 18 March 2015 at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan. The Sendai Framework is a 15-year; voluntary, non-binding agreement which recognizes that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector and other stakeholders. It aims for the following outcome: *The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries.*

UNISDR was mandated to support countries in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The Sendai Framework identifies the private sector as one of the key stakeholders to implement disaster risk reduction (DRR). It calls for example that “business professional association and private sector financial institutions integrate risk management [...] into business models and practices through disaster-risk-informed investments, [...]; engage in awareness-raising and training for their employees and customers; engage in and support research and innovation [...]; share and disseminate knowledge, practices and non-sensitive data; and actively participate, [...] in the development of normative frameworks and technical standards that incorporate disaster risk management”.

UNISDR is working with the private sector for several years in different initiatives. In 2015, all efforts were systematized in the Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies (ARISE), an initiative of the Private Sector which has the mission to create risk-resilient societies by energizing the private sector in collaboration with the public sector and other stakeholders to achieve the objective and targets of the Sendai Framework. So far, the alliance managed to gather more than 140 members and affiliates from all over the world.

ARISE looks to build connections and enhance collaboration between the public and private sectors. The Sendai Framework explicitly refers to the private sector and its key role in the implementation of Disaster Risk Reduction.

UNISDR has focused its priorities for action in providing effective support in the coordination of regional and national partners for the implementation of the Sendai Framework through the engagement of stakeholders, among them, the private sector in practices of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

¹ <http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/43291>

In the Americas, a regional private sector network was established in 2014 and since then seven national ARISE chapters have been launched in Central and South America. ARISE national chapters have the objective to strengthen capacities of initiatives, impulse commitments and opportunities in the local context and create new links between key actors for disaster risk reduction at the national level.

In the Caribbean, UNISDR is working closely with the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC), an umbrella organization for private sector representative bodies, committed to facilitating the development, growth and competitive positioning of Caribbean Businesses, as well as with Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) to encourage private sector engagement in DRR in a systematic manner.

For further information on the ARISE initiative, please visit the related website <http://www.preventionweb.net/arise/>

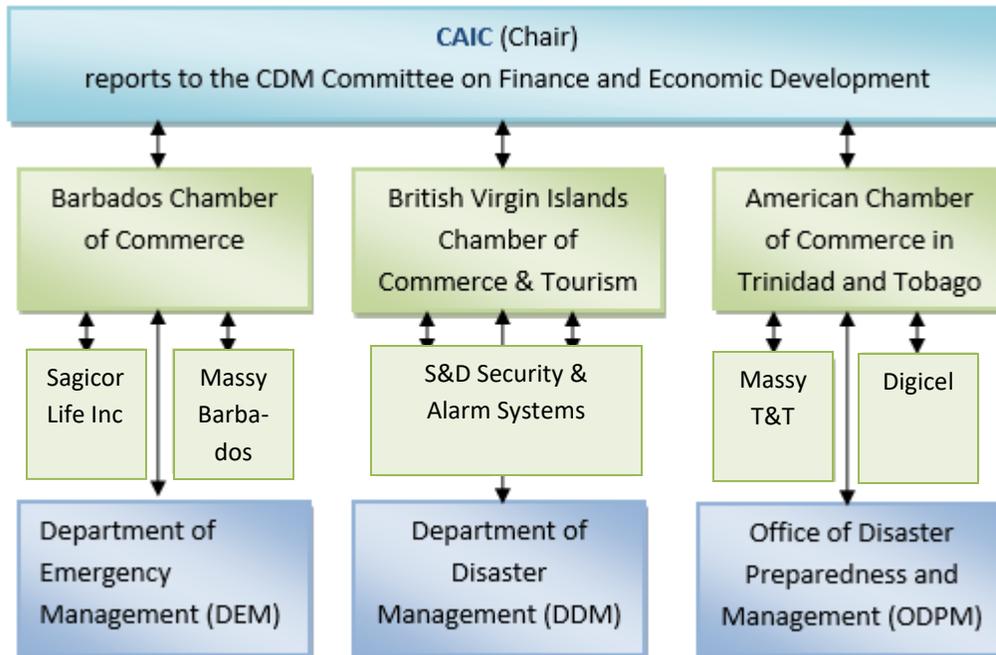
Introduction

Likewise to the Sendai Framework for DRR, the Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy, the Caribbean disaster risk management framework, highlights also the important role of the private sector in the efforts for building resilience. Safeguarding private sector investment from disasters must be a key priority for ensuring sustainable economic growth and trade relations.

In 2016, the ARISE concept was presented in the CDM sub-committee on Finance and Economic Development and the group agreed expressed interest in closer collaborating with the private sector on DRR as well as to establish a Caribbean Private Sector Network. In order to support the process on engaging the private sector in the Caribbean, the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC), CDEMA and UNISDR signed a collaboration agreement.

In order to take advantage of experiences at the national level, three countries expressed interest to support the efforts on engaging the private sector in DRR at the regional level. The initial composition of the Regional Private Sector Network is therefore currently comprised of CAIC, being the chair, and three countries represented by the National Disaster Management Office, the National Chamber of Commerce as well as two key companies from each chamber that expressed interest in DRR investment. CDEMA and UNISDR are providing technical support.

The current composition facilitates the dialogue between the private and public sector.



The group will decide on the future composition of the network. In general it is envisioned that the national Chambers of Commerce become the focal point for the global ARISE initiative.

A first Regional Private Sector Network meeting will take place on 24 August in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago to agree on the way forward as it relates to regional activities to be implemented by December 2017 with a special focus on developing a Caribbean Private Sector Action Plan and launching the ARISE initiative in three Caribbean countries.

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The meeting is jointly organized by the Caribbean Association of Commerce and Industries (CAIC), the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) under the framework of a project that aims to foster the engagement of the Caribbean private sector in DRR financially supported by the Austrian Development Agency and the Republic of Korea.

Objectives

The overall purpose of the meeting is to exchange experiences how the private sector is engaged in DRR in the Caribbean and to agree on the way forward as it relates to the private sector engagement in disaster risk reduction in the Caribbean identifying mechanisms to ensure follow-up and sustainability.

Specific objectives are to:

- 1) Share knowledge and experiences how the private sector is engaged in DRR and how the public and private sector are working together at the national level.
- 2) Discuss approaches to develop the Caribbean Private Sector Action Plan.

3) Identify key elements of the Terms-of-References for Regional Private Sector Network.

Expected outcomes

- Steps for the consultation process related to the Caribbean Private Sector Action Plan determined.
- Agreement on key elements of the Terms-of-References for Regional Private Sector Network reached.
- Common concept for national ARISE launches determined.

Participants

The members of the Caribbean Private Sector Network will attend the meeting:

- CAIC, being the chair.
- Three countries represented by the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), the National Chamber of Commerce as well as two key companies from each chamber that expressed interest in DRR investment.
- CDEMA and UNISDR will provide technical support.

Agenda

Time	Activity
09:00-09:30	Introduction
09:30-10:30	Private Sector and Disaster Risk Reduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on ARISE - Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies – and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, UNISDR • CDM Strategy and the private sector engagement, CDEMA • Opportunities for private sector engagement in DRR, CAIC
10:30-11:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:00-11:30	Experience sharing: Public-private partnership related to DRR at the national level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience from Barbados • Experience from Trinidad and Tobago • Experience from the Virgin Islands
11:30-12:30	Concept for National ARISE Launches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss approaches for national ARISE launches and agree on common elements
12:30-13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30-15:30	Development of an Action Plan for the Caribbean private sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of main points for private sector • From the consultation process to the presentation of the Action Plan and beyond
15:30-16:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>

16:00- 17:15	Roll-out of private sector initiative at the regional level (2018 and beyond) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Initial discussion on process to engage private sector in DRR (Caribbean Private Sector Network for DRR, Implementation of Action Plan, Leadership, Knowledge products, etc.)
17:15- 17:30	Closing of meeting