

The Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago, through this delegation, wish to extend our sincerest congratulations to the Co-Chairs and to the Bureau on their appointment for organizing the development and execution of the next World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai Japan in March next year. We also wish to thank the UNISDR and the Government of Switzerland for hosting this meeting.

Trinidad and Tobago recognises the current planning and goals set for the HFA and Beyond-strategy.

We express our commitment towards the development of a resilient planet.

Trinidad and Tobago has worked very hard as a small island state to align our work programs in DRR to the HFA Priorities and Goals and the CDEMA's CDM strategies.

We recognize our successes and our challenges towards mainstreaming DRR within all sectors as pretty much common worldwide.

We are confident that the current HFA strategy will still be important even in the future as many of the programs that we have started are still work in progress.

Trinidad and Tobago is a rapidly developing small island state with inherent vulnerabilities and continue to thank all global and regional initiatives, partners and programs to strengthen capacity in our country.

We understand the need to engage whole of country in our future plans of DRR and Climate Change and we full appreciate the value of regional platforms and entities such as CDEMA, ACS and OECS in the continuous monitoring and evaluation of DRR and CCA activities.

We recommend that as the world moves ahead into HFA and Beyond that we recognize the role of the persons who coordinate, implement, monitor and evaluate DRR programs and that we spend more time to strengthen the organizations that deliver services and products with a special emphasis on engagement of the persons themselves.

We wish for an extremely clear and simple strategy for HFA for the future with a special focus on building leadership skills and competencies in managing DRR and CCA programs worldwide especially in SIDS.

We would like to support strong data and knowledge management systems with seamless sharing of information and the creation of a central data and information clearing house of all existing programs, policies, best practices, scientific papers and evidence based recommendations and competencies that relate to DRR and CCA.

We request more funding to develop capacity by training programs in all DRR and CCA related activities in member states and involvement of all communities in the engagements in this regard.

Trinidad and Tobago has embarked on an extensive process mapping exercise that allow DRR and CCA activities to be identified and eventually embedded and mainstreamed into the normal business processes of all entities so allowing the implementation of BCM and other tools to enable a more resilient society.

We endorse all previous statements and commitments made to strengthen reporting and monitoring mechanisms of all indicators associated with DRR in the achievement of a resilient nation.

We thank you for this opportunity.