1. Background

Global average annual loss from disasters is estimated to increase from an annual average of USD 260 billion in 2015 to USD 414 billion by 2030. There has been a sustained rise in the number of climate-related disasters such as storms and floods over the last twenty years and they now count for well over 80% of all disasters linked to natural hazards. The impact of economic losses varies greatly at the country level.

Small Island Developing States are especially vulnerable: in 2004, Hurricane Ivan cost Grenada an estimated 200% of GDP; and in 2015, preliminary estimates from the government of the Commonwealth of Dominica suggest that Tropical Storm may have cost the island the equivalent of 50% of its GDP. If disaster risks are not reduced then future losses will impact on growth and development. When capital flows into hazard prone areas, it leads to significant increases in the exposure of economic assets. If these trends continue, sustainability is compromised.

Disaster risk reduction (DRR) is an integral part of social and economic development, and is essential if development is to be sustainable for the future. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030\(^1\) adopted on 18 March 2015, and endorsed by the UN General Assembly, was the first of the post-2015 development agreements. The proposed outcome document ‘Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’\(^2\) recognizes and reaffirms the urgent need to reduce the risk of disasters.

In 2015, the world defines new frameworks for sustainable development, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaption. In March 2015, the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction 2015-2030 was adopted and endorsed as the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda. A second milestone will be reached in September 2015, when the 17 Sustainable Development Goals will be adopted. The new integrated goals seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and thus, balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental. And finally, in December 2015, the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21/CMP11)\(^3\) has the objective to achieve a legally binding and universal agreement on climate related issues, from all the nations of the world.

The intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, financing for development, climate change and disaster risk reduction provide the international community with a unique opportunity to enhance coherence across policies, institutions, goals, indicators and

\(^{1}\) http://www.preventionweb.net/files/43291_sendairameworkfordren.pdf
\(^{2}\) https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/7891Transforming%20Our%20World.pdf
\(^{3}\) http://www.cop21.gouv.fr/en
measurement systems for implementation, while respecting the respective mandates. Ensuring credible links, as appropriate, between these processes will contribute to building resilience and achieving the global goal of eradicating poverty.

The World Humanitarian Summit\textsuperscript{4} to take place in May 2016 will among other humanitarian concerns the preparedness and response to disasters. The underlying message is to build and reinforce global partnerships to advance towards the common objectives of saving lives, preventing and alleviating suffering and maintaining human dignity.

Supporting this goal, the Directorate General of the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO)\textsuperscript{5} is supporting since 1994 disaster preparedness activities in the Caribbean. The so called DIPECHO programme (Disaster Preparedness ECHO) demonstrates that simple and relatively cheap preparedness measures save lives and are an efficient way of reducing damages. The DIPECHO programme works with the communities who live in areas at risk and those actors in charge of the emergency response, helping them identify and reduce their risks and improving their ability to respond to disasters.

\textbf{Figure 1:} 2015-2016 DIPECHO Action Plan for the Caribbean: Project partners and location

\textsuperscript{4}https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/  
\textsuperscript{5}http://ec.europa.eu/echo/
Since 1994, ECHO has allocated over €38.3 million to enhance and build community resilience in the Caribbean, an amount that has funded more than 116 projects. This support is included in €118 million, which was in addition provided for emergency response in the region. In total €332 million have been given to support vulnerable population in Haiti.

The 2015-2016 DIPECHO Action Plan for the Caribbean supports 14 projects (3 regional, 2 bi-national and 9 national) with for disaster risk reduction and preparedness activities in a total of 12 countries (Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago). A total amount of total of €9.3 million has been allocated for interventions in the Caribbean for this time frame.

The 2015-2016 DIPECHO Action Plan for the Caribbean contributes to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction2015–2030 and at regional level to the 2014-2024 Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy coordinated by Comprehensive Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) as well as the Saint-Marc Plan of Action as well as the Declaration and Action Plan of Pétion-Ville which is guiding the work of the Association of Caribbean States.

The 2015-2016 DIPECHO Action Plan for the Caribbean aims to contribute to the overall goal of resilience building by providing most vulnerable populations and communities with sound technical solutions to improve their preparedness for natural hazards and by contributing to regional cooperation, exchange of information, capacity building and training.

The DIPECHO Action Plan aims, as the previous Action Plan, to establish greater collaboration and coordination between partners, allowing programming of common outcomes and the harmonization of practices. In order to facilitate coordination and communication throughout the Action Plan the good practice of creating working groups referred to as Petit Comités, will be continued. Petit Comités around four thematic areas have been created: Early Warning Systems; Disaster Risk Reduction Country Documents, Disaster Risk Reduction Communication and Sendai Framework (e.g. Resilient Cities, Schools and Safe Hospitals). The Petit Comités will contribute to the implementation process by stimulating collaboration in specific areas and therefore support the accomplishment of expected outputs and outcomes.

These partners will work together throughout the DIPECHO Action Plan ensuring that the identified priorities will be followed through; expected results will be achieved and promoted in order to optimize the impact and to allow scaling up.
2. Introduction

The “Regional DRR Planning Workshop for the Caribbean: DIPECHO Action Plan 2015-16” will take place from 21 to 23 September in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The workshop is the first regional meeting under the framework of the 2015-2016 DIPECHO Action Plan for the Caribbean. It is organized by ECHO and UNISDR in collaboration with CDEMA, UNDP Barbados, IFRC as well as other DIPECHO partners through established thematic working groups.

The workshop seeks to enhance the understanding of linkages between the goals and priorities of the DIPECHO Action Plan and global as well as regional frameworks for Disaster Risk Reduction. One of the mayor outcomes will be a joint action plan around key themes identified.

Another workshop objective is to facilitate joint planning and to stimulate collaboration among all stakeholders such as National Disaster Management Agencies, regional organizations, DIPECHO and other partners involved in the implementation of the activities related to the 2015-2016 DIPECHO Action Plan for the Caribbean.

The Planning Workshop will be held together with the “Disaster Prevention and Emergency Awareness Day”, which will be commemorated in Dominican Republic on September, 22. Linking the events will enable greater visibility of the DIPECHO Action Plan at national and regional level.

3. Workshop objectives

The overall objectives for the workshop are:

- Strengthen the understanding of linkages between the goals and priorities of the 2015-2016 DIPECHO Action Plan for the Caribbean with global and regional frameworks for Disaster Risk Reduction.

- Facilitate the joint planning and stimulate collaboration between national and regional Disaster Risk Reduction stakeholders and DIPECHO partners.

- Develop a joint action plan around key themes identified in order to optimize the impact and to allow scaling up.

In line with the thematic areas that have been identified for the DIPECHO Action Plan for the Caribbean 2015-2016, the workshop will be composed of four thematic sessions:

Session 1: Put global and regional frameworks into action
The session is aiming to look at linkages, synergies and gaps between the global and regional frameworks for Disaster Risk Reduction. It further will identify elements of Sendai Framework and the CDM Strategy that need to be integrated into current and future plans at country and regional level. Another main element is the mapping of contributions from the DIPECHO Action Plan for the Caribbean 2015-2016 to the global and regional frameworks.
Session 2: Disaster Risk Reduction Country Documents
The objective of the session is to identify next steps and opportunities in preparing and updating disaster risk reduction country documents. It further shall provide a better understanding on the contribution of the DRR country document/profile at the national level, e.g. related to the preparation or updating of National Plans or Policies for Disaster Risk Reduction and decision making.

Session 3: Early Warning Systems
The session on Early Warning System will facilitate the exchange of good practices, lessons learned and innovative ideas. The idea is to build on existing experiences and achievements in order to identify priorities for early warning systems at the local, national and regional level. The key question is: What needs to be done in order to enhance early warning systems at the different levels and for the different hazards?

Session 4: Disaster Risk Reduction Communication
The “Disaster Risk Reduction Communication” session will identify how partners can communicate disaster risk reduction information in a more effective manner.

These thematic session and the related concept notes have been jointly prepared by the respective Petit Comité.

4. Expected Results

✓ Linkages between goals and priorities of the 2015-2016 DIPECHO Action Plan for the Caribbean and global and regional frameworks for Disaster Risk Reduction identified.
✓ Approved joint work plans for the thematic areas (Early Warning Systems; Disaster Risk Reduction Country Documents, Disaster Risk Reduction Communication and Sendai Framework) as basis for enhanced collaboration at regional and national level.
✓ Good practices and tools related to the four thematic areas shared.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday, September 21</th>
<th>Tuesday, September 22</th>
<th>Wednesday, September 23</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:30-09:00</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>High level Panel:</strong> Commemorating the “National Day for Disaster Prevention and Emergency Awareness” in Dominican Republic</td>
<td>Re-cap</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:00-10:00</td>
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<td>Coffee Break (09:45-10:15)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00-10:30</td>
<td>Arrival of participants</td>
<td>Session 3: Early Warning Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30-11:00</td>
<td>Preparatory meetings to workshop sessions</td>
<td>Discuss on-going initiatives, innovations and needs for Early Warning Systems at regional, national and local level</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00-12:30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Coffee Break (09:45-10:15)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30-13:30</td>
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<td>Lunch break</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:30-15:00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Session 1: Put global and regional frameworks into action</td>
<td>Session 4: Disaster Risk Reduction Communication</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(continuation)</td>
<td>Identify DRR communication opportunities throughout the Action Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:00-15:30</td>
<td>Opening session: International, Regional Scenario for Disaster Risk Reduction</td>
<td>Session 2: Disaster Risk Reduction Country Documents</td>
<td>Session 4: Disaster Risk Reduction Communication</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Discuss use and future of disaster risk reduction country documents</td>
<td>(continuation)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<tr>
<td>17:00-17:30</td>
<td>Knowledge Fair: <em>Get to know current disaster risk reduction initiatives and partners</em></td>
<td>Session 2: Disaster Risk Reduction Country Documents</td>
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<tr>
<td>17:30-18:00</td>
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<td>Green star / Sustainable Development Project</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>18:00-20:00</td>
<td>Welcome cocktail</td>
<td>Session 4: Disaster Risk Reduction Country Documents</td>
<td>Closing Session</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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